



CORRA NEWSLETTER
SPRING, 2026

Dear {{ contact.FIRSTNAME }},

I am writing this on what can only be described as a 'dreich' (a word so much better than 'wet and misty') day on the Island of Raasay. You could almost say it was Spring with the larch turned a vivid green, primroses, violets and bluebells literally everywhere but it's still pretty cold! Time, however, seems to be gathering at a somewhat alarming speed and various people have been working furiously behind the scenes to try and move things forward on behalf of CORRA (Community of Raasay Retail Association) so here's an update.

The New Shop (formerly the Free Presbyterian Church) renovation: CORRA are excited to report that further to meetings with TORR (our very own island builders) a Feasibility and Concept Design has been commissioned to be made ready for CORRA member approval. This will then be followed by design development ready for submission to a Planning Application provided that the revised costings have been approved by the Board. This process also has HIE (Highland and Islands Enterprise) approval, as in the current economic climate, it makes sense to employ local skills who have a vested interest in the building of the new shop.

Fundraising for the New Shop - This is a major focus for CORRA and has developed many arms since I last wrote. Applications for funding has changed very recently and we have been invited by HIE to join 'Be Connected' which is an online portal of various fundraising projects across Scotland. I quote: "Participants [such as CORRA] are asked to complete a proposal that collects relevant data to enable the 'funder' to have sufficient information to consider targeting that project with a particular funding opportunity. It's also possible to select a number of 'tags' per project to support potential eligibility criteria. The **funder** could be other public sector agencies or even grant-giving organisations. This could transform how community projects are funded... an interesting concept altogether." As you may appreciate, this entails quite considerable gathering of information initially to write the proposal but if, by being a member of this 'pool', it means that CORRA has a

chance of being awarded grants then it is very worthwhile the effort! With recent election activity, we await with baited breath to see what, if any, difference it makes to the current state of grant funding. Times are tough.

Save the date! Sarah Watts, an esteemed musician as well as an established and regular visitor to the island and CORRA member, has very kindly offered to raise funds for the shop with a concert, to which the Skye Wind Band have also kindly agreed to play and support us. This will be held (weather permitting!) in the Raasay Walled Garden on **Saturday, 1 st August** during the afternoon so please reserve this date and bring family and friends. More details will be posted nearer the date.

For the foolhardy and action junkies **save the next date!** Our two younger members of the CORRA Board are plotting a Raasay Mayhem extravaganza on **Saturday, 19 th September**. This will take the form of an obstacle race – not dissimilar to the infamous Tough Mudder ilk – and will hopefully be an action-packed experience with a lot of fun! I personally will be offering lots of encouragement from the sidelines and avoiding the mud.....

Fundraising website and flyer: I am very pleased to announce that we shall shortly have our very own dedicated fundraising website. This will include merchandise for sale as well as opportunities for anyone to access our ‘fundraising pack’ & ‘press pack’ details should they be interested in spreading the word. Direct links may soon be found on Raasay.com. We also have some flyers and if anyone would be interested in gathering a few to hand out and spread the word, we would be extremely grateful. **Huge thanks** go to our volunteers Hannah Moore & Trevor Stratford for the production of these.

Pews update: We are finally at a stage whereby people who expressed an interest in a pew may now have one. If you live on the island, please contact Davy or myself to arrange both payment and delivery times. I have a trusty man with a van who will deliver! I regret that those of you living further afield will need to arrange your own transport but please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries. Prices are a suggested donation of £300 for a long, middle pew & £200 for a side pew.

Shop history: We have had a great response from various members sending in anecdotes about the shop and post office, including previous venues and not just at Inverarish terrace! Please do get in touch if you have a story to tell and even a photo or two. It would be great to gather as many historical facts about times past so that we can have an eventual display of these in the New Shop.

Last but not least, very many thanks to those of you who kindly responded to my last newsletter and made a donation towards the New Shop funds. We cannot do this without your help so thank you and please spread the word wherever you are in this world. Never has there been a time more appropriate to build a new shop with an even larger range of goods which is accessible to all and means you don't have to travel far at considerable expense. It's reaching that fundraising target with the current world as it is that is the challenge. As Michael Caine once said though, "Use the difficulty" so that's what we're doing!

Best wishes,



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

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](#)

Community of Raasay Retail Association (CORRA)
2762RS
29/30 Inverarish Terrace, Isle of Raasay, IV40 8NS

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