

Durness Parish Hall Committee

Report to Durness Community Council 5 May 2025

Heating system: this, along with the maintenance of the fabric of the building, remains our main focus. Unfortunately, in order to be eligible for a grant from the Community Regeneration Fund, we must have significant funding already in place; we are therefore re-doubling our efforts to obtain funds from external sources as well as from our own fundraising activities.

Maintenance: during recent periods of heavy rain, it has become clear that the gutters are failing, and possibly some window seals. We are grateful to Neil MacRae, Donald Morrison and other members of Durness Fire Brigade for their assistance with the assessment of the problem and for making running repairs. We will be seeking quotes for the replacement of the guttering.

Dunbars have started their survey of the Hall with a view to completing an Electrical Installation Condition Report.

Fundraising: the Hall's pop up Charity Shop in the Square is now open, 2pm-4pm, Monday – Saturday.

The Fundraising Group met recently to plan our schedule of events and activities for the rest of the year. Look out for a return of the popular Dog Show and Produce Show in August; and the Christmas Fayre, Christmas Wreath-making and post-Christmas Quiz in December. Other events will include opportunities to view the impressive wall hangings (previously on display in the Tourist Information Centre) and local history photographic displays. Bingo will return in the autumn and the monthly Whist Drives will recommence at the end of October. Knit & Natter, now with added Bananagrams and board games, is continuing throughout the summer on Tuesday afternoons, 2pm-4pm. All are welcome.

As usual, all events will be publicised on the Hall's Facebook account and by posters on local noticeboards; a monthly calendar representation of all bookings is now posted on Facebook.

Bouncy Castle: we are extremely grateful to the Durness Community Council for approving a grant, from wind farm monies, and to Loch Duart's Community Fund which jointly have enabled us to purchase a new bouncy castle for the Hall, along with mats and a trolley. James Keith has kindly offered to cover the shipping costs. We are now making an application for funds for a new container in which to house the bouncy castle at the Hall; replacement of the existing container is well overdue. It will be of great benefit to the community not only to have a new bouncy castle, but to be able to store it at the Hall and wheel it in from the storage container.

Newsletter/Community Consultation: we received 59 responses to the questionnaire distributed to all local residents. The Hall Committee will review these in detail over the coming months and would like to thank everyone who took the time to respond.

Elspeth Mather

Chair, Durness Parish Hall Committee

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