

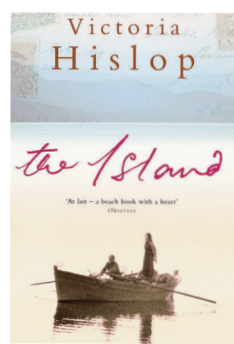
Sharing books and wine on World Book Night at *Lionacleit* Library

THE purpose of World Book Night is to place books into the hands of those who don't regularly read and raise the profile of reading for pleasure, whilst at the same time improving literacy and bringing communities together.

World Book Night is on Tuesday, 23 April 2013 and Lionacleit Library is one of the many bookshops and libraries which have signed up to take part. On that day the library will stay open until 9pm, and at 7pm there will be a special meeting of the Reading Group, which gets together regularly at the library throughout the year. Everyone is

welcome to join in. There will be wine and nibbles on offer, as well as a lively discussion of books from the World Book Night list. Twenty books have been chosen for the list which can be found at www.worldbooknight.org.

Authors agree to waive their royalties and publishers agree to pay the costs of producing the



One of the books on the WBN list.

WBN editions. Members of the public sign up to be "givers" so that books can be given to people who don't regularly read for pleasure.

Lionacleit Library will receive copies of books for giving to others. At the moment these will include 'The Island' by Victoria Hislop and 'The Eyre Affair' by Jasper Fforde.

So if you are passionate about reading and would like to share your passion by being a book "giver", get in touch with Pamela at the library on 01870 603691.

Uist residents asked to support further Loch Paible excavation

ARCHAEOLOGY enthusiasts are being urged to make the case for a full excavation at the Loch Paible site in North Uist.

A team from the University of St Andrews, assisted by local volunteers, has recently completed a three week evaluation of the site. The survey was funded by *Comhairle nan Eilean Siar*, Scotland's Coastal Heritage at Risk (SHARP), Crown Estate, St Andrews's University and Historic Scotland.

"We have been monitoring Loch Paible for several years," said *Comhairle* Archaeologist Deborah Anderson. "Most recently, as the site has started to erode rapidly, other objects like wooden bowls and a paddle have been found. However the



Tom Dawson, beside the mound which may hold the secrets of the Loch Paible site.

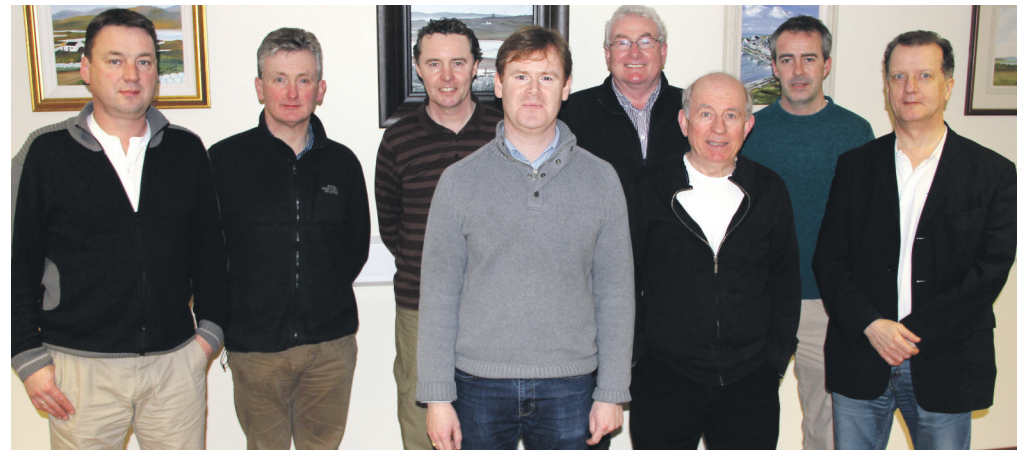
foreshore is eroding quickly and this is a proper rescue dig."

The site features a large wall along the foreshore, seemingly veering inland into an oval shape. Erskine Beverage believed that a mound within the oval may hide an ancient doune.

SHARP archaeologist Tom

Dawson said: "I would encourage local people to monitor the site closely and log any updates on our website www.ssharp.co.uk. If there is enough public support, the site could be nominated for a full excavation through our ShoreDIG project for sites threatened by coastal erosion."

Island Voices/*Guthan nan Eilean* project trip to Ireland



Neil Campbell, Archie Campbell and Gordon Wells on their visit to Àislann Rann na Feirste in Donegal.

THREE *Gàidhlig*-speaking *Uibhistich* are just back from an interesting and informative visit to *Àislann Rann na Feirste*, an Irish language community centre in County Donegal.

The trip was organised through the Island Voices/*Guthan nan Eilean* project which Gordon Wells coordinates. He was accompanied by Archie Campbell and Neil Campbell, who have both contributed to the project in various ways.

The Island Voices model of community-level "language capture" has aroused interest in Ireland, both north and south of the border. The Uist team was invited over by the Irish department of the University of Ulster (with support from *Colmille*) to talk about how the project works in gathering language samples, whether in video or audio formats, or

indeed the written word.

Perhaps we are accustomed to thinking of the Irish language as occupying a healthier position than our own *Gàidhlig* when it comes to community, or wider political, support (and there was plenty of evidence of widespread use of the language in shops and pubs). Therefore it is interesting to find that Irish language enthusiasts are keen to know more about the kind of work being developed in Uist.

It was undoubtedly a thought-provoking visit for the Uist team too, with much that seemed familiar in both landscape and culture. Donegal airport, nestling beside the Atlantic Ocean, could be a carbon copy of Benbecula (though the terminal building is somewhat more *snasail*, making good use of local stone) and both are almost exactly equidistant from Glasgow. The hospitality was warm and welcoming and,

listening to Donegal Irish, you got the impression that it wouldn't take long to work up some mutual understanding.

Indeed, the next stage in that process is already being planned, with a return visit on the cards, perhaps as early as May. In the meantime, the Island Voices project continues to grow with more and more local participants producing material, in *Gàidhlig* and/or English, for the *Am Pàipear* webpage, among other outlets.

Bear in mind we should also have our own community radio station coming on stream soon. Maybe now's the time to start practising your "presenter" voice! You can find out more about Island Voices at <http://guthan.wordpress.com> or phone Gordon on 07879 644984 if you're interested in getting involved or trying something new.

Ena MacDonald writes...



www.ampaipear.org.uk

THE weather is so favourable, so dry and sunny. I am sure that when the wind will come west, along with some rain, the grass will grow fast. It is so sad to see farmers on the mainland losing livestock, especially their sheep in the deep snowdrifts. Although early, it is nice to see some lambs around, so I hope April and May will be warmer.

ALEXANDER'S hens are laying well, last year's eight pullets are all laying brown eggs. Although still a bit small, they are so tasty.

When I killed the last of the young cockerels, Alexander got worried that I had killed the mature Rhode Island Red. "Granny, you mustn't kill the chick cockerel," as he calls it, "or we won't get any eggs!" Poor Alexander finds the chicken and the egg a bit confusing!

The pullets are beautiful, each one completely red like the cockerel. Belle, the pet hen, is as fit as ever and is still the boss. She demands her oatmeal in her own private dining-place.

ALEXANDER has not been well for almost a couple of weeks - the usual 'bugs' that seem to spread around. He ate very little, in fact, nothing at all for a few days. It was good to hear him giving me an order for pancakes. I was so pleased to know that he was feeling hungry that I fired the Rayburn a bit much, so the pancakes were a bit overdone. However I believe he ate five, and he didn't complain about the near burnt bits!

His mother and I were trying to think what we could tempt him with... I used to make him semolina pudding, but he hadn't had any for a

long time. "Alexander, would you like some semolina?" I asked. "What's that, Granny?" "Remember, Alexander, the white pudding I made and you used to come in and eat it with Granny."

"Oh yes Granny, and you used to put Auntie Jessie's bramble jam on it." So he got his semolina, but he had to make do with blackcurrant as the bramble was finished. He didn't eat much, but his mother tells me he is eating a bit better now.

I am looking forward to seeing my three little nephews from Inverness soon, so I think I will take the four of them to the machair and get some milk from the twenty-year old cows. James, the middle one, loves the outdoors, and is obsessed with tractors and diggers.

THE Adaptive Management

Programme is ongoing and the shooting group are doing well. However, resources are limited, and there is no way the meagre budget will be anything near sufficient. Fuel is expensive and the men have to travel a lot - ammunition also takes a big slice out of the budget. Now, we are looking to the government to come up with more money. When, at last, even SNH and RSPB admit that we have to reduce numbers, the funding seems to be tighter than ever, why do they not just get on with it? They do not need to worry about goose extinction, but they SHOULD worry about livestock extinction, as the geese are destroying most of the grazing and are polluting the animals' feeding grounds.

As well as controlling greylags, can't they see that the barnacle goose has become a major problem too?

In this small township of Kyles, there is a flock of approximately 2000 barnacle geese here every day. I feel really sorry for my neighbour who has lambs coming soon, because his field is second from the road, and is also very green and damp - it is just a paradise for geese. What have his sheep got to eat during April and May?

The barnacles come in October and go away at the end of April. How many more areas in Uist are similar? The Scottish Crofting Federation is starting an online petition very soon but I am going to have a paper one, so look out for that... Maybe the government will take notice then.

By the time this goes to press, the SCF will have held meetings in South and North Uist, and I hope they were informative for crofters.

Am Pàipear

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