

Making Our House Your Home

HHP donate £5,000 to Local Charities

All normal business took place in the Town Hall on Thursday 1 September at our first 'in person' AGM in 3 years. We are supporting five local charities by donating £1,000

going to each of the following groups:

Marie Curie Nursing Assistants

Gàradh a' Bhagh a' Tuath (Northbay Community Garden)

Bethesda Hospice

Action for Children

Western Isles Community Care Forum

Our Vice Chair, Calum MacKay, welcomed all in attendance and thanked everyone for their contributions over the last year. The Membership present approved the appointment of CIB Services as our External Auditor until our next General Meeting.

Following the close of official business Clare Morris and Rachel MacKenzie from Autism Eilean Siar gave a short talk on the valuable work they do in our community.

Managers complete Leadership Development Programme



Garden Ideas

Our Housing Officer, Allison, has seen some lovely garden ideas whilst carrying out estate inspections.

Our tenants, Mr and Mrs Stubbington, share the background to their lovely wild garden: "When we moved to the West Side from sunny Bournemouth, I had no idea of what would grow well in what my grandson insisted on calling "The Frozen North". However, I noticed many of the same flowers in the South.

When we planned our garden, we cleared the top layer of rough grass, rushes and thistles and planted a wind break. Our neighbours commented:

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Garden Ideas *(continued from front page)*

"You'll never make a garden there!"

We planted quick growing, common goat willow and filled in with trees my husband had grown from seed - tree peony, magnolia and a contorted elm that had travelled with us.

"Next, we stripped the top layer of rough growth and used it to build a turf wall. When we had a patch of bare ground, we put down Terram, measured out some easy to work timber sided beds, filled in the path spaces with gravel and began to make a mix for the beds.

"I used my kitchen compost, some of the earth from levelling the ground, peat trash, horticultural sand and general purpose compost. We filled the bed spaces with this mix and planted perennial flowers, salads, herbs and vegetables.

After nine years our garden was thriving and we needed more room. HHP allowed us to take on an overgrown piece of land



next to us which had been used for peat stacks. We later acquired the use of another piece of the same size.

"Ditches and drains were dug and covered, then the same process that we had used on the first garden.

"Now we have a garden surrounded by a variety of trees containing a fruit cage, a net tunnel for brassica, plenty of space for vegetables, a small

polytunnel, a playhouse for the grandchildren and a wildlife pond. In these uncertain times, our garden provides us with much fresh food.

"We love our garden and spend many hours in our sheltered corner with a mug of coffee or a glass of wine, enjoying the many birds, bees and other creatures that share our space."



Pictured below are more lovely gardens from around the island.



Cost of Living Crisis

Here are some businesses that can help with the continued cost of living.

Scottish Welfare Fund - apply for a crisis grant 01851 822642 www.cne-siar.gov.uk/benefits-and-grants

Citizens Advice Bureau - debt advice, money, energy, housing, employment:-

LEWIS CAB 01851 705727 bureau@lewiscab.casonline.org.uk

UISCAB 01870 602421 bureau@uiscab.caseonline.org.uk

BARRA CAB - 01871 810608 bureau@barracab.caseonline.org.uk

www.case.org.uk/bureaux/barracitizens-advice-bureau-western-isles

Tighean Innse Gall - local expert energy advice, provision of home upgrades to reduce bills and cost of living 01851 706121 info@tighean.co.uk www.tighean.co.uk

Energy

Many energy companies have support funds and hardship grants available for customers who are struggling with their energy bills. If you are in debt to your energy supplier, you might be able to get a grant from the supplier to help pay it off.

Here's a list of energy suppliers who offer grants to their customers:

British Gas Energy Support Fund – www.britishgasenergytrust.org.uk/grants-available

Scottish Power Hardship Fund – www.community.scottishpower.co.uk/t5/Help-paying-your-bill/Hardship-Fund/ta-p/53

Ovo Energy Fund - www.ovenergy.com/help/debt-and-energy-assistance

E.ON Energy Fund - www.eonenergy.com/for-your-home/saving-energy/need-little-extra-help/energy-fund

E.ON Next Energy Fund - www.eonnextenergyfund.com

EDF Energy Customer Support Fund - www.edfenergy.com/PSR

Bulb Energy Fund – www.citizensadviceplymouth.org.uk/bulb-energy

Octopus 'Octo Assist Fund' – www.octopus.energy/blog/struggling-to-pay

If you cannot get a grant from your supplier, you might be able to get a grant from the British Gas Energy Trust. These grants are available to anyone - you don't have to be a British Gas customer to be eligible.

Residents may also be able to access local grants and you can see what is available in your area on the www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/grants

Social Security Scotland - Scottish Child Payment, Best Start Grant & Best Start Foods - 0800 182 2222 mygov.scot/benefits



hhp hebridean housing partnership
Making our house your home

COST OF LIVING TENANT EVENT

Advice on how to stay warm and well this winter

Thursday 29 September Stornoway
Wednesday 5 October Balivanich
Tuesday 25 October Castlebay

Save THE Date

FREE

Food Prize Draw Energy Advice

Our staff and key partners will be on hand to answer all your cost of living questions

Development Update

Sawan Morrison



Stornoway

The final phase of the 74 houses at Goathill, will see 22 homes being made available for rent and 2 for purchase through shared equity. These are due to be handed over late September/early October.

The 52 bed care home and 50 housing with extra care flats are also progressing well and are due to be completed at the start of 2023.

Calmax have started work on the 72 home site at Blackwater which has been named 'An Allt Dubh' following a name consultation. This will be a phased handover similar to Sinclair Avenue.

Rural Lewis

The additional 4 homes and the care unit refurbishment at Crowlsta is underway which is due to complete in January 2023. Please register your interest in the waiting list.

Uist

We conducted the official opening of the 10 home scheme at Johnstone Court, Balivanich on 11 August

2022.

Work is continuing at the former Lochmaddy Hospital site.

Barra

Calmax are progressing on site to build 6 homes in Barra. This site is due for completion in October 2022.

Where we build depends on you. To register your interest for rented houses, visit our website <https://www.hebrideanhousing.co.uk/> and refer to the page "Become a Tenant".

Shared Equity

We are currently accepting applications for the shared equity homes at Sinclair Avenue. There is one 3 bed house remaining for sale through the New Supply Shared Equity scheme. The spacious 3 bedroom house has a starting price for a 60% equity stake at £117,000. For those wishing to purchase a higher equity stake of 80%, the price increases to £156,000. The properties have been independently valued at £195,000. **Please contact sharedequity@hebrideanhousing.co.uk for an application pack.**

The sites completed since January 2022 with a total of 38 units across the Western Isles.

Development	Area	No of Homes
Ionad Mairi Bremner, Howmore	South Uist	4
Sinclair Avenue, Goathill Ph 2B	Stornoway	8
James Place, Tarbert	Harris	8
Gleann Mòr, Barvas	Rural Lewis	8
Johnstone Court, Balivanich	Benbecula	10
Total Handover since January 2022		38



Opening of Johnstone Court, Balavanich. Among the attendees were tenants Lesley-Ann Wicks, Catherine Monk with Jessie MacPherson from the Johnstone family, Board members Alison Maccorquodale and Iain M MacLeod, and HHP Officers Dena MacLeod, Linda Johnston, Katie Walker and Roddy Wilson and Matthew Hebditch (TIG).

Keeping you safe

Following the installation of new smoke and heat alarms in all our houses we have noticed that there is an increasing number of instances where tenants are removing the alarms.

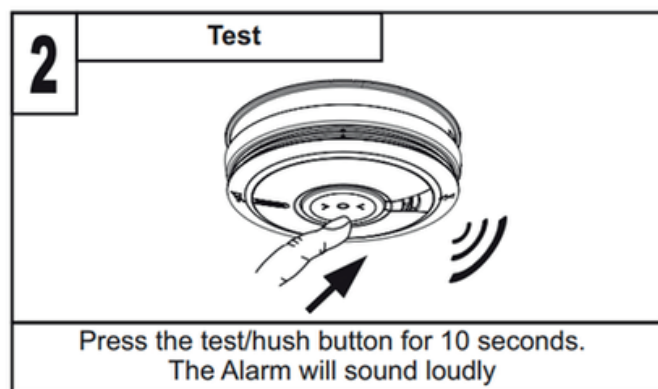
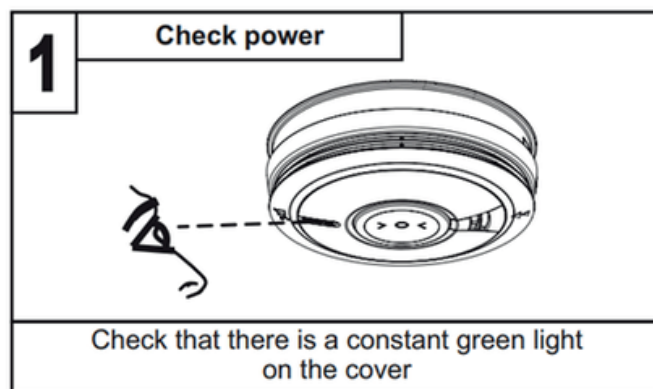
Please do not remove the alarms under any circumstances. We cannot stress enough how dangerous this is, not only for you but for your neighbours. These alarms save lives so please ensure they are not removed.

We are asking all our tenants to check their alarms every month to make sure they are functioning as they should. Just press the test button and all the alarms should sound. It may

be a bit loud but that is to be expected as it simulates the sound you should hear if there was a fire or lots of smoke in your home.

All our homes have interconnected alarms so you should test the first unit by pressing the test/hush button for 10 seconds. All the alarms should sound within 10 seconds of the first alarm sounding. After releasing the test/hush button, the local alarm will stop sounding immediately and the interconnected alarms will be heard sounding in the distance for a further 3-4 seconds. This feature gives an audible verification that the interconnection is OK. Check all the other alarms in the same way.

Inspecting and Testing procedure



Loan Fee Fraud Campaign

With the cost of living crisis meaning people are borrowing more money than they did this time last year, the Financial Conduct

Authority predict more people will be looking for alternative loans and are concerned that people may be vulnerable to loan fee fraud – where consumers pay an advance fee for a loan which they never receive.

They've published a free toolkit of assets that housing associations can share with their residents to help protect them against loan fee fraud.

<https://www.fca.org.uk/consumers/loan-fee-fraud>

Housing Needs and Demand Assessment

The Comhairle's Housing Services Team is preparing a Housing Needs and Demand Assessment (HNDA), which will feed into the Local Strategy 2023 - 2028 and the next iteration of the Local Development Plan.

This exercise must be carried out every five years and it will allow us to consider the number of homes we are likely to need, based on what our population looks like at the moment, and what it might look like in the future. It also allows us to consider the particular needs that people in our communities might have, and how we can plan for the type of home they are likely to require now and in the future. See the link below for information.

<https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/housing/feedback/>

Investment Works

Peter O' Donnell



We have been successful in securing funding again this year and will be adding Doig Crescent and Riverview to this years programme. Air source heat pumps will be replacing the storage heaters at these scheme.

We have also been successful in attracting funding to increase the number of houses in our external wall insulation works. We will now be proceeding with the previously postponed works to Swedish Timber houses at Edgemoor Square, Pentland Road,

Heatherhill and Scott Road and we have managed to bring forward works to the timber houses at Kersavagh, Dunrossil Place, St Barrs Crescent, Cille Bharra and Am Meall. Roughcasting works are also underway at Clachan Biorach in Tong and as you can see this is making a real difference to the overall appearance of the scheme.

Black upvc fences, as seen in the photo below, are to be installed at Doig Crescent and Parkend.



Please remember to fill in your satisfaction sheets as we really want to hear your opinion on the works in your home so that we can improve ourselves.

Feeding the birds

Feeding birds in gardens is widespread and is important in conserving garden bird numbers, particularly in the winter. It also gives pleasure to many to see birds feeding in their garden. The RSPB recommend fresh water and shelter are necessary in winter to help birds.

However, too much of the wrong food can encourage scavengers such as rats, mice, pigeons, crows or seagulls which sometimes discourage the smaller birds from feeding and most people would be horrified to think that they were attracting rats and mice to their gardens.

To avoid this keep your garden tidy, avoid putting food on the ground, use small lightweight feeds that are too small for larger scavengers and keep birdseed in sealed containers.



A breath of fresh air

Without effective ventilation homes are susceptible to condensation and mould which creates poor indoor air quality, can lead to ill health, and can cause damage to the house itself.

Making the most of your ventilation is necessary to ensure the quality of air in your home so please follow the advice below.

Windows

Most of our windows have trickle ventilation to allow continuous fresh air into your home. Some have white tumbler vents which are easy to use but others have metal sliders which can stick if not used frequently. You should test these weekly to prevent this from happening but if you are having trouble, just give us a phonecall and we will send someone round to help you.

Some windows have night latches which allow you to close them securely whilst leaving a gap for fresh air. This can be handy during the few warm humid summer nights we have.

Opening windows for a few minutes each day will remove all the stale air from the day before and replace it with fresh air which will help keep condensation and mould away.

Bathroom

Even if you have a fan in the bathroom and kitchen, you might still need to open the window to remove excess steam from showering or cooking.

There are a small number of houses where the bathroom does not have a window so please ensure you check that the ventilation is in order and phone us if anything needs attention.

As building regulations get stricter, new build houses become more air tight and special ventilation systems are needed. If you have one of these in your home, please ensure you use it correctly and follow the instructions given. If you are unsure of anything at any time, then please call us so we can visit to help you out.

WAYS TO PAY RENT



Use your rent payment card at any Post Office or Paypoint/ Payzone



By Direct Debit Mandate on a weekly or monthly basis



By telephone using your debit or credit card by calling 01851 600502

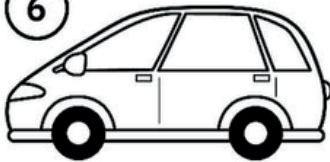


By Bank Standing Order

KID'S CORNER



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Vehicles

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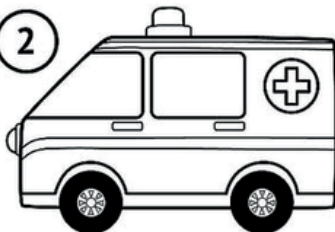


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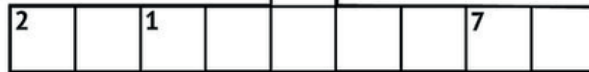
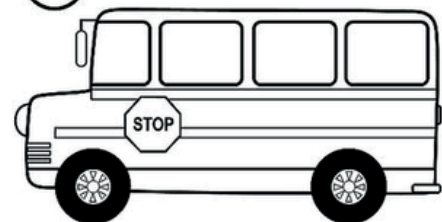
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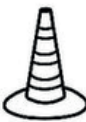


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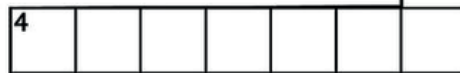
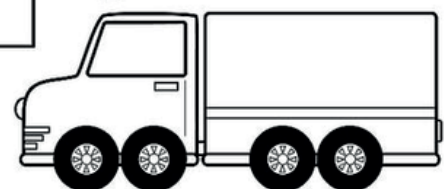


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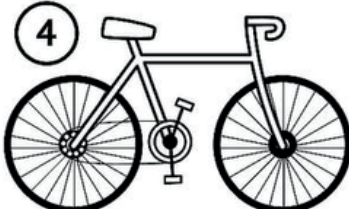


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- 1. Bus
- 2. Ambulance
- 3. Motorcycle
- 4. Bicycle
- 5. Train
- 6. Car
- 7. Crane
- 8. Tractor
- 9. Truck
- 10. Taxi

HHP is a registered society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, Registered Number: 2644R(S), Registered Office: Creed Court, Gleann Seileach Business Park, Willowglen Road, STORNOWAY, Isle of Lewis HS1 2QP. It is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number: SCO35767, registered as Registered Social Landlord with the Scottish Housing Regulator, Registration Number: 359 and registered as a Property Factor, Registration Number PF000183.

Email: info@hebrideanhousing.co.uk
 Web: www.hebrideanhousing.co.uk
 Phone: 0300 123 0773