



Top news of the Month



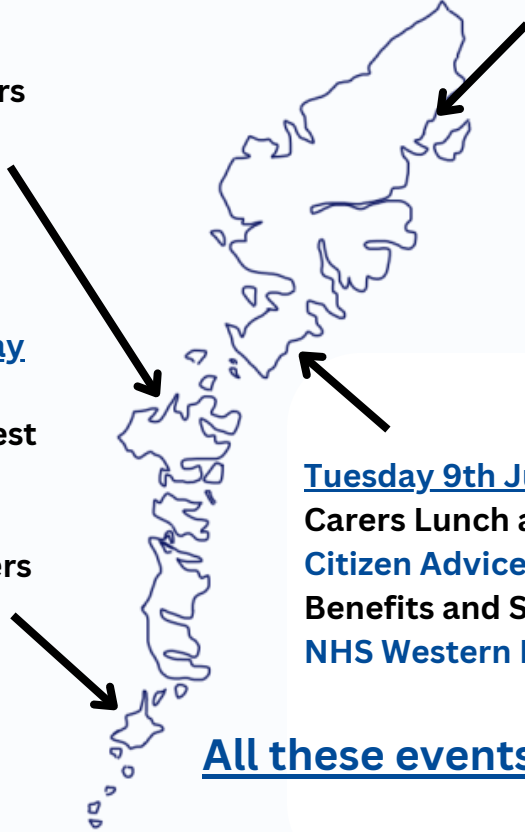
Wednesday 10th June - Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula

Carers Lunch and talks by
Guest Speakers:
Citizen Advice Bureau,
Benefits and Support for Carers
NHS Western Isles,
Talk on Skin Care

Thursday 11th June - Castlebay Hotel

Carers Lunch and talks by Guest Speakers:
Citizen Advice Bureau,
Benefits and Support for Carers
NHS Western Isles,
Talk on Skin Care

8th - 14th June 2026



Monday 8th June - Failte Centre, Bayhead, Stornoway

Carers Lunch and talks by
Guest Speakers:
Citizen Advice Bureau,
Benefits and Support for Carers
NHS Western Isles,
Talk on Skin Care

Tuesday 9th June - Harris Hotel, Tarbert

Carers Lunch and talks by Guest Speakers:
Citizen Advice Bureau,
Benefits and Support for Carers
NHS Western Isles, Talk on Skin Care

All these events are from 12noon to 3pm.

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

Please advice of any special dietary requirements.

If you need alternative care to enable you to attend, please contact the office and we will endeavour to arrange for you.



RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY 12TH JUNE 2026



Creagorry Co-op, Benbecula 10 AM - 4 PM

Tesco, Stornoway 10 AM - 5.30 PM

Why not take a break from your caring duties?
Come along and join us at Eolas for Tea/Coffee and Cakes (free of charge).
Contact us if you require alternative care

Lewis & Harris	Borve House Hotel 2.30pm to 4pm	Newton Centre 2.30pm to 4pm	Harris Hotel 2.30pm to 4pm
May	Wed 20th		Thurs 7th
June			
July	Mon 13th		Thurs 2nd
August		Wed 19th	Thurs 20th
September	Wed 23rd		Thurs 24th



01859 502588



info@wiccf.co.uk

Uist & Barra	Stepping Stones 2.30pm to 4pm	Borrodale Hotel 2.30pm to 4pm	Activities	Castlebay Hotel 2.30pm to 4pm	An Garadh Cafe 2.30pm to 4pm
May	Wed 13th				Wed 20th
June					
July		Tues 7th			
August			Fishing Trip	Wed 19th	
September		Tues 29th			Wed 9th

TRAINING

We'd like to remind you that

Moving & Handling training is available to all unpaid carers, any time it is required.

Conditions change and sometimes **refresher training** might be invaluable.

If you wish to receive this training please contact:

Lewis & Harris: Catriona 07554 831711

Uist & Barra: Catherine 07487 540173

FIRST AID



Catherine is also available to deliver **First Aid Training** should any of you be interested

Catherine MacDougall, Community Support & Training Officer, WICCF, recently delivered First Aid training to Crossroads Lewis, Crossroads Care Harris, Leverburgh Care Home and Alzheimer Scotland. Pictured are Harris Voluntary Service staff undertaking the training.



DON'T MISS OUT!

Thinking of a holiday? Before you book please get in touch with Catherine



The aim of **Respality** is to provide a **short vital break** from routine for **unpaid carers in Scotland** when they need it most. This is achieved by connecting carers' organisations with hospitality, tourism and leisure businesses who are willing to donate a break **free of charge**.

“ I thoroughly recommend to all registered carers that they explore Respality and thank all those who donate to this amazing project. ”

There are breaks available nationally to all carers and there are also some breaks which WICCF have secured locally for the benefit of carers living in the Western Isles.

We have a large variety of offers available in the Western Isles for carers.

If you would like to discuss or book a Respality break please contact Catherine:



07487 540173



carersupport@gmail.com



Pictured above Duncan MacQuarrie, Area Manager alongside the Uist Team



WICCF would like to extend a BIG THANK YOU to MOWI for their kind donation of £500 towards our Respality Project.

Caring, whilst rewarding, is exhausting and stressful and can also involve 24/7 care.

Thank you Mowi for supporting carers in the Western Isles to get further breaks via Respality.



SALE OF WORK

TARBERT COMMUNITY CENTRE

FRIDAY 3RD JULY 2026
AT 7.30PM

Auctioneer:

MR CALUM MACKAY

- AUCTION
- HAMPER RAFFLES
- USUAL STALLS

Teas/Coffees and Baking Donation Box

DONATIONS - Monday or Tuesdays before 30th June 2026

All donations for the Sale of Work, Auction and Hamper gratefully accepted in Room 14, Old Primary School OR by Committee Members



07050378815



www.crossroadsisleofharris.co.uk



Congratulations!



Congratulations to Cobhair Bharraigh who celebrate their 25th Anniversary this year!!

Cobhair Bharraigh was set up in March 2001 and in 2002, with the help of a grant, the Board of Trustees were able to purchase and renovate Monte Frachalema in Kentangaval. Over the years the service extended to the current provision of day services, Men's Shed, Home Support, Carers events and the Neuro Group.

Today, Cobhair Bharraigh employs 12 people which is quite significant for a small charity.

In 2007, Cobhair Bharraigh hit the limelight when the TV series Beachgrove Garden came to design and build their garden!

One Trustee, Jessie MacNeil MBE, has remained on the Board of Trustees, since the Organisation's inception – well done Jessie for all your commitment and hard work.

A series of events has been planned throughout the year to celebrate this milestone and we wish all at Cobhair Bharraigh many Blessings in the years ahead.
Keep up the good work Margaret Ann and Co.

Digital Switchover

The end is near.....for PSTN!

January 2027 is the deadline for the switchover to digital.
Only 8 months to go!

PLEASE DO NOT IGNORE THIS

If you don't act before January, you will be left with a landline only and no broadband. Contact your landline provider and get switched over. This is especially important for anybody with Telecare equipment. Doing nothing, is not an option!
Respond to letters from your telephone provider or contact them a.s.a.p.



ACT NOW >>

<https://www.bt.com/about/all-ip/connected-together>



**Bethesda Hospice Charity Fundraiser
Gala Dinner**
at the Caberfeidh Hotel, Stornoway on
Saturday 3rd October 2026

*Fundraising
EVENT*



Keep your diaries free for Saturday 3rd October when Bethesda Hospice will be hosting their Gala Dinner at the Caberfeidh Hotel.

Further details to be released nearer the time.



01851 706222

bethesdahospice@hotmail.com



Take a Break

Take a Break Scotland grant programme is now open!

Take a Break provides cash grants to parent carers (including eligible kinship carers) of disabled and seriously ill children and young people, aged 0 to 17. The grant can be used to contribute towards things like day trips, a short break away, an additional carer, travel costs, gardening and home entertainment equipment, and more.

The programme aims to improve unpaid parent carers' quality of life, health and wellbeing by supporting them to access a break from the day-to-day routine of caring. It is funded by the Scottish Government and administered by the charity Family Fund.

APPLY NOW

<https://takeabreakscotland.org.uk>

Applications for 2026 are now open until 5:00pm on Monday 22 June 2026.



Crossroads Lewis

 Are you caring for a loved one?

 Would you benefit from an extended break from your caring duties?



Thanks to funding from Shared Care Scotland, Crossroads Lewis is pleased to offer Short Breaks to those eligible and resident on the Isle of Lewis. The Short Breaks Service delivers 24hour care over three nights/four days. Breaks can be shorter (or longer in special circumstances.) All care is provided through their Support Worker team. They would be present in your home for the duration of the break, delivering waking and sleep-in support to the service user, as required.

To book a Short Break, or get further information, please contact the Crossroads Lewis office:

Tel: 01851 705422 Email: Info@crossroadslewis.co.uk

Monday to Friday: 9am-4pm

HS Carer Card

Have you got your Carer Card?

Are you a Carer?

You are an Unpaid Carer? If you look after a partner, friend or relative who is unable to cope without support, due to illness, disability, a mental health condition or an addiction, you are a carer.

How to register?

Our services are free to unpaid carers. To register with WICCF, you can make a referral via our website, or by calling or sending us an email: info@wiccf.co.uk

How to apply for a HS Carer Card?

You can apply for a HS Carer Card through the application form on our website. Please note that Carers need to be over 18 and registered with us to apply for this card. If you are not registered and would like to be, please contact us.

Once you have submitted the application form for an HS Carer Card, please allow 14 days for our team to process and arrange your new HS Carer Card.

<https://www.wiccf.co.uk/hs-carers-card/register-for-hs-carers-card/>



We are delighted to announce that we have received another round of Short Breaks funding. Grants of up to £350 can be applied for to get a respite break.

The Short Breaks Fund is to give carers a break from their caring duties which could be a short holiday, pursuit of a hobby, some pampering, meals out, takeaways, driving lessons, purchase of magazine subscriptions, the list of possibilities is immense.

“ Absolutely amazing, to get away from the situation, from your caring role and have a chance to relax. ”

The grant **CANNOT** be used to pay household bills, buy clothes (unless specialised clothes for a hobby), white goods or general household goods.

RECEIPT

IMPORTANT

TOTAL: _____

APPLY NOW

RECEIPTS MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR ANY GRANT RECEIVED

Grants will be issued approximately 4 times over the course of the year

Contact the office ☎ 01859 502588
for an application form or download one from our website: www.wiccf.co.uk

✉ info@wiccf.co.uk



Why not take a break and enjoy a few days respite?

Most self catering properties are available from October to March, subject to availability.

Check the Website for details of properties.

To arrange a booking, contact the office.

For an application form, contact the office on: 01859 502588
OR download one from our website: www.wiccf.co.uk



 **easyfundraising**

It takes 2 minutes & 8,000+ shops will donate to us for free every time you shop with them!

When you shop online with participating retailers, they'll donate part of what you spend to your chosen cause. Whether you shop on your phone, laptop or tablet, you can earn **free** cashback donations for your cause.

If you're not supporting Western Isles Community Care Forum yet, please sign up now!

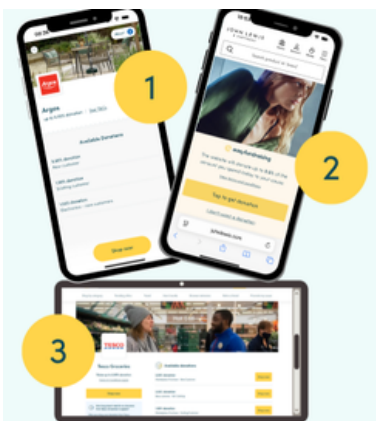
 easyfundraising.org.uk
feel good shopping



3 simple ways to raise

- 1 **App**
Download our free app on iOS or Android. Choose a retailer, shop as normal, and your cause gets a free donation.
- 2 **Donation Reminder**
Add our browser extension and get a handy pop-up whenever a retailer is offering a donation – just click to activate.
- 3 **Website**
Log in, pick your retailer, shop, and raise a free donation when you checkout.

Visit: <http://easyfundraising.org.uk/.../60a28d9c7e101c2d0ded2fe9/>



The Scottish Government launched a 12-week consultation on the new right to a break for carers in Scotland, seeking views on proposed options for implementation of this right. This consultation provides an important opportunity for the right to a break to be shaped by the unpaid carers it aims to support, and the organisations that will help deliver this right. The consultation closes on 22nd May, so if you have not submitted your views, we would encourage you to do so, as this will affect you in your caring role.

Complete the Online Consultation:

<https://consult.gov.scot/dementia-and-unpaid-carers-unit/unpaid-carers-right-to-breaks-implementation/>



IMPORTANT

Power of Attorney

A power of attorney is a legal document which allows you to plan for the future. It's drawn up when you have the capacity to do so. It gives another person, known as the attorney, the authority to deal with aspects of your affairs. This could relate to:

- financial matters
- property matters
- personal welfare

Types of Power of Attorney

There are two types of power of attorney:

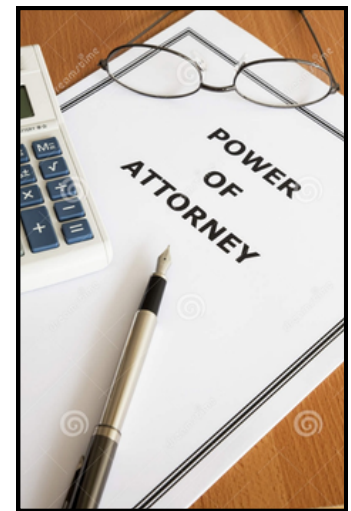
- A power of attorney that covers your financial and/or property affairs is called a 'continuing power of attorney'. It can be used as soon as it's registered and will continue if you lose capacity. You can also choose for it to start only if you become unable to make decisions.
- Welfare power of attorney allows someone you have appointed to make welfare decisions for you, and these powers cannot be exercised until such time as you have lost the capacity to make these decisions.

The power of attorney document must be certified by a solicitor or a medical practitioner. They must interview the person granting the power of attorney before they sign the document. This is to make sure they're aware of what they're doing and are not under undue influence.

Powers of attorney – those which are to continue or begin in the event of incapacity – cannot take effect until they've been registered with the Office of the Public Guardian. You can choose for it to begin only when you're no longer able to make decisions for yourself, and you can set out how you want your incapacity to be assessed.

Why you might need power of attorney

Without a power of attorney, nobody has an automatic right to make decisions on your behalf if you can no longer do so yourself. Someone might have to go to court for a guardianship or intervention order before they could act on your behalf.



Thanks to a successful funding application to the Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar's Islands Cost Crisis & Emergency Fund, we were able, in the last financial year to support 219 carers with their energy costs.



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

For the duration of the fund, all carers living with the cared for, will receive a grant of £100. (One payment per household).



The current cost of living crisis affects everybody but carers feel the pinch more as the caring role often leads to an increase in heating bills, laundry, charging of medical equipment etc.

We are extremely grateful to Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar for their support.



Looking for an idea for a Present?

How about **CARE TO COOK?**



A recipe book packed with easy to make recipes.

On sale in local shops or direct from WICCF at £10 plus £2 P+P

Lewis: Cross Stores, Bethesda Charity Shop, Baltic Book Shop, Campbell's Filling Station, Lochs Filling Station, Buth an Rubha, Uig Community Shop, Commun Eachdraidh Nis

Harris: Harris Tweed Shop, Ardhasaig FS, An Clachan

Uist & Eriskay: Bayhead Shop & FS; Hebridean Jewellery; MacGillivray's, Benbecula; Maclean's Butchers, Balivanich; Post Office, Daliburgh; Eriskay Shop

Barra: Padula's, Castlebay



BREAKING NEWS

Good Luck

Advocacy Western Isles has been shortlisted in the Charity of the Year £100k-£500k category.

Run annually by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), the Scottish Charity Awards celebrate the best of Scotland's voluntary sector. Winners will be announced on Thursday 11 June in a celebratory awards ceremony, hosted by broadcaster Sally Magnusson at the Radisson Blu in Glasgow.

This recognition reflects the dedication of the staff, board, funders, partner agencies and most importantly, the voices of people across the Western Isles who trust Advocacy Western Isles to stand alongside them. A spokesperson said "We are humbled to be recognised in such a prestigious national award and proud to represent independent advocacy and our island communities on this stage."

This is a remarkable achievement and WICCF wish them all the best.

For more information about Advocacy Western Isles please visit www.advocacywi.co.uk and [Facebook](#)



WESTERN ISLES COMMUNITY CARE FORUM
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Telephone: 01859 502 588 info@wiccf.co.uk

