

**NORTH HIGHLAND CANCER INFORMATION
AND SUPPORT CENTRE, SCIO (SC048935)**



**5A High Street
THURSO
KW14 7AG**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019/20

Hello to all our members.

This has been a most extraordinary year and I do hope you have all stayed clear of the virus. We have certainly missed catching up with everyone in the Centre.

I wish I could now say welcome to the Annual General Meeting but sadly that will not be possible this year as the situation regarding Covid remains very unpredictable.

However, although we cannot meet face-to-face we hope to satisfy the requirements of OSCR and our Constitution regarding AGMs by conducting the meeting remotely, ie paper/email, some of the documents you will have already received, ie letter asking for nominations for the committee. You will all receive my report by email/letter along with the Treasurer's report, a copy of the audited accounts and the 2019 AGM Minutes.

Retiring Management Committee

Isobel Marshall	Chair	Joan Mackay
Jean Dunnet	Vice Chair	Barbara Cormack
Margaret Mackay	Secretary	Jackie Fraser
Frankie Murdoch	Treasurer	Carolyn Swanson

Treasurer

Our previous treasurer, Fiona Gold, suffered a nasty accident at the beginning of the year which resulted in her being immobile for some time. She decided then to give up the post of treasurer. We have since been very fortunate in persuading Frankie Murdoch to take up the post.

The Centre Manager

The manager's contract was for one year and expired in January 2020. The management committee decided not to renew the contract.

Funding

As many of you will already know, Iain Gregory has become a very active volunteer. He has succeeded in sourcing the sum of £11,000 for the Centre, £10,000 from a Government COVID Relief charity fund and £1,000 through YCYC (Your Caithness Your Charity). This has been a wonderful boost for the Centre and we are extremely grateful to Iain for his efforts on our behalf – thank you Iain.

More details of other funding, donations etc can be found in the Treasurer's report. Considering the Centre has been closed for the past six months the figures for the year have been very good.

Centre heating system and windows

For so long now the electricity bills for the centre have been extremely high for the times that the centre is open. Despite the efforts of numerous members in the past to rectify the situation the problem remained.

The committee therefore decided to invest the grant money to install new heating and windows.

With the Centre being closed long term now seemed the ideal time for the work to be carried out.

The old storage heaters have been replaced with Dimplex radiators which should be much easier to regulate and hopefully cheaper to run. This work was carried out by B Leith Electrical Services at a cost of £3,816.

The windows and fire door are on order and the work is being carried out by R & G Joinery at a cost of £7,173.60.

We have obtained the appropriate permissions from the Highland Council to carry out these works.

The above installations obviously led to a bit of decoration work needing to be done and we would like to thank Linda Sutherland for all her hard work in preparing the main sitting room for redecoration and volunteering to do the painting herself. She had also received a donation of £300 from a neighbour, Jeanette Mitchell, to purchase blinds for the office and the remainder will cover most of the decoration work needed - thanks Linda.

Linda has also acquired two free standing automatic hand sanitizer units for use in the Centre when we re-open.

We are now very hopeful that when we have completed all of the above work, the Council will see fit to grant us a favourable lease of the premises - Iain is going to work on it!!

Men's Group

Report from Malcolm Clark – The Men's Group which was established in May 2016 has continued to be a resourceful place where men can meet and talk with honesty and confidence. It has 12 members and on average has 7 (+/-) members at each meeting. The group has had some new members in the last year and they have really welcomed the opportunity of having a place where they can talk openly and ask questions.

Unfortunately, meetings were suspended from March 2020 due to the Coronavirus but a monthly email has been sent out to the group to update them on any information relevant to the group; some members have taken part in surveys pertaining to their treatment(s) during lock down.

The Men's Group web pages are now being incorporated into the NHCISC web site.

Finally, the Mens Group are indebted to the chair and committee of the NHCISC for allowing them to use the NHCISC premises. Without this, the group would not exist.

Thank you :-

to Malcolm Clark for looking after our web site and keeping it up to date - lot of good and interesting information,. Well worth a look if you haven't already visited it;
to Carolyn Swanson for keeping our facebook page up to date;
and to Colin Lloyd who has succeeded in getting the Centre two parking permits for our use at the back of the building. These are for any member who may benefit from parking there.

Barbara Cormack is producing the calendar this year. We will let you know when it is available for sale.

Finally, I sincerely hope that it won't be too long before we can open the doors and welcome you all back to the Centre. We will keep you posted of any developments. Meanwhile look after yourselves and stay safe.

Hope to see you soon.

ISOBEL MARSHALL
Chair, NHCISC