



NEWSLETTER No.3

July 1985

Annual meeting - 14 September 1985

Greenbank Garden
Clarkston
Glasgow

2.30pm - 5.00pm

(With the kind permission of the owners, the National Trust for Scotland.)

Jim Souness, will be our guest speaker. He will give an illustrated talk on thatched cottages in the Inner and Outer Hebrides.

Jim is a member of the Hebridean Hostellers and works as a local authority Planning Officer.

Tea will be served.

A progress report will be given on work at Berneray, including the appeal launch. During the past year the Gatliff Trust has been discussing the possibility of establishing a separate charity in Scotland, as a company limited by guarantee, to manage the hostels. Views will be sought on this idea. (If you have views on this possibility - the principle or the detail - but cannot attend on 14 September please write to Peter Clarke).

Directions to Greenbank Garden

Grid reference: OS 1: 50,000 sheet 64, 563566

This gives road route

By bus. The Mearns Kirk Hospital Bus (No.2) from Anderson Bus Station passes the door.

By train. Nearest station is Clarkston, about one mile away.

If anyone requires more detailed directions, please let Peter Clarke know.

BERNERAY - ALL ON SCHEDULE

Andrew Gannon's work party at Easter took off the thatch and roof timbers. The ceiling of the sitting room collapsed. Later the ceiling of the passage way collapsed. All the turves have been stored. The smaller out house was cleared and the junk sent to the tip.

John Joyce's party in June built the new roof. It is boarded, felted and battened ready for thatch. The walls have been built up and sealed. All the internal partitions were removed and one wall was repointed. The corrugated iron porch has been demolished.

The walls of the out house have been repaired and a flat roof put on top.

Two more work parties are planned this Summer:

Roger Clifton's party 3rd August - 17th August.

Peter Clarke's party - 5 September - 13 September. (note these new dates).

Anyone wishing to join Peter Clarke's party please contact him John Joyce (who co-ordinates work party) 91, Knollys Road, Streatham, London SW16.

Appeal

£10,000 is urgently required to pay for this work. An appeal will be launched shortly. Five copies of the appeal leaflet will be sent to you. Please circulate them to your friends. Let Peter Clarke know if you require more copies. An A3 poster will also be produced. Can you arrange for display of any posters?

The scheme is being grant-aided by the Countryside Commission for Scotland. But, the Gatliff Trust must find 50% of the cost of the scheme plus the cost of all the tools required and the cost of furnishing the hostel.

Fund raising ideas

Are you thinking of running a marathon, swimming the Minch or doing a long distant walk? If you are, would you get people to sponsor you for the Berneray appeal?

All suggestions please to Revd. Roger Clifton, Treasurer, Gatliff Trust, The Rectory, Colerne, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 8DF.

NOTELET CARDS

Frank Martin still has available a set of four notelet cards featuring Eric Duggan's splendid drawing. A separate leaflet is attached.

Is there a Hebridean Hosteller who is prepared to apply for this competition on our behalf, using Berneray as their example?

Let Frank Martin know if there is.



The international paper manufacturer, Wiggins Teape, in co-operation with the Council of Europe is launching an architectural drawing competition throughout Europe. With the theme 'A Future for the Past of the Rural Heritage' architects and architectural students are invited to identify an old building within the council's member countries and develop plans for a new use to help ensure its preservation. The competition is inspired by the Council of Europe's international programme to protect their heritage by enabling old buildings to maintain a role in the community.

All entries must be submitted on a standard pack supplied by Wiggins Teape. First prize is £5,000. Closing date for the competition is 15 January 1986.

Information: A J Edwards, Wiggins Teape (UK) PLC, Chartham Paper Mills, Canterbury, Kent. Tel: (0227) 738771.

COMPANY DONATIONS

Two enterprising Hebridean Hostellers have demonstrated a profitable way of getting company donations. They were involved with work parties on Berneray. Both asked their company to make a donation.

The result:- company A gave £100; company B gave £40.

Many thanks to Dave Brown and Chris Clarke.

Is anybody else prepared to ask their firm? The Trust acknowledges the donations direct

THE CROFTER'S YEAR

Tommy and Catrina Tosh suggested that we give information about crofting in Uist. We all talk about crofting but what does it involve? The following was drawn up with Claddach Baleshare in mind.

Crofting tenure is a distinctly Scottish form of agricultural tenure, quite unlike other forms of tenure in the United Kingdom. It has its roots deep in the history of Scotland and the clans.

Today crofts are rented from an estate but crofters have security of tenure. A croft gives the crofter the right to a plot of in-bye land and other rights on the out-bye (common) land. For example, the keeping of sheep and the cutting of turf.

These rights are protected in law and are overseen by the Crofters Commission, established in 1886 and based in Inverness.

At Claddach Baleshare Mr. and Mrs. Tosh have a 24 acre Croft with 80 head of sheep, and 2 beef cattle bought in for fattening chickens are also kept for domestic supply (and a cockerel which insists on displaying his shrill cry at dawn).

Traditionally crofting was not simply a system of farming but a way of life involving, in addition to subsistence farming, fishing, gathering seaweed for fertiliser, making tweed and maintaining the thatch on the cottages with marram bent or heather.

Today, whilst some men are solely fishermen, Mr. and Mrs. Tosh only farm. With the use of modern fertilisers, seaweed is simply collected for the alginate factory at Lockmaddy.

Every croft used to make its own tweed but today very few do. However excellent Harris tweed can be purchased in Lochport, about five miles away from Mrs. A MacDonald, Pier House, Lochport.

Few crofters now live in the traditional thatched cottages, though many can still be seen being used as stores or byres for livestock. Consequently the number of people able to thatch with bent or heather has declined, making it difficult for owners to maintain the thatch on their cottages. Thatching involves the cutting, pulling and thatching with marram bent, and the cutting of special sods of turf for use as an underlay.

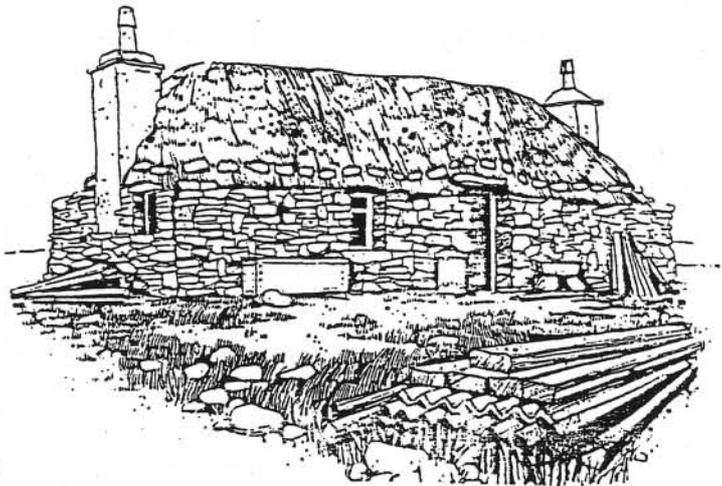
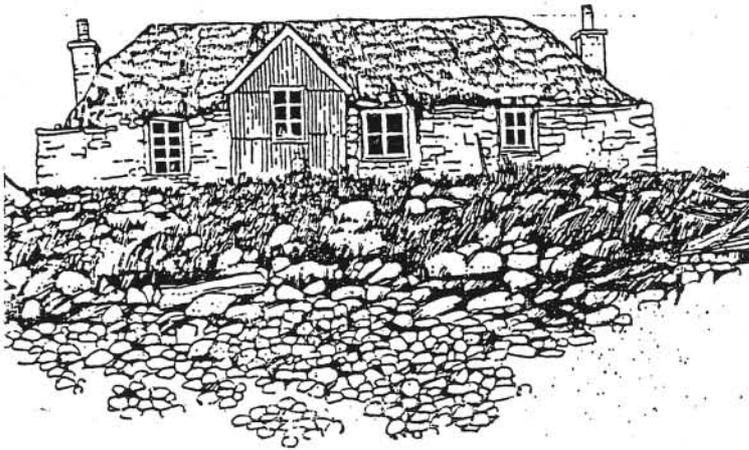
IF you are planning a holiday in the Outer Hebrides
THERE COULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP ON THE CROFT.

Much depends upon the weather but the cycle of activities in the Crofters Year is as follows:

JANUARY	Thatching
FEBRUARY	Thatching
MARCH	Thatching
APRIL	Peat cutting Lambs being born
MAY	Peat lifting
JUNE	Sheep shearing with hand shears
JULY	Cutting and making hay Peat carting
AUGUST	Peat carting Sheep dipping
SEPTEMBER	Sheep dipping Sheep sales Cattle sales
OCTOBER	Bent cutting
NOVEMBER	Bent pulling
DECEMBER	

GATLIFF TRUST

HEBRIDES HOSTEL CARDS



BERNERAY, ISLE OF NORTH UIST, SCOTLAND

A hostel for visitors to the Hebrides made available with the assistance of
The Gatliff Trust, 98 Agar Grove, Camden Square, London NW1 9TL

Drawing by Eric Duggan

GLADDACH BALESHARE, ISLE OF NORTH UIST, SCOTLAND

A hostel for visitors to the Hebrides made available with the assistance of
The Gatliff Trust, 98 Agar Grove, Camden Square, London NW1 9TL

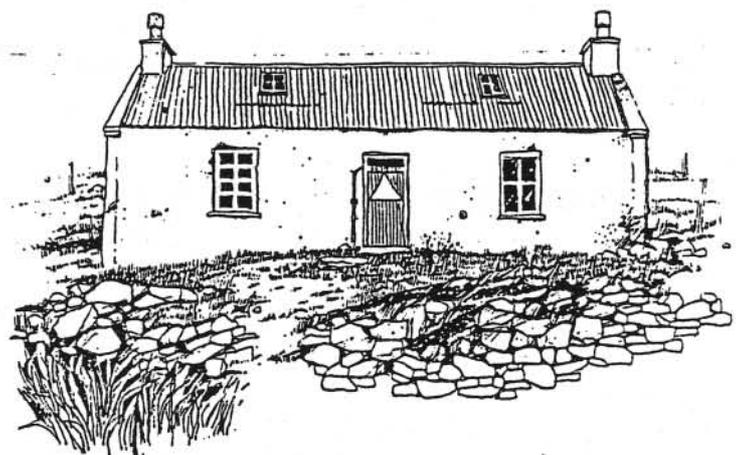
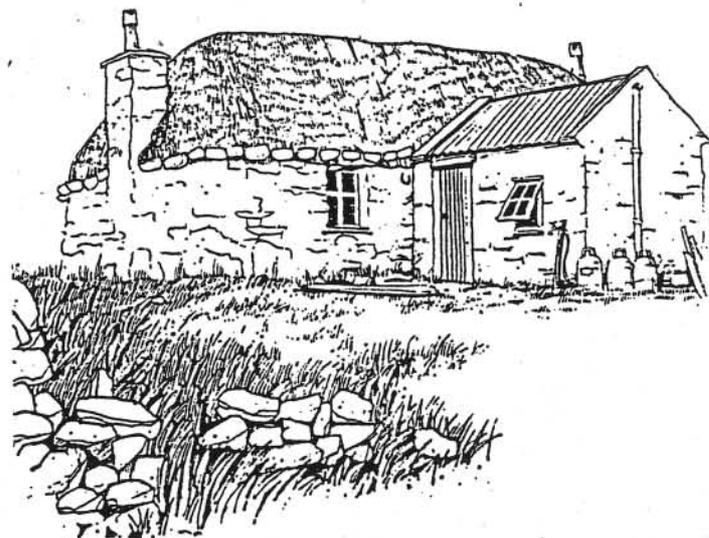
Drawing by Eric Duggan

EACH CARD IS BLANK FOR YOUR OWN GREETINGS
AND COMES COMPLETE WITH ENVELOPE.

33p. for one (please specify which) or
£1 for each set of four (inclusive of p. & p.)

PLEASE SEND MONEY TO:
ENSURING YOU STATE YOUR
NAME & ADDRESS

FRANK MARTIN
20 CORNWALLIS AVENUE
BRISTOL BS8 4PP



HOWMORE, ISLE OF SOUTH UIST, SCOTLAND

A hostel for visitors to the Hebrides made available with the assistance of
The Gatliff Trust, 98 Agar Grove, Camden Square, London, NW1 9TL

Drawing by Eric Duggan

RHEWIGDALE, ISLE OF HARRIS, SCOTLAND

A hostel for visitors to the Hebrides made available with the assistance of
The Gatliff Trust, 98 Agar Grove, Camden Square, London NW1 9TL

Drawing by Eric Duggan