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Pat Gordon Good Neighbour Award



Willie Gordon presents Chrissie MacInnes with her vouchers

The winner of the Pat Gordon Good Neighbour Award is Chrissie MacInnes of Toravaig Court in Teangue. Chrissie was nominated by her neighbour Colin Threlfall (who won last year), and was awarded £150 of Marks & Spencers vouchers for all the good turns she does for various neighbours in her area. Chrissie is looking forward to her shopping trip to Inverness.

A Joint 2nd prize of £50 was shared by Diane Nicolson and Rachel Beaton of Ascrib Place, Portree. Diane and Rachel organised the first Street Party in Ascrib Place when neighbours, friends and family were invited to the street for food, refreshments, and live music. This helped to promote a real community spirit in the street. Diane and Rachel also look after each other's children, enabling them both to work.

Diane was awarded £25 vouchers for the Co-operative, and she is going to purchase items for her garden. Rachel was awarded £25 B&Q vouchers and is going to put this towards new flooring for her daughter's bedroom.



Diane Nicolson and Rachel Beaton with Willie Gordon

Report a Repair/Defect

With effect from 1st April 2008, Association tenants should report repairs **directly** to Lochalsh & Skye Housing Association during working hours (Monday - Friday 9 am to 5 pm). You can contact us by any of the following methods:-

By Telephone	01478 612035
In Person or by Letter	Lochalsh & Skye Housing Association Morrison House Bayfield, Portree IV51 9EW
By E-mail	info@LSHA.co.uk
Report a Repair On-line	www.LSHA.co.uk
Out of Hours/Public Holidays Emergency Repair	Contact: 08457 002005

Development News April 2008

Work on two new houses on the site of the former **Free Presbyterian Church** in **Plockton** is well advanced and the houses should be complete and ready for occupation in early May. This development is located within a Conservation Area and has been sensitively designed to complement the surrounding environment and still be up to date. This has involved the use of natural slate roofing and external stonework.



Free Presbyterian Church Site, Plockton

Progress at the **Home Farm** development in **Portree** has improved in the last couple of months. The landscaping works for Phase 1 will be completed this spring. The timber frames for all 33 houses being built in Phase 2 are now erected with the other trades following along. The first group of 10 houses are nearing internal completion. The Phase 2 houses and the remaining phases at **Home Farm**, are to be heated by a **Biomass District Heating system**. The district heating system

is now operative albeit via a temporary oil boiler. Heating systems for the first 6 houses are working well. The new Biomass boiler and permanent back-up oil boiler will be installed later this month. We are hopeful that the construction of the 6 new houses at Phase 3 will start later this month and that the construction of the 43 new houses and flats at Phase 4 will start later this year.

Phase 2A, the latest phase in the development of our site at **Campbell's Farm, Broadford**, is progressing well. The kits have been erected for the first 14 of the 28 new houses, and the development is starting to take shape. Each of the new houses is fitted with a solar water heating system which will help to reduce the buildings' energy requirements.

The developments at **Home Farm, Portree** and **Campbell's Farm, Broadford** are both mixed tenure developments. This means that alongside our normal affordable rented housing, we are building units for sale on a shared equity basis through the Scottish Government's **New Supply Shared Equity**. We have started marketing the shared equity units at **Phase 2A, Campbell's Farm, Broadford** and **Phase 2, Home Farm, Portree**. There are 12 Shared Equity houses available at each development.

We recently acquired 2 properties, **10 Olaf Road, Kyleakin** and **MacDiarmid Schoolhouse**. 10 Olaf Road, a former local authority house, was bought on the open market and has now returned to affordable housing stock. MacDiarmid Schoolhouse was bought from The Highland Council and is



Campbell's Farm, Broadford

subject to a Nominations Agreement. Once the refurbishment works have been completed, the Council's Education, Culture & Sports Service will control the allocation of the property to Education staff who are unable to find other suitable accommodation.

We have submitted a Tender Application to the Scottish Government seeking grant funding for 15 affordable rented houses and flats we want to build at **Phase 2B, Campbell's Farm, Broadford**. We are looking at ways to reduce the cost of our proposed 24 house development at **Burnside, Plockton**. Once the costs are acceptable, we will submit a Tender Application for grant funding to the Scottish Government.

We have also submitted Cost Plan Applications to the Scottish Government for our proposed developments at **Carr Brae, Dornie** and **Phase 3, Pairce na Sgoile, Raasay**. We are hopeful that these applications will be approved and we will be able to progress these projects to the Tender Application stage.

We continue to look for opportunities to deliver more much needed affordable housing and are currently investigating the feasibility of developing various sites throughout Skye and Lochalsh.

If you would like more information on our Development projects, please get in touch with **John Lamont, Development Officer** by email John@LSHA.co.uk or **James Stephenson, Senior Development Officer**, email James@LSHA.co.uk.

Shared Equity Housing Home Farm, Portree, Campbell's Farm, Broadford

We have twenty four 2 and 3 bedroom properties available for sale on a Shared Equity basis (12 in Portree and 12 in Broadford) to those on modest incomes who cannot afford to buy a house outright.

Prices range from £128,250 to £152,475 for Portree and £118,750 to £135,375 for Broadford. Applicants must be able to fund a minimum of 60% (51% for Housing Association and Council tenants) of the purchase price.

You are invited to register your interest in the houses:-

- if you have lived and worked in the Lochalsh & Skye area for a minimum of **six months**
- if you are disabled and have lived in the Lochalsh & Skye area for a minimum of **six months**
- if you are an owner occupier in overcrowded or otherwise intolerable accommodation

Please contact **John Lamont, Development Officer**, email: john@LSHA.co.uk to receive an information pack. **Previous applicants will already have been contacted by us and do not have to re-register.**

Registration of Interest forms contained in the pack must be received by the Association **no later than 12 noon on Friday 9th May 2008.**



Committee Member Retires

Billy Ross, who has been a Committee Member for almost 12 years, announced his retirement in March 2008.



The Association would like to express its gratitude for the valuable contribution that Billy made during his years of service.

We wish him all the best for the future.

New Committee Member

Donald Brown, who is originally from Clydebank and is a Social Worker for families affected by disabilities, has agreed to become a Committee Member. Mr Brown is a tenant of the Association.

We look forward to Mr Brown's input to the Management Committee.

Do you know that the Minutes of the Management Committee Meetings are available on request from the Association?

Please telephone us on 01478 612035 and we will send you a copy of the latest Minutes.

You are invited to join us at our

Annual General Meeting

Monday 9th June 2008

7.00 pm

Cuillin Hills Hotel, Portree

A light buffet and refreshments will be available at the end of the meeting

We are trying to find out how many of our tenants have access to the Internet and are able to find information on the LSHA website.

Please contact us by telephone

01478 612035

or by email if possible

info@LSHA.co.uk

A leaflet with details of **LIFT (Low Cost Initiative for First Time Buyers)** is enclosed with this newsletter.

Please contact **Albyn Enterprises** on **01349 855991** if you have any queries.



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If you would like to receive this document in another format, please contact us on 01478 612035 or e-mail: info@LSHA.co.uk and we will forward a copy to you.

Lochalsh & Skye Housing Association

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