

Outstanding Achievements

Care, Learning & Housing Committee: 18 October 2018

Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross Sheltered Housing Tenants Gathering

The Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross Sheltered Housing tenants recently had their annual Networking event in Cromarty. Over 45 tenants attended the event and topics included a briefing from Housing Services on the Rate Your Estate programme and a presentation from NHS Highland on the new telecare system which is being rolled out throughout Highland.

'Highland Tenants Together'

The Tenant Participation team have now set up a dedicated Facebook page 'Highland Tenants Together', where they will post information about upcoming events across Highland, consultations and other opportunities for tenants to participate.

Lochaber Senior Citizens Event 2018

Organised by the Council's Tenant Participation Officer, this Senior Citizens event in Lochaber was attended by around 60 residents from Fort William, Caol and Corpach. Attendees said that it was a very enjoyable and informative afternoon. Further similar events are planned for Kingussie and Skye.



Culloden Academy

Pupils at Culloden Academy have become the first Highland secondary school to win one of the three regional heats of the Scottish Youth Poetry Slam. This involves young people in music, poetry and performance workshops. The project deliberately targets educational and social disadvantage, crossing traditional barriers by using fun and youth culture to nurture language and literacy. The Culloden poets and musicians entered a group piece entitled 'As the Music Starts', and now go forward to the final on October 31st.

Nairn Academy

Nairn Academy has been awarded the LGBT Bronze Charter Award by LGBT Youth Scotland, in recognition of the school's work on equality and diversity. This involved pupils in an Equality Forum, which has been instrumental in recognising and valuing diversity, allowing pupils to learn in a supportive environment. They are the first school in the Highlands to be awarded the accolade, and they are now working towards achieving the Silver Award. Pupils from the school were part of a group of young people from across the Northern Alliance, along with young people from Dingwall Academy and Kinlochleven High School, who represented their work at the recent Scottish Learning Festival in Glasgow.

Reconviction rates

The latest reconviction statistics show that rates in Scotland are continuing to fall. The national reconviction rate has decreased over the past year by 1.3 percentage points, from 28.3% to 27.0%. For Highland, the reconviction rate is lower still, at 25.6%. Based on the actual residence of offenders, the figure is even lower, at 24.5%. This is tribute to our staff in Criminal Justice Social Work, and their colleagues in Police Scotland and other agencies.

Gaelic Ambassador of the Year - Eilidh Cormack

Skye musician and former Portree Primary and High School pupil Eilidh Cormack, has been announced as the Gaelic Ambassador of the Year 2018.

Councillor John Finlayson was Eilidh's Headteacher, and said: "I am delighted to hear of Eilidh's success. Her interest in and promotion of Gaelic, mirrors what she did as a pupil. It is great to see a young, Highland woman receive this accolade and I wish her every success in the future." The award was presented to Eilidh at the Mòd by Michael Russell MSP.

Gaelic Shinty Project

The Gaelic Shinty Project Iomain Cholmcille works in partnership with The Highland Council to organise a national Shinty event for P4 to P7 pupils. The Youth Shinty Cup is in its third year and took place at the Bught Park with 14 teams, including schools from Edinburgh and Glasgow. Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh won the competition, and the Dingwall Primary Gaelic Medium Unit won the Youth Shinty Gaelic Award, as the team most committed to using the language at the event.



National Mòd

It is still early days, but a group of children from schools in the Trotternish area have been successful at this year's Mod. Clann Thròndairnis have won the Folk Group Competition for under 13 year olds. The Highland Council supports this competition, and the winners received a £500 prize from Wipro.

Also, Ceitidh Campbell has won the Comunn Gàidhealach Gold Medal. Mrs Campbell is a Gaelic Teacher at Millburn Academy in Inverness. And winner of the Men's Comunn Gàidhealach Gold Medal was Ruairidh Cormack, of Portree.

Other Highland National Mòd winners, so far.....

Ceòl Mòr (Bagpipes) - 3rd Angus Finlay MacPhee, Inverness (also pupil at Inverness Royal Academy)
Bagpipes U19 - 3rd Hamish Drennan, Dingwall Academy
Accordion Under 19 - Ciorstaidh Chaimbeul, Kyle of Lochalsh
Accordion Under 13 - Anndra Uisdean Cuimeanach, Gairloch High School
Accordion Under 19 - 1st Ciorstaidh Chaimbeul, Kyle; 3rd Eòin Coinneach Cuimeanach, Gairloch
Chanter Under 13 - 1st Màili MacLennan, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis; 2nd Rory Turner, Phort Rìgh
Bagpipes Under 13 - 3rd Hamish Drennan, Dingwall Academy
Fiddle Under 13 - 3rd Ruairidh Drennan, Dingwall Academy

The full list of winners is available at http://enter.ancomunn.co.uk/competitions/winners/event_id:7

Fàs Foghlaim

The Highland Council has launched Fàs Foghlaim (Educational Growth) with Government funding and support, which is an innovative, social media Gaelic promotional tool. This will be used to inform parents of the benefits of bilingualism and Gaelic medium education, especially in relation to the learning journey from birth to 5 years.

The (not yet publicly launched) promotional video will be shown at Committee.