

Western Isles Lieutenancy Newsletter - Number 18

January to June 2024

INTRODUCTION

The cancer illnesses of HM The King and HRH The Princess of Wales, announced earlier this year, came as a shock to us all. It is reassuring that King Charles is now able to resume a programme of public duties, including managing to attend the recent D-Day 80th anniversary commemoration events in Normandy. Also, it was pleasing to see The Princess of Wales looking wonderful as she made her first public appearance this year at the Trooping of the Colour on the 16th of June.

Both The King and The Princess of Wales have been praised for bravely sharing their cancer diagnosis with the nation, with cancer charities seeing a significant increase in online participation following their public announcements, helping to encourage and educate us regarding the importance of early detection and treatment.

We welcome their ongoing recovery and send them our best wishes with their continuing treatment. We also add our good wishes to HRH The Princess Royal for a speedy recovery after a recent hospital visit.



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On behalf of the people of the Western Isles, I send our heartfelt best wishes to Her Royal Highness, The Princess of Wales, for a speedy recovery and full return to good health.

I offer my own, and the support and prayers of the residents of the islands, to The Prince and Princess of Wales' family at this difficult time.

It is important we respect The Princess' need for privacy throughout the treatment period so that she is able to be fully focused on her well-being and on her family.

Mar Mhorar-Ionaid nan Eilean Siar, as leth muinntir nan Eilean tha sinn a' guidhe gach neart dhìth agus an dòchas gun tèid gu math dhìth sna seachdainean ri thighinn. (As Lord-Lieutenant for the Western Isles, on behalf of those in our Islands, we wish HRH a return to full health and strength in the weeks to come.)

Iain Macaulay

HM Lord-Lieutenant
Western Isles
07747456059
<https://westernisleslieutenancy.org.uk/>

Dear Sir,

9th February 2024

I have the honour to be Your Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the Western Isles. I write on behalf of the people of the Western Isles to wish you our heartfelt best wishes following your recent cancer diagnosis.

I wish you a return to the best of health and offer my own, and the support and prayers of the residents of the islands to you, Her Majesty Queen Camilla and the wider Royal Family at this time.

I know the Western Isles have a special place in your heart and you will be aware of the mutual affection and respect held for you here.

Gur math a thèid leibh agus a' guidhe gach neart dhuibh sna seachdainean ri thighinn.

Best wishes for a return to full strength in the weeks to come.

Yours sincerely

Iain Macaulay HM Lord-Lieutenant Western Isles <https://westernisleslieutenancy.org.uk/>



E-letter sent to the King on 9th February

Press release in March 2024 for Princess of Wales

THE IOLAIRE REMEMBERED

A commemoration and wreath-laying service took place at the Iolaire Memorial at Holm on New Year's Day 2024. The service, led by Rev James MacIver, was attended by relatives of those lost, members of the public, Lord-Lieutenant, Convenor and Chief Executive of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, along with representatives of the local branch of the Royal British Legion and a number of other local organisations. The weather was favourable, remaining dry throughout. Two hundred and one lives were lost out of the 280 men on board when HMY Iolaire hit rocks and sank at the Beasts of Holm, about a mile from Stornoway Harbour, making it the UK's worst peacetime maritime disaster.



With Rev MacIver retiring as Minister of Stornoway Free Church in the summer, we express our grateful thanks to him for his commitment in leading this commemoration service for a number of years.

We all wish him a long and healthy retirement.

Left to right:
Rev James MacIver, L-L Iain Macaulay, Convenor Kenny Macleod, Francis Jefferson, British Legion.

STORNOWAY TRUST CENTENARY DINNER

I had the honour of being invited to propose a Toast for the Stornoway Trust Centenary at a Celebration Dinner on 24th January at Lews Castle. A total of 106 square miles, 68,000 acres, was gifted by Lord Leverhulme to the people who lived in the Parish of Stornoway and the Stornoway Trust was established to manage the estate on behalf of the people. We thank the staff and trustees for all that they have done over these 100 years, and continue to do, in developing, promoting and strengthening the Trust community.



Back left to right:

Iain MacIver, Factor, Catriona Murray, Murdo Campbell, Marisa MacDonald,

Front left to right:

Donald Crichton, Norman MacIver, Chair, Calum MacLean, Donald Nicholson

TALKS AT: ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH WOMEN'S GUILD, CARAIDEAN OG AN RUDHA and BETHESDA CARE HOME

It was a great pleasure for Anne and I to be invited to speak to the St Columba's Church Women's Guild in Stornoway and Caraidean Òg an Rudha in Ionaidd Stoodie, Point. We had been asked to give a personal account of our involvement with the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, The Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla and our stay in Windsor Castle. We received such a warm welcome and it was great to see so many familiar faces at these well-attended events. On the 6th of June I was privileged to be invited to Bethesda to speak to residents about my work, role and responsibilities as a Lord-Lieutenant in the Western Isles. The session, organised by Johan Smith, Activities Co-ordinator at the Care Home was in both Gaelic and English, with everyone present able to understand our native language. Again, thank you for such a warm welcome and lovely hospitality.

KING'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE PRESENTATIONS

LONG TERM CONDITIONS HEBRIDES (LTCH) and SHARE (SOUTH UIST & ERISKAY)

On Saturday 17th February, I had the privilege, alongside Comhairle Convener Kenny Macleod and DLs Margaret Doig, George Macdonald and Kenny MacLennan, of presenting members of LTCH with their well-deserved King's Award for Voluntary Service at a presentation ceremony in Stornoway.

LONG TERM CONDITIONS HEBRIDES



The following week, on Friday 23rd February, I was again privileged, alongside Comhairle Leader Paul Steele and DL Angus MacIntyre, to present SHARE with their KAVS Award at a reception in Grogarry Lodge, followed by amazing hospitality and entertainment.

SHARE



Both organisations received a beautifully engraved crystal, together with a bespoke certificate carrying the King's arms and signature, with their name and citation inscribed by hand.

This year's Awards are noteworthy because we were marking the first King's Awards, following 20 years of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services. Equivalent to an MBE, the KAVS is the highest award given to local voluntary groups in the UK, and is awarded for life. All those involved are to be congratulated on being awarded this prestigious honour.

JUBILEE MEDALS PRESENTATION BENBECULA

I was privileged to join up with the Cadets and their instructors who were on a training weekend in Uist in February. During the weekend I was able to present Queen's Diamond Jubilee medals to two adult volunteers.



Receiving the Queen's Jubilee medals were:

Captain Jamie Miller, Battalion Adventure Training Officer and Major Rev Alen McCulloch, Battalion Padré.

WESTERN ISLES COMPANY 1 ACF WEEKEND AT CONGREVE HOUSE, BENEPECULA

I accepted a cheque for £2,619 which was raised by cadets and adult volunteers during Poppy Appeal week in 2023. The money has gone to the Scottish Poppy Appeal and was presented by Cadet Lance Corporal Kyle Macleod of the Stornoway detachment.



Lance Corporal Macleod presenting the cheque to the Lord Lieutenant as the company look on

LORD-LIEUTENANTS' ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

I attended the Annual Lord-Lieutenants' Seminar and AGM in London on 21st and 22nd May which was attended by Lord-Lieutenants from throughout the UK. The Seminar covered presentations on the role that Lieutenancies can play in promoting understanding between faiths and communities. Guests included The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers, a former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The following day at St James's Palace, the AGM included interesting and detailed addresses, covering the Royal Household and The Royal Foundation.

The Scottish Lord-Lieutenants' AGM took place in the Palace of Holyrood House on 27th March with presentations from the Scottish Government providing an update on Honours (Scottish Process), Dr Joseph Morrow, Lord Lyon on Ceremonial matters, Sir Edward Bolitho, Chair Lord-Lieutenants' Association on UK Lieutenancy business and Major General Sir Robin Lindsay, Operational Commander, Royal Regiments of Scotland on military matters.

HIGHLAND RESERVE FORCES' AND CADETS' ASSOCIATION (HRFCA)

The AGM took place at the Discovery Point, Dundee on 20th April. Senior Service representatives gave detailed presentations on the current issues facing the Armed Forces and Cadet Associations, acknowledging their appreciation of the continuing support of Lord-Lieutenants and their DLs with Armed Services activities and Cadet Units at local levels.

Wing Cdr. Dr David Caddick is the new Association Chair, replacing the retiring Captain Nick Dorman as Association Chair. We wish them both well in their new situations.

Locally, the Hebridean Housing Partnership has recently received the Armed Forces Covenant. Highland RFCA's Regional Employer Engagement Director Ray Watt presented the certificate on 23rd May at their Willowglen offices in Stornoway. By signing the Covenant, HHP has become one of the nearly 12,000 organisations to pledge support to the Armed Forces community. The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from businesses to those who serve or who have served, and their families, to do all that they can to ensure that they are treated fairly and not disadvantaged in their day-to-day lives.

GARDEN PARTIES EDINBURGH AND LONDON

The Western Isles will be well represented at the Royal Garden Party at the Palace of Holyrood on 2nd July, with our full quota of 32 nominees present.

Along with other Lord-Lieutenants who were attending the AGM in London on 22nd May, Anne and I were invited to attend the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in the afternoon following the AGM meeting. On a wet day in London, The Prince of Wales represented The King and was joined by the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and his first cousins, Princess Beatrice, Princess Eugenie, Zara Tindall, and Peter Phillips.



Newly appointed L-L Lindsay Tulloch and his wife Kim from Shetland with L-L Iain Macaulay and his wife Anne



Prince of Wales with the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester at Buckingham Palace on the day.

KING'S BATON 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOYS BRIGADE AND 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1ST STORNOWAY COMPANY AT ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH ON SATURDAY 23RD MARCH

The King's Baton had been touring the North of Scotland since it was handed over to the Boys Brigade by King Charles at the Braemar Gathering in September 2023.

Northern BB representatives James Allan and Jenny Sclater crossed the Minch on the Loch Seaforth to bring the Baton to Stornoway.

They were piped off the ferry by the Lewis Pipe Band before proceeding to St Columba's Church to continue the celebrations.



Rev William Heenan and his congregation had organised a brilliant photo gallery of BB photographs taken over the years.

After the King's message was read and speeches made, all those in the packed hall enjoyed a slice of the anniversary cake and some refreshments.

The L-L and Convener closed proceedings by planting a tree in the Church grounds to commemorate both anniversaries

FIRE FIGHTERS' MEMORIAL DAY – MARTIN'S MEMORIAL CHURCH 4TH MAY



This was the first annual remembrance service in the Western isles for firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

The Government recognised the 4th of May as an official day of remembrance in 2022.

Organised by SFRS Watch Commander David Lang, the moving and respectful service was led by Rev Tommy MacNeil (whose brother Don was a firefighter for over 25 years in the Scottish Borders).

The service concluded with a Roll of Honour and a two-minute silence.

ARMY IN SCOTLAND ONLINE BRIEFING – 22ND FEBRUARY

This online briefing provided Lord-Lieutenants with an operational and strategic update on the Army in Scotland today. Presented by Major General Lindsay and Brigadier Davies, the presentations were followed by an informative Q&A session.

HONOURS SYSTEM ONLINE MEETING - 30TH MAY

I attended a beneficial and interesting online meeting of Scottish Lord-Lieutenants with Scottish Government and Cabinet Office colleagues on the 30th of May. After an overview summary of the Honours system was provided, the meeting moved to a helpful Q&A session.

Please continue to think about potential nominees for Honours within our locality, as well as potential suitable organisations for the King's Award for Voluntary Service and the King's Award for Enterprise. Further information for interested parties is on the following websites; www.gov.uk/honours www.westernisleslieutenancy.org.uk

CORONATION TREE PLANTING

A commemorative tree was planted at the top terrace of the Sunken Garden in the Castle Grounds, Stornoway on Thursday, 27th March to commemorate the Coronation of HM King Charles III on 6 May 2023. The tree was planted by the Lord-Lieutenant, Iain Macaulay, and Comhairle Convenor, Cllr Kenny Macleod. The specimen tree is a white Himalayan Birch (*Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii*) which has a white papery bark and was selected as it is more tolerant of the wet and heavy soils in the Castle Grounds. Peter Dyer and Iain Murray of the Stornoway Trust sawmill are thanked for their craftsmanship in creating the plinth and post



Left to right: David Bayly; Trust Head Gardener, Iain MacIver; Factor, Iain Macaulay; L-L, Cllr Kenny Macleod; Convenor, Norman MacIver; Chair, Cllr Duncan MacInnes; Deputy Leader.

100TH BIRTHDAY



Huge congratulations to Mrs Belle Maclean (Parkend) who celebrated her 100th Birthday in the beautiful Seaforth House Care Home on the 14th of May.

On the day, it was my pleasure and honour as Lord-Lieutenant to join her family, friends and staff in presenting Belle with her personal greetings card from HM King Charles.

The occasion was marked with a short service by her Minister, Rev. William Heenan, and the Comhairle Convener presented a lovely bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Western Isles community.

MACMILLAN AWARDS

Massive congratulations to the Lewis and Harris MacMillan Fundraising Group, who won the 2024 'Thanks to You' Awards, being declared the most productive fundraising committee in the UK by the MacMillan Cancer Charity. Four volunteers travelled to the national ceremony in Birmingham to receive the Outstanding Supporter award.

I was delighted to be invited to a local afternoon celebration tea in Stornoway on 22nd June, organised by the Lewis and Harris MacMillan fundraising Group, to thank everyone involved in their success journey and celebrate their prestigious award.

HONOURS PRESENTATIONS AT THE PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

Congratulations to Annie MacSween DL MBE (Ness, Lewis) and Ronald John Maclean MBE (Locheport, North Uist) who attended the Investiture Ceremony at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in February to receive their well-deserved MBE awards from HRH The Princess Royal. A proud day for both families and the community they represent. *Is math a rinn sibh.*



Annie MacSween MBE DL with her husband Iain and son Murdo



Ronald John Maclean MBE

THE SHED 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Shed Project celebrated its 10th anniversary with afternoon tea and interesting presentations at a full Town Hall event on the 10th of May.

Opened by Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh in 2014, the Shed project provides a range of important services to children, young people, vulnerable individuals and their families. We wish them well for the future as they consider options to further develop the resources and premises at Martin's Memorial.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION (RNLI) 200TH ANNIVERSARY

This year, the RNLI is marking its 200th anniversary, providing an ideal opportunity to celebrate the achievements of this remarkable volunteer charity and service. It is also an occasion to commemorate all those who have selflessly given their lives to help save others.

The Western Isles supports three stations, based at Stornoway, Leverburgh and Castlebay. It was therefore important and greatly encouraging that there was local representation at the national commemorative events taking place at Glasgow Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.



Margaret Doig DL represented the Western Isles Lieutenancy at Glasgow Cathedral for the RNLI service



RNLI Crew member David Mackinnon and volunteer fundraiser Jane MacIver attended the RNLI 200 Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on the 23rd of May.



Western Isles representatives of RNLI at Westminster Abbey for the RNLI 200 service.

Left to right are John Macdonald, Branch chairman, Stornoway, Tony Morrison, Launch Authority Stornoway, Mhairi Macinnes. Crew Leverburgh, Jethro Lomas, Crew Leverburgh, Kenny MacLeod, Water Safety Officer

WESTERN ISLES LIEUTENANCY - 50TH ANNIVERSARY 2025

I recently established a small working group to take forward the task of producing an archive publication to mark 50 years since the Western Isles Lieutenancy was formally constituted in May 1975.

Donald Martin has kindly agreed to take the lead in creating the booklet, supported by George Macdonald, Alasdair MacEachen, Maggie Mackay, myself and Malcolm Macdonald, Stornoway Historical Society.

This publication is an "inhouse" production and we would be most grateful to receive a loan of any Lieutenancy related documents, photographs, articles etc that you have and you think would be of interest.

ST VALERY & DUNKIRK MEMORIAL PARADE AND D-DAY 80TH REMEMBRANCE SERVICE, BENBECULA 6TH JUNE

With the Western Isles Company, 1st Battalion The Highlanders, Army Cadet Force on parade, a commemorative service was led by Major (Revd.) Alen McCulloch at the Griminish War Memorial, Benbecula. This service also remembered the Allied invasion of Normandy in June 1924. With the Western Isles Company, 1st Battalion The Highlanders, Army Cadet Force on parade



DLs Angus MacIntyre and Alasdair MacEachen with those leading the commemorative service



Western Isles Company, 1st Battalion The Highlanders, Army Cadet Force, on parade at the St Valery & Dunkirk Memorial Parade and D-Day 80 commemorative service at the Griminish War Memorial.

D- DAY 80 LANDINGS REMEMBERED



At a wreath laying ceremony held on 6th June at Perceval Square, Stornoway, we remembered the 4,400 Allied Forces sailors, airmen and civilians who died during the Normandy landings in June 1914.

It is hugely important that we put aside time to reflect on our armed forces' many acts of bravery and heroism and remember the sacrifices that were made on our behalf. So many lives lost, we give honour and say thank you to all those who gave so much, so that we can enjoy our freedoms today.

COMMISSIONING CERTIFICATE

Alasdair MacEachen DL presented Major (Revd) Alen McCulloch, 1st Battalion Highland ACF with his Commissioning Certificate whilst the Western Isles Cadets were in Uist for the St Valery & Dunkirk Memorial Parade and D-Day 80th commemoration service.



ARMED FORCES WEEK – 24TH JUNE

Flag raising events were held in Stornoway, Tarbert, Balivanich and Castlebay to commemorate Armed Forces Week, offering an opportunity for the community and those with military connections to pay tribute to serving military personnel, veterans and the cadets.



Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
L-L with Armed Forces Veterans, Comhairle Convenor Kenny MacLeod and Major Norman MacLeod



Balivanich, Isle of Benbecula
Left to right: Phil Ladyman Royal British Legion Scotland, Sgt Instructor Lee Harkness 1st Battalion The Highlanders, Pete Gray RBLs Uist Branch member, Pat Holtham RBLs Uist Welfare Officer, Derek Collins Chairman RBLs Uist



Castlebay, Isle of Barra Archie MacNeil, CPO (SEA) Royal Navy with Vice L-L Betty McAtear



Tarbert, Isle of Harris with DL Katie Ann MacKinnon, Sgt. Tommy Stewart Hebrides PL and Piper Alasdair Morrison, Maraig.

KNOWN LIEUTENANCY EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENTS JULY TO DECEMBER 2024

Armed Forces Week: Flag Lowering services (June/July)

Royal Garden Party, Holyrood Palace: Tuesday 2 July

Freedom of the Western Isles to The Royal Regiment of Scotland: Saturday 7 September

Merchant Navy Day Memorial Service, Ferry Terminal: September date to be confirmed

Western Isles Lieutenancy AGM, Community Visits & Annual Dinner Barra: Wednesday 11th September

Battle of Britain Parade, St Columba's Church: Sunday 15 September

Lewis War Memorial Centenary Commemorative Service: Saturday 21 September

Armistice Day Services: Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 November

Iolaire Commemoration Service: 1 Jan 2025

CONCLUSION AND THANKS

Since the beginning of the year, I have attended a number of planning meetings with the Comhairle and other local partner community organisations, responded to various media enquiries and liaised with Scottish Government and Royal Household staff on a range of business matters.

I am looking forward to this year's Western Isles Lieutenancy AGM taking place in Barra on Wednesday 11th September. This will be a memorable meeting as it will be Betty McAtear's, Vice L-L, and Annie MacSween MBE DL's final AGM as serving DLs, as they will be retiring towards the end of the year. Both have done a tremendous amount of voluntary work for the Lieutenancy and the Western Isles community over many years and their contribution, commitment and distinguished service is much appreciated.

We hope that Julie Forrest from the Protocols and Honours Team at the Scottish Government will be in attendance at our Barra meeting to give a presentation on the Honours system and processes. Further details on arrangements for the AGM will be circulated to DLs shortly.

My grateful thanks to you all for your support and encouragement throughout what has been another busy six months.

Special thanks to Maggie MacKay, Lieutenancy Clerk, for her help and advice and to her staff at Anderson Macarthur for their kindness and hospitality whenever I visit the office.

Iain Macaulay
Lord-Lieutenant Western Isles

