

# GATLIFF HEBRIDEAN HOSTELS TRUST

Urras Osdalean Nan Innse Gall Gatliff

Charity no: SCO13660 A Company limited by guarantee Registered no 111557 Scotland



Howmore Hostel

## Howmore Hostel

South Uist, Outer Hebrides, Scotland

**£47,000 target**  
**Major hostel upgrade**

The Gatliff Hebridean Hostels Trust is a charitable body that operates simple, rural hostels on the Outer Hebrides at Rhenigidale (Harris), Berneray (North Uist) and Howmore (South Uist)

Since 1966 Howmore Hostel has accommodated over 40,000 visitors, providing them with the opportunity to spend time on the Hebridean island of South Uist, getting to know the community with its live Gaelic culture, and exploring the island's inspiring natural environment.

In 2011 the GHHT was offered the opportunity to purchase the hostel buildings and now we need your help to fund a programme of improvements necessary to upgrade the level of service and comfort to Visit Scotland One Star standard including all current international youth hostel standards.

We want to create a permanent and comfortable safe haven from which the next generation of hostellers can get to know and come to love the Outer Hebrides.

A start has been made but we are now constrained by lack of funds.

The GHHT is hereby launching an appeal to members, supporters, charitable trusts and other interested bodies for donations. £47,000 is required to carry out all work described in this leaflet.

We would be grateful for your contribution. Please give as much help as you can.

More details about the hostel, the opportunities it provides and the work we are carrying out can be found on our website:

**[www.gatliff.org.uk](http://www.gatliff.org.uk)**

# How the money will be spent

After renting the buildings on a long term lease for 45 years, in 2011 we took the opportunity to buy the hostel. The purchase cost us over £47,000 including professional fees.

The property consists of:-

A traditional South Uist thatched cottage - dormitories and toilet  
A large stone barn annex - kitchen and common room  
A lesser stone barn - general storage

We funded the purchase from our own resources and are now seeking the equivalent level of funding from donations to continue with the improvements

## **The Improvement Plan The Thatched Cottage**

We have already re-constructed and re-thatched the roof of this building, and installed high grade roof insulation and modern heating. A further £7,000 is needed to pay for the creation of a new shower, toilet, wash-room and laundry facilities. This includes new plumbing and water heater, a new electrical connection to the building and a new electrical system.

## **The Stone Barn Annex**

£30,000 is needed to improve the kitchen, upgrade the common room facilities and to improve the shower and toilet facilities. We must also re-roof this building and install high grade roof insulation.

## **The Lesser Stone Barn**

£10,000 is needed to upgrade the second barn to provide overflow summer accommodation and secure storage for cycles and canoes. This building is smaller than the Common Room building and is not in such good condition. Improvements will make much better use of the space.

The building needs a new roof with high grade insulation, a new damp proofed floor, an improved electrical system, new windows and a new door.



# Howmore Hostel and the Trust

Howmore is a 15 bed hostel on the remote and beautiful Outer Hebridean island of South Uist. It provides simple and safe hostel accommodation in a Hebridean blackhouse.

The hostel is adjacent to the thirteenth century ruins of Howmore church. The eighteen century ruins of Ormiclete Castle, once seat of the Clanranald, are nearby.

Howmore township is set against the dramatic backdrop of the three highest peaks of South Uist: Beinn Mhor (2,034 ft), Hecla (1,820 ft), and Beinn Corradale (1,729 ft). The peaks offer superb views to the walker. Hostellers using Howmore have unparalleled opportunities to walk along the historic machair track which passes within half a mile of the hostel, experiencing a unique natural environment.

Walkers can roam along miles of golden beaches and over rugged mountains. They can immerse themselves in a live Gaelic culture. During the summer a Gaelic music festival takes place in the area. In past years musical events have been held at the hostel.

Soon, the machair track will form part of a new long distance footpath, the Hebridean Way. The new Hebridean Way long distance cycle way will pass near-by. Howmore Hostel will become a welcome stopover destination.

Our overnight fees are the lowest in the islands. It is also possible to camp at the hostel. Our hostel is entirely self catering. A regular bus services passes within  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile.

The Gatliff Hebridean Hostels Trust is a charitable body, run by a team of volunteers in partnership with islanders, dedicated to maintaining the three Gatliff hostels in the islands. All our wardens are islanders who live near to the hostels. We operate on a not-for-profit basis. We keep our administrative expenditure to a minimum. All surpluses generated at the hostels are used to maintain or improve the hostels. The Trust's annual report and accounts are available on request.

We publish an annual newsletter in which hostellers comment on their experiences at the hostels. Year after year hostellers consistently recognise the Gatliff difference: simple hostels with good quality facilities at a fair price, a free and easy atmosphere, in unique, peaceful, locations.

Membership of the Gatliff Hebridean Hostels Trust is open to all. A minimum annual donation as little as £10 is all that is required. Currently we have about 300 members. (Our hostels are open to all. Membership of the Trust is not a pre-requisite.)

## Donations

Please give as much as you are able. We will, if you wish, acknowledge your donation if we have a postal or email address or mobile phone number

Name.....

Address.....

email address .....

Mobile phone number (for text acknowledgement).....

Please acknowledge my donation Tick:

Please keep me informed about the hostels. Tick:

Please find enclosed my cheque/postal order/CAF or other charity cheque for £.....  
(made payable to Gatliff Hebridean Hostels Trust)

### Bank Transfer

Please transfer donation (marked with your name & "Howmore") to

Bank of Scotland

Sort code: 80-05-60

Account number 00115450

For overseas donations: BIC: BOFSGB21371

IBAN: GB22 BOFS 8005 6000 1154 50

### Euros

I wish to make a donation in Euros. Please tell me how. Tick:

If the appeal reaches its target (£47,000) before this donation is received, please use it for hostel maintenance. Tick:

### Gift Aid

I am UK tax payer. I request that the Gatliff Hebridean Hostels Trust treat this donation, and any donation I may have made to the GHHT in the past 6 yrs, as a Gift Aid Donation and all donations I make in future until such time as I give notice that this declaration is cancelled. (The GHHT can re-claim 25p tax paid on every pound donated from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs at no extra cost to you.)

(We need your postal address to claim the Gift Aid)

Signed .....

Date .....

I wish to join the Gatliff Hebridean Hostels Trust. Tick:

Please send me a copy of Trust's annual report & accounts Tick:

Please send form and donations to

Peter Clarke, Chair, Gatliff Hebridean Hostels Trust

264 Alexandra Park Road, LONDON N22 7BG

For further information please contact, Peter Clarke: Tel: 020 8888 2449

mobile: 0790 999 3863. email: Peter@PeterClarke.com

### Just Giving

You may also donate via our page on [www.Justgiving.com](http://www.Justgiving.com)

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