



OUTER HEBRIDES COMMUNITY SAFETY NEWS

ISSUE 2 DECEMBER 2007



Special points of interest:

- The NU Music Trust are running Under 18 nights over Christmas and New Year.
- Mediation training 10th & 11th December.
- Drink drive campaign in December.
- Rewards for keeping the environment clean.
- People over 60 make up 40% of all fire related deaths and injuries.

Festive Season Funding

The Outer Hebrides Community Safety Partnership has been successful in applying to the Scottish Government for £10,000 to deliver a festive season campaign focusing on alcohol.

The campaign is set out by the Scottish Government to run in a number of areas throughout Scotland and is aimed at reducing alcohol related violence and drink driving.

There are four main threads to the local campaign.

- Extra Police have been recruited to work at weekends from the 10th December 2007 to 5th January 2008. This will ensure more police patrols in Stornoway throughout the evenings and especially following licensed premises closing time. The aim is to reduce town centre violence and intimidation.
- The Western Isles Nu Music Trust will be providing music nights for young people under 18. The aim of these nights is to ensure that young people have weekend and festive entertainment which does not involve alcohol. Check out local adverts.
- Northern Constabulary will be running a high profile drink driving campaign over this period. Extra road safety patrols will be assigned to the Outer Hebrides to ensure a visible presence on roads throughout the

festive period. Many drivers with positive results on breathalyzers are still over the legal limit from the night before.

- The Community Safety Partnership and Northern Constabulary are keen to work with licensees to develop a local 'Pubwatch' scheme. This ensures that customers causing trouble are subject to a common barring protocol.
- **Do not risk drinking and driving. You risk your life and the life of others.**
- **Do not risk your personal safety by drinking to excess.**

For more information see the Community Safety website.

www.cne-siar.gov.uk/communitysafety



Road Safety Campaign

Northern Constabulary are running a high profile 'don't drink and drive' campaign over the festive period.

There will be additional road safety officers on the Islands to help support this local campaign.

Remember you may well be over the legal limit the next day too.

Do not risk drinking and driving as you may:



- *Lose your life.*
- *Lose friends and family.*
- *Lose your job.*
- *Lose your license.*
- *Lose your respect.*
- *Destroy someone's family.*

HAVE NON ALCOHOLIC DRINKS IF YOU NEED TO DRIVE ON THE NIGHT OR THE NEXT DAY.

Fly Tipping Success Story

When an Environmental Health Assistant spotted this fly tipping site in Govig she was determined to do something about it.



Environmental Health and the Community Warden Service met with the community council and discussed the potential clear up and

maintenance of the site.

The community assured the Wardens that if the site was cleared, they would ensure that no further fly tipping would be tolerated and agreed a number of measures to prevent further tipping.

The Community Wardens applied to the Community Safety Partnership for funding to tackle antisocial behaviour and were successful.

The second picture shows the successful clear up of the site, which has now been reseeded.

This funding has also been used to clear a site at the Butt of Lewis and a

further site is proposed.

Fly tipping is an eyesore, affecting the view locals have of their environment and also the view tourists have of our beautiful islands.

The Partnership wishes to extend a big thank you to who have helped organise the clear ups.



MEDIATION

SACRO are in Stornoway on the 10th and 11th December to deliver a two day training course on community mediation.

This course will provide practitioners with a greater understanding of what mediation can offer.

Two places are still available on the course which requires a full two days commitment from those attending and is being held at the Hebridean Housing Partnership Board Room.

The Community Safety Partnership have linked up with SACRO ensuring

that a high quality, professional community mediation service is available on the Islands to those who require it.

To date, there has not been enough referrals for community mediation to warrant a locally based service. The service is therefore purchased from SACRO on a case by case basis, with mediators travelling to the Islands as required.

It is widely believed by the Partnership that as practitioners become more familiar with community mediation and it's availability locally, they will be

keen to refer clients for early resolution of disputes.

It is hoped that more training will be on offer in the New Year and that we can train people to be local community mediators.

For more information or to book a place on the course please contact:

Maria Macdonald
Antisocial Behaviour Co-coordinator
Tel: 01851 709576
Maria.macdonald@cne-siar.gov.uk

CASTLE GROUNDS CLEAN UP

The Community Wardens set up a scheme in partnership with the Stornoway Trust and the Comhairle's Waste Aware Team, for there to be a clean up in the Castle Grounds four times a year with a guaranteed income of £200 for the groups involved.

A range of community groups were invited to apply for this funding and the successful groups were:

"...this offers a real opportunity for young people to understand the impact litter has on the environment, whilst providing us with a generous donation for helping to look after our community."

Iain Denny,
Area Commissioner, Scouts

1. Stornoway Cubs.
2. Stornoway Scouts.
3. Bridge Youth Club.
4. Gambia Project.

These groups are each allocated a season within which to work. They organise the clean up and receive the £200 towards their funds.

Protective equipment, bags and skips are provide by the Comhairle's Waste Aware Team.

Western Isles Nu Music Trust

The Western Isles Nu-music (WIN) Trust was formed at the start of January 2007 with the main aims of:

- facilitating the development of a vibrant and sustainable music industry throughout the Western Isles, and,
- harnessing and promoting the wealth of creative musical talent that exists in the Western Isles.

It was launched at the GoNorth festival in Inverness with five bands from the Western Isles playing at various venues.

The 'Sounds in the Grounds' festival which took the form of two acoustic nights in the Woodlands Centre on

17th/18th August was a great success and was followed by the main outdoor festival in the Lews Castle College car park in Stornoway on 1st September.



A number of local bands participated and got valuable experience from playing alongside more established acts both from the island and the mainland.

A group of young people also volunteered for support roles having attended workshops on 'Running a Music Festival' and this group is now taking a role in the organisation of other musical events.

The festival received a positive response and is now an annual events organised by the WIN Trust.

For more information please contact: Graeme Miller 01851 709818

Litter

The Community Warden Service are beginning a pilot project over the festive period to target dog fouling and litter.

People who are seen clearing up after their dogs or who are seen using a bin for litter will be handed a token. These tokens can be exchanged for gift vouchers.

The project will run to the end of

March 2008 when it's success or otherwise will be evaluated.



The Wardens are able to target those who do not clear up after their dogs or who throw litter on the ground with a Fixed Penalty Notice. However, often those who

are taking positive steps to enhance the environment are not acknowledged and this is the Community Safety Partnership's way of saying a big thank you to those people in our community who care about how our environment looks.

We will keep you posted on this.

For more information please contact Community Wardens: 01851 700962

Strategic Assessment

The Outer Hebrides Community Safety Strategic Assessment is complete.

"What is that"? we hear you ask.

The assessment gives a clear picture of the safety issues locally.

That is...

- How many accidents there have been?
- How safe do people feel?
- What age group are most at risk?
- What are the key dangers locally?

...and highlights what all the agen-

cies who make up the Partnership can do to tackle these issues.

Basically, it informs the Community Safety Partnership what the priorities are locally:

The three key issues highlighted for action are:

1. Alcohol
2. Personal Safety
3. The Environment.

These may not be a big surprise, but we now have the evidence that is needed for us all to work together on them.

The strategic assessment is available on the community safety website.

www.cne-siar.gov.uk/communitysafety

Hard copies can be obtained by phoning community safety on 01851 709499.



Some helpful tips for keeping Fire Safe this Winter

Keep an eye on the elderly.

During the winter months the elderly are far more likely to become an unfortunate fire statistic than at any other time of the year. People over 60 make up 40% of all fire related deaths and injuries.

If you have an elderly relative or neighbour, keep a watch over them during these difficult times, you may be the one that can save their life. It may be that they do not have a smoke alarm or that you are concerned for their wellbeing with regard to Fire Safety in the home.

If this is the case, contact the Highlands & Islands Fire & Rescue Service on **FREE PHONE 08000 12 13 12** for a **FREE Home Fire Safety Check** for that person, where Fire Officers will visit the home and provide valuable advice, and in some circumstances fit Smoke Alarms where needed.

Chimneys and open fires:-

- Have the chimney swept before lighting the first fire of winter and don't allow soot or ash to build up.
- Use a fireguard and do not put objects on, or mirrors over, a mantelpiece. People may be tempted to stand too close to the fire to reach them.
- Burn the recommended fuels and avoid resinous woods as soot from these builds up quickly.
- Do not overload the grate or bank fires too high, let fires burn down well before going to bed and check the hearth, floor and furnishings near the fire for sparks or embers.
- Inspect your chimney breast, particularly in the roof space. Make sure it is sound and that sparks or fumes can't escape through cracks or broken bricks.

Gas and space heaters:-

- Never sit too close to the heater, you could set light to your clothes or your chair especially if you fall asleep.
- Heaters should stand where they can't be knocked over and away from beds, furniture and furnishings.
- Do not put them where objects may fall on them and never dry clothes too close to the heater.
- Make sure all heaters are guarded, particularly if you have children.

- Never try to move any portable heater while it is alight - always turn it off and allow it to cool first.
- If using a gas heater, ensure it has been serviced regularly.
- When changing a gas heater cylinder, try to do this in open air. Otherwise, open windows and doors to increase ventilation. Check that the valve on the empty cylinder is closed before disconnecting it and do not turn on the valve of the new cylinder until it is securely connected to the heater.
- Store spare cylinders upright and outside whenever possible. Never store them in basements, under stairs or in cupboards containing electric meters or equipment.

Candles:-

You can be safe by taking a few simple precautions:-

- Place your candles on a flat and stable surface.
- Always use a proper candleholder and make sure the candle fits firmly inside it. Leave plenty of space above and around the candle and candleholder.
- Keep candles away from draughts. Keep them away from curtains, furniture, and anything else that can catch fire.
- Always put the candleholder on a heat resistant surface like a ceramic plate. This is especially important for 'tea lights'. Never put candles on polished surfaces like televisions.
- Never leave candles unattended or go to sleep when they are alight.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Never try to move a candle once it is lit.
- Use a candle snuffer or a metal spoon to put the candle out. Let it cool down before you move it.



For further information please contact:

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OUTER HEBRIDES PARTNERSHIP