

Green Week at UHI

Interview with BSc Sustainable Development student Arlene du Preez by Society President Corinne Ferguson

“During Covid lockdown, I felt UHI was just ahead of the game – the lecturers are all geared up for online study”

Picture of students at the 2018 residential – hopefully Eigg will go ahead in June 2022.....



“This course is going to dovetail with the green revolution – times are changing and we are well placed to meet the challenges”

Corinne: Why did you decide to start the course?

Arlene: When I left school (a long time ago!) sustainability as subject matter just wasn't available to study. I decided to go for the BSc in Sustainable Development in 2016 because it was something that I had been interested in and it was all online which meant that I could fit it into my lifestyle. I could also do it part time which meant that I had the flexibility to balance work and studying.



Residential in Lewis

Corinne: **What has been the most enjoyable part?**

Arlene: I've always been interested in the environment, but this course looks at the more human rather than the scientific side – which allows you to have a deeper understanding how it all fits together. In the media, you get little bitesize bits of what is happening in the world – this course has allowed me to get a fuller picture.

Being part of the Society has been good – I've enjoyed the residentials that I've attended – it's good to meet other students in person in a relaxed setting. It's been a bit disappointing that we've not been able to meet because of the Covid 19 lockdown.

Corinne: **What have you found most challenging?**

Arlene: As a mature student, I had been out of studying for some years, so it was a challenge to get my head back into the discipline of studying, like time management and knowing my learning style. Writing academic essays was a challenge – we're all so used to shortcuts – writing texts, tweets etc, that gearing up to the standard required was hard.



Corinne: **How have you been inspired during the course?**

Arlene: The tutors of course (!!) and also some great guest speakers – I really enjoyed the opening lecture this year by economist Jeffrey Sachs who talked about advances in developing economies.

Some elements of the course can be quite difficult to take on board – the effects of climate change, social injustices and environmental degradation, however, it does give you hope for the future – governments are changing their perspectives, social media is helping to spread activism, there are going to be more green jobs, the public are coming on board.....

Thank you Arlene for giving your perspective in Green Week!!