

T^{Na} Tasglannaichean

The Newsletter of Tasglann nan Eilean Siar

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

The first few months

SEPTEMBER 2010

Policy and role within the Comhairle

Tasglann nan Eilean Siar exists to enhance the preservation, accessibility and presentation of the documentary records of the Western Isles.

This includes the records of the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and its predecessor bodies and records of external organisations, businesses and individuals that are deposited or gifted to the Comhairle in accordance with the collection policies of its museum, library and archive services.

If you would like more information on the collections that the Comhairle hold, or would like to access them, please contact us using the details overleaf.

Hello and welcome to the first issue of our quarterly newsletter!

We are the Tasglann nan Eilean Siar team, comprising of David Powell, Project Manager and Archivist, Donna Morrison, Archives Assistant (Graduate Trainee) and Katie Anne Maciver, Project Assistant.



David, Project Manager

We have been tasked with raising awareness of, and increasing access to, the archive collections across the Outer Hebrides.

To do this we will be visiting various organisations over the next three years to provide assistance and advice where needed, as well as



Donna, Archives Assistant

mapping and locating archives held across the Western Isles.

Our first two months has seen us travel from Butt to Barra visiting Comainn Eachdraidh, museums and businesses who hold records.



Katie Anne, Project Assistant

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has met with us so far, and we look forward to seeing them again soon.

Haven't seen us yet?

Though the project began in June, Donna has only been appointed this month. So that Donna has a chance to meet with the various groups we decided to put our visits on hold. Now that she has started we will resume our visits, and hope to meet those we haven't had a chance to see in the near future.

Our funders

The Tasglann nan Eilean Siar project has been made possible thanks to funding from the European Regional Development Fund, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Comunn na Gaidhlig.



From the archives: Evacuation of St Kilda

29th August 2010 marked 80 years since the evacuation of St Kilda.

Below is the last entry in the St Kilda Log Book, written 27th June 1930 by the last school master of the island. Though not much can be gleaned from this last entry, earlier entries provide a fascinating and valuable insight into the lives of the St Kildans:

"Attendance perfect for last week.

School closed today with a small 'treat', which the children seemed thoroughly to enjoy. Today very probably ends the school in St Kilda as all the inhabitants intend leaving the island this summer. I hope to be away soon.

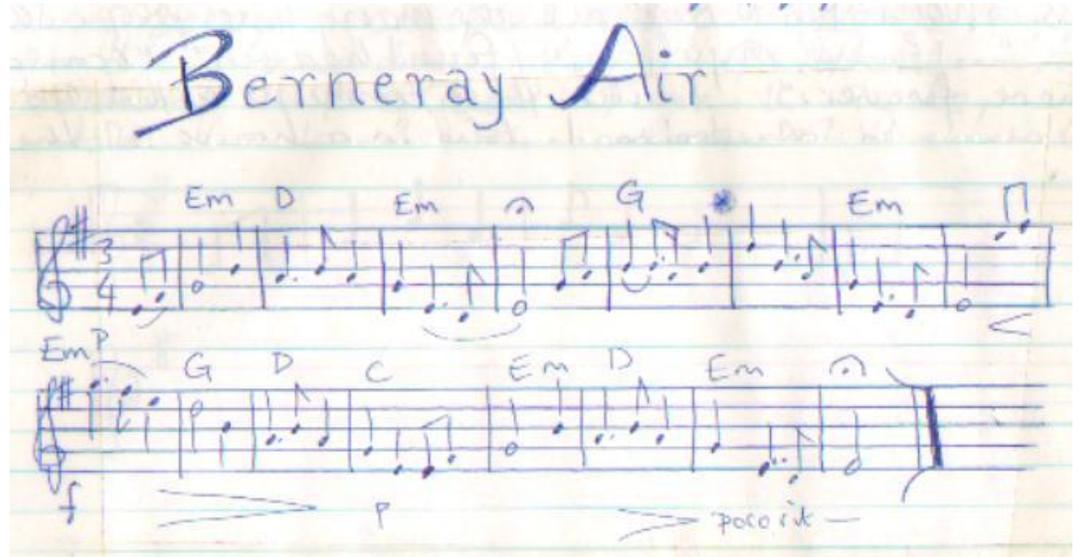
Dougal Munro. 1929-30"



Have you any idea what the 'treat' the children received was?

New Collections: Gatliff Hebridean Hostels Trust

The first collection we have catalogued is the records of Urras Osdaillean Nan Innse Gall Gatliff - The Gatliff Hebridean Hostels Trust (GHHT). The GHHT is a not for profit voluntary charity working with islanders to establish and maintain a chain of Crofters' Hostels throughout the Outer Hebrides, which has provided a bed for many a weary traveller to the Western Isles in the nearly 50 years since the first hostel opened.



**"a tune
can say
more than
words"**

Part of the experience for many visitors is reading and contributing to the logbooks of the hostels.

Entries are almost always positive and in praise of

the accommodation and frequently contain drawings and poetry dedicated to the hostel and surroundings.



Howmore Logbook, 1978
(GD1/5/3/1/2)

The unique entry above from September 1997 in the Berneray Logbook (GD1/5/4/2/13) contains the composition 'Berneray Air', with the message 'a tune can say more than words'.

*Can you play the
Berneray Air?*

This collection is held in Stornoway Library. If you would like to view it, please contact us using the details below.

Coming soon

- *A new website and blog*
- *Details of the collections held by the Comhairle*
- *A training programme for partners*
- *Details of future events and conferences*
- *A visit to you?*

**Do you have archives? Need some help or advice?
Get in touch!**

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