

OUTER HEBRIDES COMMUNITY SAFETY NEWS

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HOW SAFE ARE OUR ISLANDS?

All who live here know about the quality of life on offer. The fabulous beaches, the amazing wildlife, no traffic jams (apart from manor roundabout in the morning), great schools with below average class sizes, good community spirit and little fear of crime.

At least we hope there is little fear of crime!

The secret is out though—we are officially recognised as a very safe place to live. Recorded crime shows that our crime rate is well below half that of the Scottish average and we also have the highest 'clear up' rate in Scotland at 73% in 2006/07.

In the 2005 Excellence in Community Policing report, over 98% of residents surveyed considered the area within 15 minutes of their home to be *very safe or fairly safe* and a survey of 284 young people demonstrated that over 60% of them considered the Outer Hebrides *to be a place where people help each other*.

However safety is not just about crime and fear of crime. We must consider

safety on our roads, in our waters and in our homes. In 2006/07 there were 264 road accidents and since April 2007 there have been 7 house fires.

It is important that we take every opportunity available to help protect our own safety and the safety of those around us.

The Community Safety Partnership intends to send out a postcard to all households detailing useful numbers which can be used when people are concerned for either their own or someone else's safety. We aim to have this card circulated before Christmas 2007.



ALCOHOL - WHAT ABOUT IT?

Throughout Scotland, it is now widely acknowledged that alcohol consumption is a major concern, from wine drinking in homes to binge drinking at weekends.

But what is the story locally?

We have one of the highest rates in Scotland of alcohol related hospital discharges—1591 per 100,000 in 2005/06.

In 2006/07 Northern Constabulary recorded 1106 alcohol related incidents.

In 2006/07, 236 young people under 18 were recorded by Northern Constabulary for alcohol related offences.

In 2007/08 49% of 15 year olds surveyed had got someone else to buy them alcohol in the last four weeks.

Apart from these statistics,

we know that alcohol is clearly linked with a reduction in personal safety. People are at greater risk of becoming a victim of crime if they have been drinking alcohol and also of becoming involved in criminal behaviour.

We must all do more to help reduce the burden that alcohol is placing on our community.

73% of crimes were 'cleared up' in 2006/07. This is the best rate in Scotland.

In 2006/07 93 people were arrested for drinking and driving.

Locally 44% of 15 year olds surveyed have been offered drugs.

In 2006/07 Women's Aid held 301 meetings with clients.

The Christmas 2007 Campaign

The Scottish Government has allocated the Outer Hebrides Community Safety Partnership a further £10,000 to spend on town safety and events for under 18's over the festive period.

Discussions are underway with all our key partners to ensure that the best use is made of the funding.

This scheme was piloted in ten mainland local authority areas

last year and we are currently examining what worked well and what is transferable to a rural setting.

Do you wish to share your ideas for keeping the town safe over the festive period? If so, please contact:

Harry Miller, Chair, Community Safety Partnership, 01851 709313, hmiller@cne-siar.gov.uk



❄️
*393 children under 5
years attended A&E in
2006/07.*



The Community Warden Service

At present there are four community wardens based in and around Lewis and Harris.

The Warden service has been very active in our communities, gathering evidence on behalf of the Comhairle and Police, and other agencies, dealing with environmental complaints, challenging antisocial behaviour and helping with community initiatives.

Their role is to support the local community deal with local problems and provide a reassuring pres-

ence especially for those who feel most vulnerable, such as elderly people living alone.

The Wardens work with all age groups and sectors of the community to tackle antisocial behaviour problems such as derelict cars, vandalism, graffiti, litter, nuisance behaviour and dog fouling.

To contact the wardens please phone 01851 700962.



Cllr Norman A Macdonald and Cllr Kenny Murray with Harry Miller and the Wardens, Ian Reid from HHP, Richard Whetton & Patricia Pryce, National Co-ordinators for Community Safety & Antisocial Behaviour.

What are we doing to stop under 18's getting alcohol?

In partnership with Moray Council Trading Standards service, the Outer Hebrides Community Safety Partnership commissioned the design and production of hand held card readers for proof of age.

These readers only scan the age data on cards such as the young people's national entitlement card, and therefore do not breach data protection. All premises can use this card to accurately determine the age of any person buying age restricted goods.

It is easy to get false identity cards on the internet. These readers actively prevent the use of false identity

cards by scanning the microchip data within the card.

The Partnership wrote to all licensed premises throughout the Outer Hebrides offering the card readers for £25 which is a 75% reduction on the cost price.

All young people under 25 years are offered these cards free of charge from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. Please contact any of the main reception desks at the Council offices.

To obtain a proof of age reader please contact Sharon Evans, Community Safety Support Officer, 01851 709499, sevans@cne-siar.gov.uk.

Midnight Soccer League

As winter approaches young people often have fewer opportunities to get active and there is always the chance that all that pent up energy can end up being channelled into anti-social behaviour.

The Western Isles 'Midnight' Soccer League has been established to try and divert young people into positive activities; this follows a very successful scheme that has operated in Aberdeen. The Leagues will oper-

ate in the late evening period at three Sports Centres across the Western Isles – in Stornoway, Lionacleit and Castlebay for 10 weeks over the winter months. Young people between 14 and 16

will be able to make up their own teams and take part in a competitive but essentially fun environment.

CnES's Sport and Health section would like to express their grateful thanks to the Community Safety Partnership for supporting this project.

For more information please contact:

Steven Munro, Community Sports Development Officer
01851 – 709194

Locally, 25% of 15 year olds surveyed, report that they usually drink at least once a week.

SALSUS 2006

Do We Have Antisocial Behaviour?

Antisocial behaviour has been marketed by the media as an urban issue with gangs of youths terrorising those living in built up neighbourhoods.

So what about rural communities without built up neighbourhoods and gangs of youths? Is it still an issue?

Definitely – it is just a slightly different issue.

Neighbours still cause distress to one another, vandalism still goes on, drunken and aggressive behaviour is still widespread, derelict vehicles blight our beautiful environment

and dog fouling and littering remain a real concern.

In 2006/07 alone there were 1543 derelict vehicles uplifted, 21 fixed penalty notices issued for dog fouling, and 18 acceptable behaviour contracts have been agreed.

If you have concerns about antisocial behaviour, please do not suffer in silence, contact:

Maria Macdonald, Antisocial Behaviour Coordinator, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Tel: 01851 709576
maria.macdonald@cne-siar.gov.uk



THE TOP TWO CONCERNS FOR PEOPLE LIVING HERE ARE ROAD SAFETY AND DOG FOULING.



Sharon Evans & Mark Tebbutt promoting free home safety checks and alcohol awareness week.



Diane Macleod, Harry Miller & Chief Inspector Fraser at the launch of the Proof of Age Readers in the Star Inn.

What does the Outer Hebrides Community Safety Partnership do?

The Outer Hebrides Community Safety Partnership was established in 2003, pulling together key partners from all relevant agencies to work together to protect the safety of our Islands.

In 2005, the Scottish Government funded us for 3 years following the presentation of our action plan which set out *Alcohol – as it affects community safety* as our priority. Within this action plan were many activities which focused on young people, access to alcohol, road safety and home safety.

In 2006, it became apparent that antisocial behaviour should also sit under the banner of community safety. Many of the same people were involved in the working groups, and many of the issues were similar. It was clear that pulling these themes together would save time, money and paperwork.

At present the Partnership is working on the development of a strategic assessment. This will collate local information on community safety and antisocial behaviour issues and clearly set the priorities for action for the period 2008 onwards.

Some of the emerging data from the strategic assessment is in-

cluded within this newsletter, such as the article on the front page.

The Community Safety Partnership is keen to make a difference locally; to improve people's awareness of community safety issues, to reduce fear of crime, to proactively work to ensure people's safety, to support good work through partnership, to provide young people with activities both in the town centres and in rural communities.

In 2007–08 we have spent £110,000 on providing support and activities for young people: -

- Lewis & Harris Youth Club Association £24,000
- Uist & Barra Youth Club Association £8,000
- Sgailean Foyer Project £20,000
- Community Education Uist & Barra £30,000
- Under 18 events £6,000
- Harris Youth Cafes £2,500
- Barra Youth Café £2,500
- Stornoway YMCA £5,000
- Nu Music Trust £5,200
- L&HYCA £4,400
- Midnight Soccer League £2,460

All the projects that are funded have clear aims and objectives which are reported back to the Community Safety Partnership biannually. The Partnership is responsible for ensuring a problem solving approach is taken to local issues and must demonstrate success to the Scottish Government year on year to receive further funding.

The Partnership is also responsible for supporting the agencies deliver on the antisocial behaviour legislation, making sure we all work together to reduce crime, vandalism, neighbourhood disputes, littering and dog fouling to name but a few.

In 2007 the Community Safety Partnership has also helped fund extra police on the street at the weekend, the community wardens service, the Hebrides Alpha project, a new Friday night drop in at the Salvation Army, and many others.

Take the time and check out our website on <http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/communitysafety/index.htm>

In the Western Isles 53% of 15 year olds surveyed took part in two or more clubs every week.

SALSUS 2006

Know how much you're drinking.
Know how many units are in your drink.
www.alcoholawarenessweek.com

DOES YOUR
DRINKING
ADD UP
ALCOHOL AWARENESS WEEK

COM-PÀIRTEACHAS NAN EILEAN SIAR



OUTER HEBRIDES PARTNERSHIP



Locally, only 24% of 13 year olds surveyed believe Heroin to be more dangerous than Cannabis.

SALSUS 2006

SAFETY WITH FIREWORKS



"It is good to see all the agencies working so effectively together in tackling Community Safety and ASB issues."

Norman A MacDonald

Chairman, Environment and Protective Services Committee

Only buy fireworks marked B57114 : 1998

As Bonfire Night approaches, Safetywise, is asking the public to help prevent accidents with fireworks and promote good citizenship.

They are also taking the opportunity to remind people that:

- it is illegal to set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am,
- purchasers of fireworks must be 18 or over,
- it is an offence to set off fireworks in a public place ;and
- it is an offence for anyone under 18 to possess a firework or sparklers in a public place.

A spokesperson said: "We want people to enjoy themselves but to act responsibly. The law is quite clear on who can and cannot buy fireworks and where they should be used. Simple guidelines can also increase safety and prevent or reduce accidents."

Safetywise are reminding communities of the Safe Home Firework Display Guidelines:

Before The Display

Check the fireworks you buy are suitable for the size of garden and conform to British Standards. Read the instructions in daylight

One person - clearly identified - should be responsible for fireworks.

Things You Will Need On The Night

Torch for checking instructions
Bucket of water
Eye Protection and gloves
Bucket of soft earth to stick fireworks in
A board for flat-bottomed fireworks
Suitable supports for catherine wheels, proper launchers for rockets

During The Display

Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks
Light fireworks at arm's length with a taper
Stand well back and keep others back
Never go back to a lit firework
Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them
Always supervise children
Store fireworks in a metal box, kept closed between use
Keep pets indoors

After The Display

Use tongs or gloves to collect spent fireworks.

Sparklers

Unsuitable for children under five
Light one at a time
Wear gloves when holding sparklers
Put used sparklers hot end down into a bucket of sand or water.

Bonfires

Should be at least 18 metres (60ft) away from houses, trees, hedges, fences or sheds
Use domestic firelighters
Never use petrol, paraffin or other flammable liquids.

Hazards

Be careful, some items if burnt on a bonfire can be very dangerous. Old gas cylinders and canisters are likely to explode and may cause severe injury. Also, tyres, furnishings containing foams and plastics and polystyrene can release harmful fumes. This would be especially dangerous for any one with asthma or other similar conditions.

It is recommended that every bonfire be checked by the organisers prior to lighting to ensure that no hazardous items are present.



Remember, remember your pets.

ALWAYS

Always keep dogs and cats inside when fireworks are being let off

Always close all doors and windows, and block off all cat flaps to stop pets escaping and to keep noise to a minimum. Draw the curtains, and if the animals are used to the particular sounds of TV or radio, switch them on but not too loudly in order to block out some of the noise of the fireworks.

Always make sure that your pet is wearing some form of easily readable ID, even when in the house. By law, they should have at least a collar and tag, but think about fitting them with a microchip, so that if they do run away they have a better chance of being returned to you.

NEVER

Never take your dog to a firework display. Even if your dog does not bark or whimper at fireworks it doesn't mean he's happy. Excessive panting and yawning can sometimes indicate that your dog is stressed.

Never tie your dog up outside while fireworks are being let off, i.e. outside a shop whilst you pop inside, or leave them in the garden or in your car.

Never walk your dog while fireworks are going off. Make sure your dog is walked earlier in the day before the fireworks start.

SMALL ANIMALS

Rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, mice, ferrets and birds all need to be treated with special care when fireworks are being let off. These animals are easily frightened. Owners of these animals should follow these precautions:

- Hutches/cages and enclosures should, if possible, be brought into a quiet room indoors, or into a garage or shed.
- Give your pet extra bedding to burrow into so it feels safe.
- If you cannot get your pets hutch inside, you should turn it's enclosure around so that it faces a wall or fence instead of the open garden.

Cover any aviaries or hutches with thick blankets or a duvet to block out the sight of the fireworks and deaden the sound of the bangs, **but make sure that there is enough ventilation.**



Richard Hertzler / Lancaster New Era



In Britain in 2005, there were a total of 990 injuries from fireworks.

- 682 of these were male.
- 422 were over 20 years.
- 281 were under 13 years.
- 475 were at a family/private party.
- 480 required hospital treatment.

