



CORRA NEWSLETTER

February, 2026

Dear {{ contact.FIRSTNAME }},

In addition to the usual round of Minutes, I am taking this opportunity to try and bring you up to date with where we are at with the New Shop (previously the Free Presbyterian Church).

Background: Leading up to the final purchase of the Free Presbyterian Church, various surveys were carried out in order to inform us of what to expect and the usual suspects were identified i.e. new roof, new services, new insulation & heating, asbestos removal (thankfully not the 'worst' kind but needs to be removed), new septic tank, ground levelling and landscaping, new windows, basically new everything!

Challenges: Why do we need a new shop? Two major considerations are accessibility and space which the current shop definitely does not have. The New Shop has both. In addition, CORRA would like to provide a welcoming space whereby customers may not only shop but also stop for a cuppa, maybe cake, and a chat. The Post Office is also a must. CORRA wish to provide a staff area including an office and staff room and dedicated storage space. Toilets for both customers and staff should also be provided. The challenge is in the design and subsequent cost thereof – circa £1.5m.... Add to the mix sustainability and future proofing for generations to come and you can maybe get an idea of the 'challenge' we have.

The CORRA Board and shop staff have had a trial 'layout' of the new space in the Village Hall (which conveniently has approximately the same amount of floor space!). The picture is now clearer in our minds. In addition, HIE and others are providing us with consultancy support to investigate all aspects of the building from the actual construction to the interior design and usage of space therein. Financially speaking, as well as renovation we also need to consider moving to a space which will allow three times the amount of produce, so careful budgeting and planning ahead is essential.

Our CORRA Board is small but very willing! If, however, you think you may have a particular area of expertise and would be willing to offer some pro bono time, I would be very happy to hear from you. This could be manual labour e.g. outside work/decorating (when the time comes!) or assisting with the fundraising and marketing. The islanders have been and are fantastic in providing their support but there are only so many times one can ask one to empty your pockets for yet another fundraiser! That said, **a phenomenal £16,500 was raised in 2025** through local events and donations. The Island of Raasay never ceases to surprise!



PEWS FOR SALE

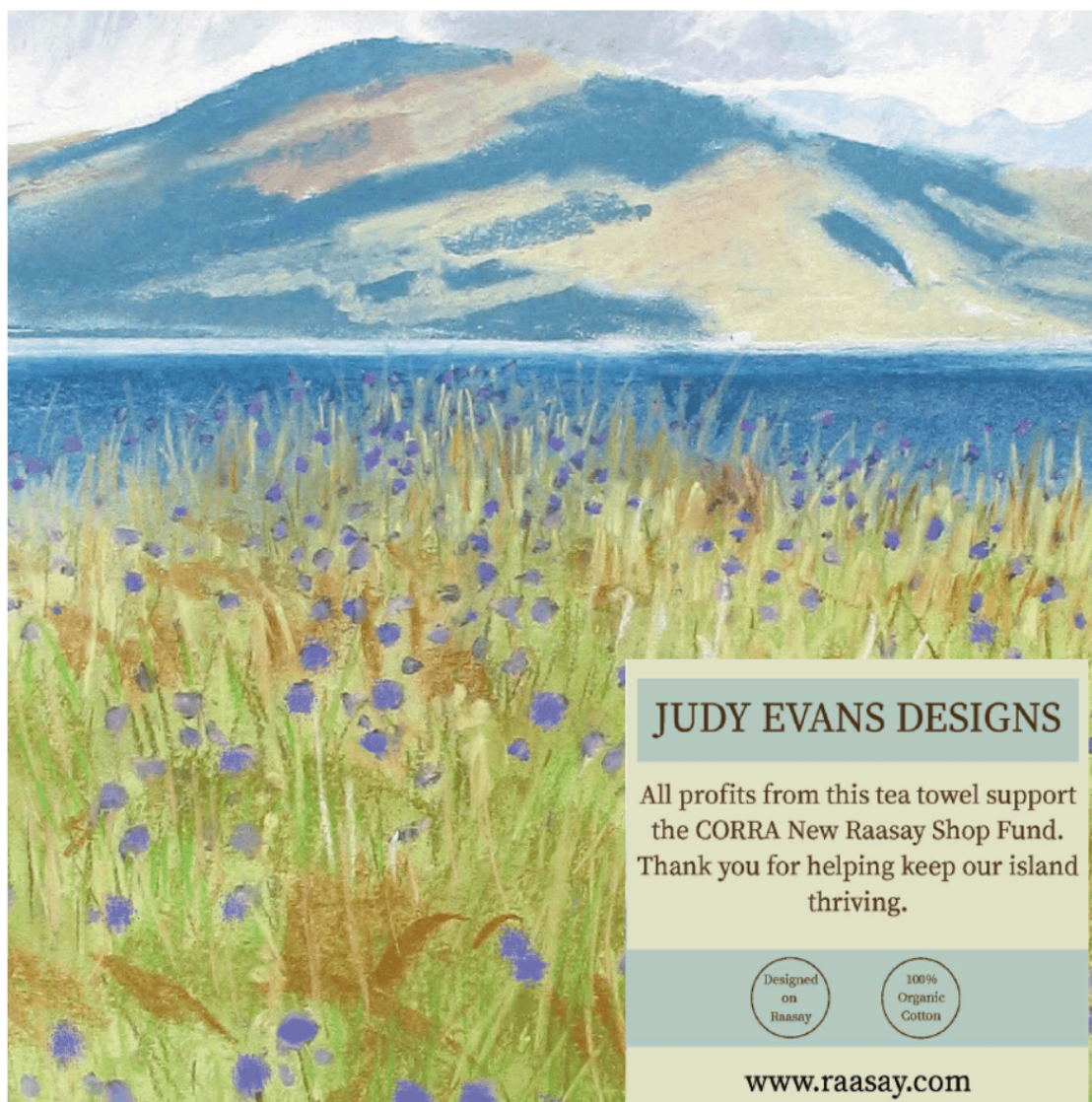
Islanders have now had the opportunity to purchase one (or more) of the 64 pitch pine pews. There are still some available, and if you are interested, please let me know via email Chair.corra@gmail.com.

Large pews – 3m long £350

Smaller pews – 2.4m long with only 1 side panel £250.

We are happy to offer a discounted price if multiple pews are purchased together.

I regret that we cannot provide transport for removal off the island. All proceeds to go towards the New Shop fund, and please bear in mind that these represent nearly a century of history.



TEA TOWELS FOR SALE

Scabious at Eyre' design. These are a limited-edition design by Raasay's resident artist, Judy Evans. £12 each + P&P. Make a great present!

Please message the shop via [Facebook](#) or email raasaystores@gmail.com if you would like to order one.

PLEASE DONATE

If you can donate to raise funds for this island project, we'd be hugely grateful.
Let's bring the new Raasay Community Stores to life!

Donate Here

If you have any queries or think that you may be able to help, I would love to hear from you.

Meanwhile, here's wishing you all the very best for 2026 and hopefully a step nearer to the New Shop on the island!



Jo Mahler, Chair

Email: Chair.corra@gmail.com

Or write to: Chair, CORRA, c/o Raasay Stores, 29/30 Inverarish Terrace, Isle of Raasay, Kyle, IV40 8NS

Community of Raasay Retail Association (CORRA)

2762RS

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