Last year, Scalpay Community Council completed a new footpath to Eilean Glas Lighthouse which now provides a firm, dry route to this iconic and beautiful area. The new path makes it more accessible for walkers as they no longer have to pick their way across a muddy and uneven moor.

The path was a joint initiative with Landscape Partnership Scheme, Harris Development Ltd and Scalpay Community Council. Much praise is due to the project officer, Joan Cumming for all the effort and hard work she put in to ensuring the successful completion of the path and the provision of new signage and also to the contractor Duncan MacKay and his workers who did an amazing job in some of the wettest weather we have had for a while.

If you haven’t already been on the new path it is a well worthwhile walk, not too difficult, with spectacular views on the way as well as when you get to the lighthouse. There are leaflets available at Buth Scalpaigh giving directions and information on this and other walks on the Island.

The official opening ceremony was conducted by Alastair Macintosh while he was here for the Mountain Festival and below is a transcript of his words. We were very grateful to Mr Macintosh for making time in his busy schedule to do this and for his thoughtful words.


"Thank you for the honour of inviting me to your Island today to open this new footpath. I can see that much care, thought and hard work has gone into its construction. On behalf of all those who will walk it in years to come, thank you for sharing part of the history and beauty of Scalpay with the world this way.

"Thank you especially, to the office bearers and members of the Scalpay Community Council whose vision and hope for their island is in part expressed here. Thank you also to the Landscape Partnership Scheme administered by Harris Development Ltd that provided much of the funding, and the project officer. Thank you to the contractors, and to all who helped in unseen ways.
“Like where the Psalmist says: “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Ps 119:105). If I had to choose a text to mark this pathway, something that would reflect the values of this ancient spiritual community on Scalpay, that would be my suggestion.

“Let me repeat. To walk towards a light. To carry something of it back with one. These are not neutral things to do. We all know, even those who might understandably wrestle with its theological framing, what light symbolises in this community.

“It is “the light of the world” that guides the storm-stricken vessels of our lives past jagged rocks and deceptive shallows. It is “the light of the world” that we are invited to be bearers of. To give light to all the house. To shine forth in ways that glorify, and enjoy forever.

“For me at least, as your invited guest today, those are the thoughts that have arisen as I contemplate a community like this builds a path like this that leads to a place like this. That is what I glimpse in Scalpay, just as “a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

“Such, I am certain, would echo the prayers that past generations of this island’s lighthouse keepers will have sent across the seas. Sent out as watchmen of the night. Echoing, evermore, within eternity; and listening for us to respond.

“People of Scalpay, I shall now hand over to the Reverend Andrew Coghill of the Free Church of Scotland. On behalf of us all, whatever of denomination if any, let us invite him to as a blessing on this endeavour. It shall then be my pleasure to cut this Harris Tweed Ribbon and formally to declare the Scalpay Lighthouse Pathway - open.”

CROSSROADS DONATION

Crossroads (Harris) would like to acknowledge with sincere thanks, the generous donation of £500 from John Brownie Morrison.

Crossroads exists to provide respite care in the home to carers of ill, elderly and people with disabilities. We also provide support for ill, elderly or people with disabilities who live alone.

The scheme has received funding from Change Fund to provide long-term night respite. If you wish for more information on any of our services, please contact Morag Munro.

DEATHS

The sympathy of the community is extended to the bereaved relatives of Mrs Peggy Strachan, Harris House, formerly Kyles

WANTED

HERRING NETS

PLEASE CONTACT

7764859

BUCKIE FISH VAN

Every Thursday

An Clachan, Leverburgh

11.30-12.00

Harris inn car park

2.30-3.00

Wide range of white fish, smoked fish and shellfish

Contact Sean on:

8251816

(weather permitting and God willing)