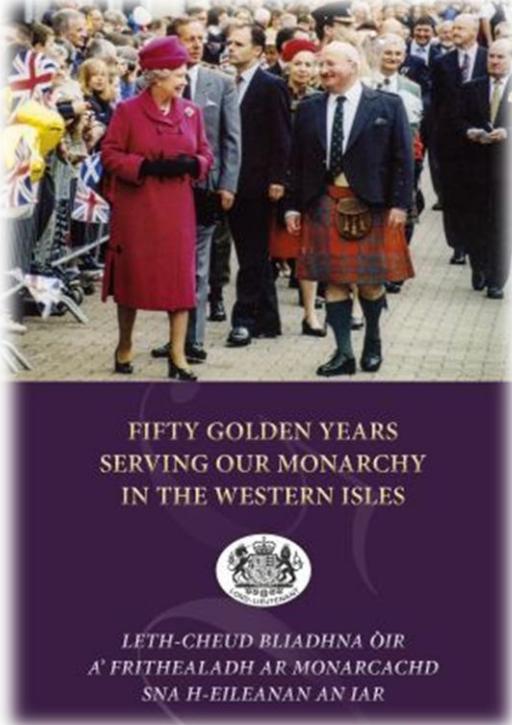


June to December 2025

THE WESTERN ISLES LIEUTENANCY@50 (1975–2025)



The launch of *'Fifty Golden Years Serving Our Monarchy In The Western Isles - Leth- Cheud Bliadhna Òir a ' Frithealadh Ar Monarcachd 's na h-Eileanan an Iar* took place on the 17th December 2025. It was published by the Western Isles Lieutenancy and commemorates its 50th anniversary, recording some of its key events over the period.

The book includes a foreword from the current Lord-Lieutenant, Iain Macaulay, an anniversary message from Councillor Kenneth Macleod, Convener of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, and personal reflections from retired Lord-Lieutenants Alexander Matheson CVO OBE and Donald Martin CVO.

The foreword and contents list is written in both Gaelic and English.

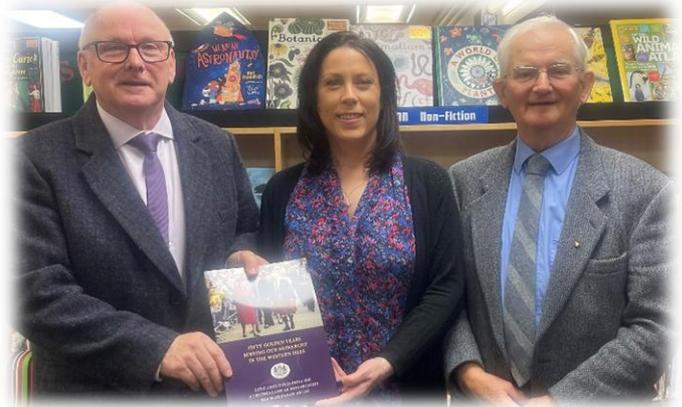
This publication is the first of its kind in Scotland, providing a historical account of the work of a single Lieutenancy area. Throughout the past fifty years, the Lieutenancy has participated in an enormous number of local and national events and celebrations, all helping to strengthen the engagement of local individuals and organisations with the Monarchy, whether through Royal visits, official openings, honours and awards, liaising with the Armed and Cadet Forces, garden parties, carol services, national celebrations or State functions.

The book is available for sale in local outlets throughout the Western Isles and online from the Islands Book Trust.

<https://islandsbooktrust.org/products/fifty-golden-years-serving-our-monarchy-in-the-western-isles>

The well-attended launch in the Stornoway Library was covered by BBC Gaelic TV news and attended by the current and two previous Lord-Lieutenants who gave brief accounts of their own experiences and signed copies of the book for all those present.

George MacDonald DL, who chaired the launch, said "It's a bright, easy, informative read, and most of you will recognise some of your friends and family members that are featured in the many photos within the book; some of these photos will also bring back many memories of those who are sadly no longer with us."



Councillor Kenneth Macleod, Convener of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Lord-Lieutenant, Iain Macaulay, retired Lord-Lieutenants Alexander Matheson CVO OBE and Donald Martin CVO and George MacDonald DL.

L-L Iain Macaulay, Margaret Anne MacLeod, book designer and Donald Martin CVO



Working Group: Margaret MacKay DL, George MacDonald DL, Donald Martin CVO, L-L Iain Macaulay, Alasdair MacEachen DL and Malcolm MacDonald, Stornoway Historical Society.

Earlier in the day, BBC Radio nan Gaidheal's 'Naoi gu Deich' programme was broadcast live, with the full hour dedicated to the 50th anniversary publication. Presenter Coinneach Smith was joined by Convener Kenny Macleod, alongside myself and DLs Kenny MacLennan MBE, Maggie MacKay, Alasdair MacEachen and Christine Galbraith together with retired DLs Donald Martin CVO, Annie MacSween MBE, Betty McAtear OBE. The feedback following the programme was extremely positive, with everyone saying there are enough stories and memories there for another programme.

SHERIFF COLIN SCOTT MACKENZIE OBE DL

We are all pleased to hear that Sheriff Colin Scott MacKenzie is now back home after a spell in hospital. Donald and I were delighted to visit himself and Christeen at home before New Year and we presented them with a copy of the Lieutenancy book.

As detailed in the book, Colin himself authored a significant article in Volume 5 of the Stair Memorial Encyclopaedia of the Laws of Scotland (1987) giving the history of the Lieutenancy in Scotland. It is thought to be the first and only such article dedicated to the Lieutenancy in Scotland.

ROYAL GARDEN PARTY

On Tuesday 1st July, Anne and I joined over thirty people from the Western Isles who attended and enjoyed this year's Royal Garden Party at Holyrood Palace. Offering a Royal Garden party invite to some of our deserving community volunteers and representatives is always a real pleasure. On the special day, King Charles and Queen Camilla were joined by The Princess Royal, hosting around 8000 guests.

Many thanks to everyone who attended and to all guests who shared photographs afterwards.





CHARLIE NICOLSON'S BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL PRESENTATION



Around 170 guests gathered in the MA Macleod Memorial Hall in Stornoway on Thursday 3rd July to celebrate the presentation of the British Empire Medal (BEM) to Charlie Nicolson for voluntary and charitable service in the Western Isles.

Chair for the evening was Coinneach Mor MacIver OBE, with speeches by Comhairle Convener, Cllr Kenny MacLeod, Roddie MacKay, former Comhairle Leader and Sandy Matheson CVO OBE DL, with Deputy Lieutenant Margaret Doig reading the Citation from the Palace.

After the formal presentation of the Medal and Certificate by the Lord – Lieutenant, Charlie Nicolson BEM, addressed the large number of guests attending, saying he was " *very honoured* " to receive this national recognition from HM The King in the New Year's Honours list, seeing the award as being " recognition for our Isles and for my many friends" and went on to thank all the people who helped and supported him over the years, including the assistance of local businesses.



Bringing the formal proceedings to an end, his minister Rev Hugh Ferrier said Grace, before everyone present enjoyed the exceptional hospitality provided by Charlie and his team of volunteers on the evening. Lord -Lieutenant Cadet Anna Chisholm was tremendously helpful in supporting me with my duties throughout the evening.



Then on the 4th of December, Charlie and I visited Margaret O'Brien at her home in Stornoway.

Margaret was unable to attend the award ceremony due to health issue and it was great to see her settled and so happy in her new home.

SALVATION ARMY, STORNOWAY – FAREWELL SERVICE

After five years serving in the Western Isles, on Sunday 6th July, Lts Christopher and Faith Thompson led Worship for the final time at the Stornoway Salvation Corps before their move to a new appointment in Morecambe & Carnforth. It was a pleasure to join the congregation in saying farewell and getting an opportunity to thank them both for their significant contribution to the local community.

Their yearly Toy Appeal, for example, helped to support over 240 children across the Islands during this time.



ARMED FORCES WEEK FLAG LOWERING SERVICE

The Flag lowering ceremony to mark the end of Armed Forces Week was held in Perceval Square on 14th July. The flag was lowered by Donnie MacIver, British Legion (Stornoway Branch) with representatives from the Comhairle, Armed Forces, Veterans, Cadets, the Lieutenancy and the community in attendance. The Lewis & Harris Youth Pipe Band performed to support the Veterans Colour Parade.



“The Armed Forces flag highlights our support and appreciation of the tremendous contribution made by our servicemen and women, past and present, and for the wider Armed Forces community of veterans, reservists, cadets and their families” Lord-Lieutenant Iain Macaulay

HIGHLAND RFCA EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT EVENT (HRFCA)

A most interesting and informative event was organised by the HRFCA in Stornoway on the 15th July, focused on the Armed Forces Covenant (AFC) and the Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS). Aimed at strengthening support for our Armed Forces community across the Islands, the evening was led by Ray Watt, Defence Relationship Manager. In addition, presentations were delivered by Gordon Jamieson, NHS Western Isles Chief Executive and Duncan MacInnes, Deputy Leader, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar outlining the many valuable benefits their respective organisations gained from signing the Covenant and by being formal partners in the Scheme.

VJ 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN JAPAN AND THE END OF WW2

The VJ 80th Anniversary commemoration was marked throughout the Western Isles, with Flag Raising ceremonies held in Castlebay, Balivanich, Tarbert and Stornoway over the 14th and 15th August. We honour the bravery and sacrifice of all those who served from the Western Isles and from across the Country and the Commonwealth.

On the evening of Friday 15th August, a service was held in Perceval Square, Stornoway to mark the surrender of Japan and the end of the Second World War and pay tribute to the whole of the Second World War generation.

The service was led by Rev. William Heenan, with wreaths laid by Convener Cllr Kenny Macleod and Lord-Lieutenant Iain Macaulay. Also, in attendance was John Swinney MSP and First Minister of Scotland.

The flag was lowered by Donnie MacIver, British Legion (Stornoway Branch)

Speaking at the ceremony, Convener Cllr Kenny MacLeod said “The war impacted our community deeply, and we must never forget the sacrifices made by our local heroes. Today, let us honour their memory and the resilience of our community during those challenging times”



**VJ 80th Anniversary commemoration
with First Minister John Swinney in Stornoway**



**VJ 80th Anniversary commemoration
Balivanich**



**VJ 80th Anniversary commemoration
Tarbert, Harris**



**VJ 80th Anniversary commemoration
Castlebay, Barra with family whose father was a
Japanese POW and served in the 14th Army**

SALVATION ARMY INSTALLATION SERVICE

It gave me great pleasure on Sunday 17th August, to say a few words of “welcome from the community” at the installation of Captain Mark Scoulding to the Salvation Army Stornoway Corps.

Mark previously worked in Campbeltown and Watford and along with his wife Grace, children Tabitha, Margot and Barney, are looking forward to their new ministry and living in Lewis.

“Today is a special occasion for you as a family and as we look forward to you settling into your new surroundings quickly, we also look forward to supporting you in whatever way we can to make your time and ministry here in Lewis a happy, fruitful and successful one” Iain Macaulay L-L.

UHI OUTER HEBRIDES GRADUATION CEREMONY

On 31st October, Margaret Doig DL represented the Lieutenancy at the 2025 UHI Outer Hebrides graduation ceremony of its students, together with their friends, family and staff. A special and proud day for everyone attending.

Guest speaker at the event, held in Martin’s Memorial Church, was Lewis Gillies, a leader in the energy sector and belongs to the Isle of Lewis. The UHI Chancellor is HRH The Princess Royal.

DEATH OF HRH THE DUCHESS OF KENT



It was with deep sorrow, that Buckingham Palace announced the death of Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Kent, at the age of 92. Her Royal Highness passed away peacefully on Thursday 4th September 2025, at Kensington Palace, surrounded by her family.

As a mark of respect, the Comhairle flew the Union Jack at half-mast at the Stornoway and Balivanich offices from the afternoon of Friday 5th until the following morning.

On behalf of the Western Isles Lieutenancy, I sent the following message of condolence: “We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of HRH The Duchess of Kent. She is remembered fondly throughout the Western Isles for her dedication and commitment to charitable service and for her gentle and inspirational nature. On behalf of the Western Isles community, I extend our heartfelt condolences at this sad time and express our thanks and appreciation for her remarkable life of service.

MERCHANT NAVY DAY

Around 40 people attended this annual event to commemorate Merchant Navy Day. The service was held at the Ferry Terminal in Stornoway on Saturday 6th September.

Rev Gordon MacLeod of the Stornoway High Church conducted the service, with the singing led by Noel Eadie.

Gavin Woods played the Last Post (Bugle) as the Veterans Colours were lowered in solemn tribute.

Wreaths were laid by L-L Iain Macaulay and Angus Macleod on behalf of the Merchant Navy Association.

The service was Chaired by Roddy Munro, Melbost.



Photo credit: Donald Macdonald, Press Officer Western Isles Branch
MNA Stornoway

ASSOCIATION OF LORD-LIEUTENANTS' WEBINAR

On the 17th of September I participated in a UK-wide webinar. This included an interesting and informative presentation from the Royal British Legion leadership team, highlighting changes in the Armed Forces community and their development of a new strategy focused on modernisation and growth.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN EVENTS

On 12th September, along with Comhairle Convener Cllr. Kenneth Macleod, and accompanied by the Standards of the RAF Association (RAFA) and Merchant Navy, I attended the flag raising ceremony in Perceval Square of the 'RAFA Ensign' at the start of 'Battle of Britain Week'.



A well-attended Battle of Britain Thanksgiving Service was held on Sunday 14th September at St Columba's Parish Church, conducted by Rev. Stephen Matthews, at which Lord-Lieutenant Cadet Anna Chisholm, a pupil of Sir E Scott in Tarbert, did a Bible reading.



The following day, Monday 15th, a lowering of the flag ceremony in Perceval Square brought the Battle of Britain remembrance events for 2025 to an end.

WESTERN ISLES LIEUTENANCY AGM & ANNUAL DINNER – ISLE OF HARRIS 2025

This year, we took the opportunity of being in Harris to visit The North Harris Trust, who, with 29,000 ha, is one of the largest community owned estates in Scotland.



We were all most impressed with our visits to the Tarbert Growing Project and the Urgha Recycling and Business projects.



Many thanks to Trust Manager Michael Hunter and his staff, for their welcome, hospitality and organising these enjoyable and interesting community visits. Everyone connected with North Harris Trust are to be congratulated for their commitment and vision; we wish them continued success in the years to come.

At the AGM, I reported on another busy year, with the Lieutenantcy taking part in around 70 engagements and events over the past 12 months. This included the marking of special events such as the Lewis War Memorial Centenary service, VE and VJ 80th Anniversary ceremonies in Barra, Uist, Harris and Lewis and the Comhairle @50 reception in the Town Hall.

All of this was in addition to the significant work undertaken by the Western Isles Lieutenantcy@50 Working Group on our anniversary book “Fifty Golden Years Serving Our Monarchy In the Western Isles”.

Before sitting down to an excellent dinner in the Harris Hotel, Donald Martin CVO, retired Lord-Lieutenant, gave a most interesting, illustrated talk on Ian Hart’s book “The Whalers of Harris”. Donald was brought up near the Bunabhainneader factory and with John Murdo Morrison MBE also present, we benefitted from their local knowledge and early memories.

My thanks to Maggie and Katie Ann for local arrangements and planning. Next year’s AGM and Annual dinner will be held in North Uist/Benbecula in September/October 2026.

STORNOWAY TRUST SMALL GRANTS COMMUNITY FUND



On the 30th of September, I was delighted to attend a reception at the Woodlands Centre organised by the Stornoway Trust Small Grant Fund so that Trustees could meet the successful community groups who were fortunate enough to be awarded funding.

As Lord-Lieutenant, I am extremely grateful and appreciative of the £2,000 grant approved towards the cost of the Lieutenancy@50 Anniversary publication.

The Small Grants Community Fund is administered by the Stornoway Trust with contributions from Lewis Wind Power, Pentland Wind Farm and Point& Sandwick Trust.

RETIREMENTS

- Rev William Heenan, St Columba's (Old Parish) Church, Stornoway. On Sunday 5th October, Cllr Kenny Macleod, Comhairle Convener and I attended Rev William Heenan's last service prior to his retirement after 13 years as Minister at St Columba's Church. As Minister of the Parish Church, Rev Heenan supported both Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and the Lieutenancy in the planning and delivery of a number of services being held to mark special local and national civic events ie the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, Coronation of King Charles, Lewis War Memorial Centenary, VE and VJ 80th Anniversary. On behalf of the Western Isles Lieutenancy, we wish William and Mairi every blessing for a long and healthy well-earned retirement.
- Brigadier Mark Dodson MBE, Highland RFCA Chief Executive retired in October after 10 years at the helm of the Association. Brigadier Dodson had responsibility for all the Association activities in the Western Isles and I wrote to wish him well in retirement and to thank him for his support to myself and retired Lord-Lieutenant Donald Martin, throughout his time in post. The new Chief Executive is Lieutenant Colonel Huan Davies RM.
- Debbie Livingston, OBE MVO, Head of the Honours and Protocol Team at the Scottish Government, retired in September after 16 years' service. Debbie was a great source of advice and guidance to the Western Isles Lieutenancy and on our behalf, I wrote her to extend our thanks for encouragement and help since her appointment nearly 17 years ago. In October, the Scottish Government announced that Craig Smith has been appointed to this senior civil service position. I have emailed Craig to congratulate him on his promotion, and I look forward to meeting him at the Scottish Lieutenancy Association meeting in Edinburgh in March.

HIGHLAND RFCA NORTHERN AREA COMMITTEE

This hybrid Northern Area Committee took place on the 15th of October from Aberdeenshire Council Headquarters, and alongside some other Lieutenancy delegates, we successfully joined proceedings online. The meeting was led by Northern Area Chair, Major (Rtd.) Alex Rose.

The keynote speaker was Professor Simon Denny, an independent researcher and consultant, who spoke about the positive impact of cadet organisations on young people, adult volunteers and the wider community.

Locally, I am always impressed by the commitment, enthusiasm and professionalism of our Cadets and Adult Volunteers.

KING'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE (KAWS)

On the 14th of November, it was announced that the LEVERHULME COMMUNITY HUB had been awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest award that a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE. Leverhulme Community Hub is amongst the 231 winners from across the UK, and 25 from Scotland, who received the prestigious award this year.



I congratulate everyone connected with Leverhulme Community Hub. It is a great example of how volunteers are able to create a crucial facility for their own community and it is clear that the people of South Harris have taken the work of The Hub to its heart. By supporting it, attending events and using the facilities, they are ensuring it will continue to be a sustainable resource for future generations.

The high level of volunteer engagement is to be commended, contributing to making South Harris a better place to live and for those fortunate enough to visit. It's great to see that their commitment and outstanding achievements have been recognised in this way.

The Hub, based in the former Leverhulme Memorial School building, is a multipurpose community facility providing a wide range of services. The newly renovated building hosts a charity shop (Aosd' is Ùr), launderette, gym, venue/hot-desking space and is home to South Harris Historical Society and the Harris Tapestry. The building is currently run by a local board of volunteer directors, a staff member and over 30 volunteers from within the community. The Hub, officially opened in June 2024, was originally built by Lord Leverhulme 100 years ago as a recreational hall for his workers and is now back to serving the community of South Harris.

The King's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by local volunteer groups to benefit their communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee and, following his accession, His Majesty emphasised his desire to continue the Award. The award presentation will take place in the Leverhulme Community Hub early in 2026.

ARMISTICE DAY REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

As in recent years, the Lieutenancy was represented at 17 wreath laying ceremonies from Ness to Barra during Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th November. Each War Memorial containing the names of brave men and women who died defending their country.

The following photos record some of the services held over the Remembrance weekend.



Barvas War Memorial



Clachan War Memorial North Uist



Lewis War Memorial, Stornoway



Lewis War Memorial, Stornoway



Castlebay, Barra War Memorial



Crossbost War Memorial (photo credit: Kenny MacLeod)



Melbost/Brahahuie War Memorial (photo credit Donald MacDonald, Press Officer Western Isles Branch MNA Stornoway)



Griminish War Memorial, Benbecula with Cadet Atholl MacKenzie laying a wreath.



At Carn Gardens, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis on Remembrance Sunday 2025

“Aig dol fodha na grèine agus aig àm dhith èirigh, bidh sinn a’ cuimhneachadh orra”. *“At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them”*

Thank you to everyone who helped to plan and organise each service and to all those who attended. It is also encouraging to see the number of schools and school children attending. It is encouraging to see the number of schools participating across the Western Isles.

STORNOWAY SALVATION ARMY GIFT SERVICE

On behalf of the Lieutenancy, Margaret Doig DL attended a special Salvation Army Gift Service on 30th November. This Christmas focused Appeal collected new, unwrapped gifts for children across the Western Isles who might otherwise have little or nothing to unwrap on Christmas morning. The family worship featured carols, activities for children, a Christmas message and festive refreshments.

Captain Mark Scouling and his team are to be commended for arranging this Gift Appeal to support children and families in need at this time of year.

SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS PLAQUE UNVEILING



Left to right: Donnie MacIver, Royal British Legion, Stornoway Branch, L-L Iain Macaulay, Donald MacLeod, Queen's Own Highlanders and Cllr. Kenny MacLeod, Convener of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

There was an excellent turnout for the ceremony to unveil the Seaforth Highlanders WWI Plaque on 4th December. The Plaque was previously located at the Nicolson Institute Clock Tower and has been relocated to a more prominent position at Carn Gardens, allowing easier access for members of the public.

Following a speech by Cllr Kenny Macleod, Comhairle Convener, the Lewis and Harris Pipe Band performed a selection of tunes related to the Seaforth Highlanders. The Convener said, "It is thanks to their courage and bravery that we're allowed the privilege and freedom of the lives we live today. In this more prominent position at Carn Gardens, the Seaforth Highlanders plaque will be more accessible to all, serving as a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice made by the Seaforth Highlanders and providing a location for the public to pay their respects."

PRINCESS OF WALES CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

The Lieutenancy was delighted to nominate six deserving people from our community to the Princess of Wales Christmas Carol Service at Westminster Abbey on 5th December.

The theme this year's service was kindness and showing love to others. The service sheet included a special letter from her Royal Highness reflecting on the power of love, empathy and the strength we find in one another.

The "Together at Christmas" carol concert was shown on ITV1 on Christmas Eve.



Joanne and Malcolm Macleod



Rev William and Mairi Heenan



Alec and Michelle MacLeod

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE NEW RECRUIT CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION



On 12th December I was honoured to present Pass certificates to newly recruited retained firefighters from the Uists, Barra and Kyle who had successfully completed their training at the Robertson Road facility in Stornoway.

Congratulations to the eleven new additions to the Scottish Fire & Rescue service, all brave men and women volunteering to support and protect their communities.

On the day, a proud family moment for Watch Commander Campbell MacRae who presented his son James with his passing out certificate. A great addition to the Scalpay Community Fire Station.

Thank you to Western Isles Watch Commander Dave Lang and his Team for affording me the privilege of meeting the eleven new recruits, see them training and then participating in their presentation ceremony afterwards.

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST 2026 – WESTERN ISLES

We are delighted that Angus MacLennan, Roland Engebretsen, Rebecca Lindsay and Ian Angus Mackenzie have been named in the 2026 New Year Honours list.

It is an exceptional achievement for the Western Isles community to have four of its residents recognised for their outstanding contributions over many years. Their accomplishments, through service to Gaelic, education, people with additional support needs, social inclusion and the Harris Tweed industry, reflect the rich talent of our islands.

Each of them has provided remarkable service, in their various roles, locally and further afield.

In awarding this national honour, The King is recognising the work they have done and the legacy they have created. All have made a positive difference, and we offer our sincere congratulations. Of course, all of this would not be possible without people making the effort to submit nominations and I thank them for taking the time to do so.

Officers of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)

- Angus MacLennan, lately Head Teacher e-Sgoil. For services to Education and Gaelic in the Western Isles.

Members of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)

- Roland Engebretsen, Co-Founder and Director, Macaulay College, Isle of Lewis. For services to Education, to Social Inclusion, and to People with Additional Support Needs in the Western Isles.
- Rebecca Lindsay, Co-Founder and Director, Macaulay College, Isle of Lewis. For services to Education, to Social Inclusion, and to People with Additional Support Needs in the Western Isles.
- Ian Angus Mackenzie, Chair, Harris Tweed Hebrides. For services to the Harris Tweed Industry

KNOWN LIEUTENANCY EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENTS JANUARY TO JUNE 2026

- HMY Iolaire Remembrance Service and wreath laying: New Year's Day
- Seaforth Highlanders' Exhibition Opening Ceremony, Balallan: 16th January
- Duke of Edinburgh Awards Ceremony, Nicolson Institute: 23rd January
- King's Award for Voluntary Service Award Ceremony – Leverhulme Community Hub: to be arranged
- Scottish Lord-Lieutenants' Association AGM Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh: 25th March
- HRFCFA Annual Association Meeting Dundee: 18th April
- St Valery and Dunkirk Memorial Service at Grìminish War Memorial, Benbecula: Friday 19th June
- Armed Forces Day Flag Raising Events: 29th June
- Royal Garden Party, The Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh: Tuesday 30th June

WEBSITE

Any member of the public interested in the Western Isles Lieutenancy or enquiring about Honours Nominations, King's Award for Voluntary Service, the King's Award for Enterprise etc can find links to these topics on the Lieutenancy website at www.westernisleslieutenancy.org.uk

CONCLUSION

HM The King ended 2025 with good news, a positive message to the country that his cancer treatment was being reduced, stating that this was possible due to his early diagnosis and "effective intervention."

In 2026 the late Queen Elizabeth II would have turned 100 and to mark this anniversary, a national memorial is planned for St James's Park in London. It will feature a bridge with a balustrade made of glass, new gates and commemorative gardens. No date has been set for its completion at this time.

The publication of our 50th Anniversary book "Fifty Golden Years Serving Our Monarchy in The Western Isles" was a tremendous and successful achievement. I wish to acknowledge the significant contribution of the Lieutenancy Working Group, to Donald Martin for being lead author, Margaret-Anne Macleod for design and layout, Annie MacSween for Gaelic and David Green for English editing and the Stornoway Trust Small Grants Community Fund and Muaitheabhal Community Wind Farm Trust for their financial assistance.

I also acknowledge everyone who provided photographs, retail and community outlets for agreeing to sell the book and to the Island Book Trust for enabling the book to be available through their online portal.

Finally, I take this opportunity to acknowledge my continued appreciation to my Lieutenancy colleagues, Clerk, staff at Anderson MacArthur and Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar and many other members of our community for your support and encouragement throughout the year.

Moran taing agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr



Lord-Lieutenant Western Isles

