

Comann Eachdraidh Sgìre a' Bhac

Minutes of AGM

held on **16 May 2023** at 7:30pm

Those that were present were as follows:

Anna Tucker – Chairperson
Donald I Macdonald – Vice Chairperson
Anne MacArthur – Secretary
Catherine Margaret Macinnes – Treasurer

Colin Tucker, Kenny Maciver, Anne Ramsay, Murdo Macleod, Iain Murray, Coinneach Smith, Christine Macdonald, James Macdonald, James Macarthur, Kathryn Graham.

Apologies: Ian Quigley, Margaret Stewart, Mary Ann Graham, Kenny Stewart.

The meeting was opened by Anna Tucker, chairperson, who welcomed everyone to our AGM.

The minutes of the last AGM were approved by Anne Ramsay and seconded by Murdo Macleod.

Matters Arising — Nil

1. Chairperson's report (1 March 2022–28 February 2023)

The chair read to her report:

Welcome to you all. This fourth AGM for CEBac covers the period from March 1 2022-February 28 2023.

Our membership is now 180 adults and 56 juniors (one junior has now moved to the adults).

Our social media numbers also continue to grow. At the end of February there were 901 followers on Facebook and 250 on Twitter, showing an increase to both platforms. CEBac is also closely connected with the Facebook page *Memories of Vatisker 2*, run by Ian Quigley in conjunction with his research on Vatisker. That page, a private group, has 219 members. Ian's book *Vatisker Diaries*, which will be published by the comann is now at the proof reading stage. Mal Macleod, Iain Murray and Anna Tucker are busy with that task.

Website visits have increased to an average of 1749 per month. Our YouTube channel had 17.4K views over the period, with 2.7K hours of video watched, and 60 new subscribers. The most -viewed video in the period got 2.2K views. 83% of our subscribers are 65 or over. Kenny Maciver's series of interviews with a variety of groups and individuals which cover memories of life in the 20th century for the most part, are very popular. We are very fortunate to have the interviewing skills of Coinneach, and also Donald I who has been the main camera man on these occasions.

As well as creating a valuable archive, these videos are also provide a service to the community at the moment, particularly for older members of the community. Most interviews are conducted in Gaelic, but not all. Special events have also been recorded for posterity; for example, the annual remembrance day service at the war memorial, and a description of the Queen's funeral service as told to Kenny by Iain Macaulay, Lord Lieutenant of the Western

Isles, who attended the service. When visiting schools recently it was also interesting to note that some videos have been used in a learning context.

All our talks and events have also been filmed.

A huge vote of thanks must be given to Donald I Macdonald, Vice Chair, for all his time and hard work in all that goes into producing the videos from filming to screen. He has also had valuable help from Kenny Stewart whom we also thank. In addition, Don manages our website which includes running our online shop where publications can be bought.

In March, the final talk of the 2021-22 season, Ian McHardy's talk on the archaeological walks of 2021 had to be cancelled due to Ian being ill with covid. It was however, later filmed and watched online. A spiral bound book, *Nine Archaeological Walks in Sgìre a' Bhac*, written by Ian, was published in April.

Also in April, our book, *The Gress and Upper Coll Land Raids, 1919-1922* was launched in the church hall. Local school pupils, all of whom were great grandchildren of 'raiders' in both Gress and Upper Coll, were involved in this special evening. Margaret Stewart produced a slide presentation of the villages and their people. We are grateful to all for their contributions. We also give thanks to *Loch a Tuath News* for their generous donation towards printing this publication. Videos were also made in conjunction with the commemoration of the Land Struggle, including an online interview with Lord Minginish, an expert on Donald Shaw, the lawyer who represented the crofters, and a walk round Col Uarach with Margaret Stewart and Kenny Maciver. Unfortunately, weather and other constraints meant that the Gress Village walk will be filmed this year.

A Community Consultation was held in July on our proposed new permanent Heritage Centre. Following an online questionnaire (hard copies were also available) carried out previously, the public were invited to a presentation given by Ruairidh Moir, BARD architects, and the community proved to be in favour of the project on which work progresses.

The winter series of talks opened in September when Colin Tucker presented *Buses to Back* to an enthusiastic crowd.

Catriona Murray, lecturer at UHI, presented *Ghosts and Second Sight* in November, another fascinating talk and appropriate for the time of year!

Roddy Murray, Coll and *An Lanntair*, presented *Looking Down, Looking Back* at the end of January. He shared ariel photographs from more than 50 years ago of Sgìre a' Bhac which engendered much audience participation.

At the end of the year, *Back in Time*, edited by Ian Murray, appeared on shop shelves and has proved very popular. This is the first of what we hope will be an annual magazine, looking back in time in Sgìre a' Bhac.

Our plans for a future permanent building took a step forward when we were awarded a grant from CLLD (Community Led Local Development) Local Action Group. This award paid for RIBA Professional Fees and a planning application disbursement. Ruairidh Moir and his team at BARD progressed this work. We thank Ruairidh and his team for their continued hard work, enthusiasm and practical help.

The very end of February saw the arrival of our modular building at the base of DB Modular Buildings in Errol, Perthshire, ready for uplift by DR Macleod.

CEBac continues to be represented on the CDIG, Comann Dualchas Innse Gall, (Heritage Forum), made up of most of the CEs in the Western Isles. Meetings of this group continue online which is very useful for representatives covering such a wide area. Jasmine Wilkie was appointed to the newly created role of Development Officer, in the last year, and we thank Jasmine for her very welcome help and support.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the continued hard work of all trustees and other volunteers, the support of our local councillors, the CnES Heritage Team and of course all of you for your support. It has been very encouraging to welcome volunteer members on to our committee and we are very grateful to Kevin Murray, Kenny Stewart and Angus Maclellan for their continued support. We continue to have a close relationship with Loch a Tuath News

which publishes our monthly news reports, thus keeping people in touch with what we are doing, and for this we are very grateful. We also thank sincerely Back Free Church for the use of their hall on two special occasions.

We now look forward to more involvement with and from the community, now that we finally have our modular home to look forward to. Please encourage your friends and family, of all ages, to get involved in any way with preserving the heritage of Sgìre a' Bhac.

2. Treasurer's report

The treasurer, Catherine Margaret Macinnes, distributed a printed copy of the charity accounts and set out in summary income and expenditure to those in attendance.

The annual accounts were formally approved and the full financial statement prepared by CIB Services may be viewed at

cebac.org/agm/AccountsFeb23.pdf.

3. Election of committee members

Cathy Macinnes is retiring as a trustee. Anna thanked Cathy for her support of CEBAc. All other trustees have agreed to stay and serve another year. No new trustees stood for election.

Anna Tucker, Donald I Macdonald and Catherine Margaret Macinnes are standing down as office bearers. There were no proposals to fill the vacant positions and this was deferred until the next meeting of trustees.

4. AOCB

Kenny Maciver proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring office bearers on behalf of all the committee.

5. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was set to be 7 May 2024.

The meeting closed at 8:00pm.