

**WINTER 2019**



**CARERS' NEWSLET-**



Congratulations to **Cobhair Bharraigh SCIO** who recently won a SHIRE (Scottish Highlands & Islands Rural Economy) award. The award was in the Rural Spirit Award category where Cobhair Bharraigh triumphed over 7 other finalists including: The Archie Foundation, Spokes For Folks, Mhor Collective Wasps, Strathdearn Community Developments, ILM (Highland) and Highland Countryside Initiative.

The Rural Spirit Award is for a charity or community enterprise which is a shining example of the important social, and economic, role that is played by such organisations and projects and in turn play a huge part in the success and sustainability of the wider rural economy. Cobhair Bharraigh identified a need in a community and has provided a solution which has a positive impact.

The **Young Carer Grant** was launched by Social Security Scotland on 21st October and is available for 16, 17 and 18 year-olds who spend an average of 16 hours caring for a person or people who receive a disability benefit.

The yearly payment of £300 is a cash benefit for young carers to spend as they choose. They can apply if they are at school, in further education, employed or unemployed.

Young carers can combine the hours they spend caring for more than one eligible person in order to reach the 16 hours a week requirement.

People can apply for Young Carer Grant by visiting the [mygov.scot website](http://mygov.scot) or by calling 0800 182 2222.



We have a couple of unallocated properties available to carers for a respite break over the winter. Check out our website ([www.wiccf.co.uk](http://www.wiccf.co.uk)) for the latest update. Properties are available free of charge thanks to the generosity of the owners. All properties are of course, subject to availability. If you wish to apply, application forms are available on our website or contact the office.

**LARGE PRINT NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE—PLEASE CONTACT US**

**WICCF IS JOINTLY FUNDED BY WIHB AND CNES**

**WICCF, Room 14, Council Offices, Tarbert, Harris, HS3 3BG Tel: 01859 502588**



We are delighted that our application for further Time To Live funding was successful and we are now open for applications. The fund is open to carers of adults (aged 21 years and older) and young carers (caring for children or adults) only. Successful applicants will receive an award of £150 which can be used to take a break from their caring role eg. taking a holiday, pursuit of hobbies (photography, gardening, art...), driving lessons, meals out, pampering, gym membership, purchase of a pet.....the list is endless! Application forms are available on our website or from the office.

**Funeral Support Payment** is now live and Social security Scotland are taking applications by post, Freephone and online for this new benefit. The benefit replaces the Department for Work and Pensions Funeral Expense Payment in Scotland. It is available to low income families in Scotland to contribute towards the costs of paying for a funeral.

The payment will help towards burial or cremation costs, some travel costs and a £700 flat rate payment for people who do not have funeral plans. The Scottish Government has committed to annually increasing the flat rate element in line with inflation.

People can apply by visiting the [mygov.scot website](https://mygov.scot) or by calling 0800 182 2222.



Thank you to all of you who submitted recipes for our fundraising cookery book. Katie Ann has been busy collating them all and we are pleased to report that we have now entered the final stages and we hope it will be ready for sale in early Spring. There are so many delicious recipes included, we can't wait to buy a copy ourselves! All quick and easy so very handy for folk who are out working all day as well as for carers. Watch this space

## Patients Panel

The Patients Panel was established to support NHS Western Isles with improving communication and information between patients, relatives and carers, staff and members of the board to help improve service provision.

Members may be asked to:

- make comment /observations on policies that influence patient care, safety and service provision.
- act as a sounding board for testing early concepts and ideas to transform health services
- advise NHS WI on the accessibility of information materials and resources for wider public use
- make comment on how they might improve on how they are informing and engaging with the wider public on issues
- communicate back to their stakeholder groups

If you are interested in joining, or finding out more, please contact Denise Symington at:

[denise.symington@nhs.net](mailto:denise.symington@nhs.net)

# Eolas

We were delighted to secure funding from Shared Care Scotland's Creative Breaks Fund, to continue Eolas for another year. The following are the dates to put in your diaries:

<b>Lewis and Harris</b>	<b>Woodlands 10.30am to 12 Noon</b>	<b>Borve House Hotel 2.30pm to 4pm</b>	<b>Crown Hotel 2.30pm to 4pm</b>	<b>Harris Hotel 2.30pm to 4pm</b>
<b>January 2020</b>		22nd	15th	23rd
<i>February</i>	4th			
<i>March</i>		10th	4th	5th
<i>April</i>	14th			
<i>May</i>		5th	13th	14th
<i>June</i>	2nd			
<i>July</i>		7th	8th	9th
<i>August</i>	11th			
<i>September</i>	22nd	1st	9th	3rd

<b>Uist</b>	<b>Dark Island Hotel 2.30pm to 4pm</b>	<b>Hamersay House Hotel 2.30pm to 4pm</b>	<b>Stepping Stones Restaurant 2.30pm to 4pm</b>	<b>Borrodale Hotel 2.30pm to 4pm</b>
<b>2020 January</b>		28th		
<b>March</b>				17th
<b>April</b>	21st			
<i>May</i>			19th	
<i>July</i>		14th		
<i>August</i>				18th
<i>September</i>	15th			

Due to the poor attendance in **Barra**, we will be joining forces with Cobhair Bharraigh to host carers evenings during the year.



A vacancy has arisen on our Board of Directors for a Carer representative. The Board meets quarterly, so it is not a time consuming role. A seat on the Board gives carers the opportunity to raise concern about issues, have their opinions heard and to make suggestions for new services or changes to existing ones.

If you would be interested in joining, please contact the office on 01859 502588 or email [info@wiccf.co.uk](mailto:info@wiccf.co.uk).

#### **Farewell**

Following on from his resignation from Harris Voluntary Service, Paul Finnegan also resigned as Director with WICCF. Paul really made his mark with WICCF through his Minch swims and we are extremely grateful to him for all the money he raised, first through successfully swimming the little Minch and then his attempt at the Big Minch which he sadly had to abandon. All the best for the future, Paul.

Libby Learmond recently left her post as Manager with **Tagsa Uibhist**. She was a Director of WICCF and we are very grateful for her contributions over the years, especially for support given to our staff member in Uist. We will miss Libby but wish her well in her new post.

Representatives from WICCF along with colleagues for other services attended an afternoon tea in Carloway Day Centre last month, to say thank you and farewell to Jinty Morrison, former Chairperson of Western Isles Carers and users Supporters Network (WICUSN). Jinty campaigned tirelessly on behalf of carers and worked alongside WICCF for many years. She will be greatly missed in our islands but we wish her well as she finally retires to the mainland (or does she.....!!!!)

#### **Festive Break**

**The office will close at 5pm on Thursday 19th December and will re-open at 9am on Monday 6th January.**

**Wishing you all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.**

**Thank you!**

WICCF would like to thank their funders, whose support ensures we can continue our work to support voluntary care orgs and unpaid carers:

