In brief

Community shops are an essential part of our island community life. They provide a community hub and focal point for people to meet as well as allowing them to carry out all of their weekly shopping locally and actively contribute to decreasing social isolation particularly amongst the elderly. The community shops are major point for news and information, local events, job advertisements, services etc.

For the visitor, a trip to the local community shop is a must during a visit to the Outer Hebrides. These shops are a great place to pick up everything needed for a stay and are a treasure trove for local Hebridean products and produce. They are a great place to meet the locals, hear the Gadhlig language spoken and find out what is going on in the area.

Some of our community shops are part of the Eat Drink Hebrides Trail which showcases our fabulous Hebridean produce www.eatdrinkhebrides.co.uk

Explore...

Bùth Bharraigh
Castlebay, Isle of Barra HS9 5XD
Tel: 01871 817948
Email: info@buthbharraigh.co.uk
Facebook and Twitter: @buthbharraigh
OPENING HOURS:
Mon – Sat: 10.00am – 6.00pm
Sun: Closed

Eriskay Shop
Eriskay, Isle of South Uist HS8 5JJ
Tel: 01878 720236
Email: eriskayshop@gmail.com
Facebook: @Eriskay Shop
OPENING HOURS:
Mon – Sat: 9.00am – 6.00pm
Sun: Open June – August 9.00am – 1.00pm

Butha Scalpaigh
North Harbour, Scalpay, Isle of Harris HS4 3XU
Tel: 01859 540218
Email: scalpayshop@gmail.com
OPENING HOURS:
Mon – Sat: 9.00am – 6.00pm
Sun: Closed

Harris Community Shop
An Clachan, Leverburgh, Isle of Harris HS5 3TS
Tel: 01859 520370
Email: sales@harriscommunityshop.co.uk
Web: www.harriscommunityshop.co.uk
Facebook: @harriscommunitycoop
OPENING HOURS:
Mon – Thurs: 9.00am – 6.00pm
Fri – Sat: 9.00am – 7.00pm
Sun: Closed

Uig Community Shop
Timssparry, Uig, Isle of Lewis HS2 9JD
Tel: 01851 672444
Email: info@uigcommunityshop.co.uk
Web: www.uigcommunityshop.co.uk
Facebook: @uigcommunityshop
OPENING HOURS SHOP:
Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat: 9.00am – 5.00pm
Thurs – Fri: 9.00am – 6.00pm
Sunday: Closed

From 3 April – 30 September
Mon – Sat: 9.00am – 6.00pm
Sunday: Closed

OPENING HOURS POST OFFICE:
Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri: 9.00am – 16.45pm
Wed, Sat, Sun: Closed

Buth Tholastaidh
North Tolsta, Isle of Lewis HS2 0NL
Tel: 01851 890281
Email: info@uigcommunityshop.co.uk
Web: www.buththolastaidh.co.uk
Facebook: @buththolastaidh
OPENING HOURS SHOP:
Mon – Sat: 10.00am – 3.00pm
Sun: Closed
OPENING HOURS POST OFFICE:
Mon – Tue: 10.00am – 3.00pm
Wed – Fri: 10.00am – 1.00pm
1 Buth Tholastaidh

Buth Tholastaidh is located roughly 14 miles north of Stornoway and is the last shop before you get to Tarpa Brige (also known as ‘The Bridge to Skye’) and the glorious beaches of Traigh Mor and Garadaich.

The Buth has been a shop and Post Office since the 1920s and was taken over by the community in 2011. In the early days we were heavily reliant on volunteers but thanks to the generous funding we received from the tote and Community Development, the situation is much improved.

We sell all the basics; groceries, newspapers, coal, gas, postcards, souvenirs, camping supplies, beach toys, ice creams and much more. Come and see us. Use our free WiFi. You can even get a coffee.

2 Uig Community Shop

In 2003 Uig’s only shop, which also housed the Post Office and fuel station, was put up for sale. Concerned that these facilities services would be lost, Uig Development Trust acquired the shop through a combination of share issue and grants. When the further grant funding has enabled the shop to double in size and the provision of disabled access, Uig Community Shop, A Bhuth, is managed on behalf of the community by Uig Community Co-operative Limited (UCCL) through a committee of volunteers elected by UCCL shareholders and a dedicated team of staff.

A Bhuth provides an extensive range of essentials and is licensed to sell alcohol. Groceries include fresh fruit, vegetables, fish, meat and dairy produce as well as specialist foods including organic, vegan, wheat and gluten free goods and other day to day household needs. An excellent selection of gifts and souvenirs is also offered, several by local artisans and unique to the Hebrides. A Bhuth is the beating heart of the community and is there to help all as best as possible.

3 Butha Scalpaigh

Bùth Scalpaigh evolved because of the closure of the one existing local shop. Scalpay is an island, linked to the larger island of Lewis by a bridge which was opened in 1997, but in spite of this bringing the next commercial facility nearer (now only about 7 miles away by road), a shop in Scalpay itself was greatly missed. Following public consultation, the shop was bought by the community in 2010, by means of public shares and various public grants. Bùth Scalpaigh was officially opened in December 2012.

The shop provides a wide variety of goods. Free WiFi is offered in the adjoining Bistro, which has an excellent reputation and attracts customers from far and wide.

As well as providing goods for sale, the shop has proved to be a place where the community comes together, acting as a social hub and providing a location where news and events can be advertised.

Having a community shop helps enhance Scalpay’s individuality and maintain the feeling of togetherness that was always present in the past of this unique island.

4 Harris Community Shop

Harris Community Co-op, or Co-Communn Na Hearadh in Gaelic, was set up in 1976, when the existing village shop in Leverburgh looked likely to close down. A Community co-operative was set up and, by selling local shares at £25 each, sufficient funds were raised to allow the community to run its own enterprise.

As a co-operative, community-owned and managed by a voluntary committee, the shop is a corporate member of the Co-operative Group and can order goods directly through the Group. The shop provides a regular supply of good quality goods, particularly fresh fruit and vegetables and it has made a real difference to the quality of produce and the shop’s viability. Where possible we support local business and it has made a real difference to the quality of produce and the shop’s viability.

We sell all the basics; groceries, newspapers, coal, gas, postcards, souvenirs, camping supplies, beach toys, ice creams and much more. Come and see us. Use our free WiFi. You can even get a coffee.

5 Eriskay Shop

In 1979 the only shop and post office on the island was threatened with closure – the shop owner retired and there was no-one to take his place. In response, the local community decided to start a co-operative and raised finance by buying £50 shares in the business. £7,500 was raised and the shop was opened in 1998.

As well as providing goods for sale, the shop has proved to be a place where the community comes together, acting as a social hub and providing a location where news and events can be advertised.

Having a community shop helps enhance Eriskay’s individuality and maintain the feeling of togetherness that was always present in the past of this unique island.

6 Bùth Bharraigh

Bùth Bharraigh is the Community Local Produce Hub on the Isle of Barra. The main aim of Bùth Bharraigh is to provide a retail outlet for local producers and provide products that people wanted but were not readily available in the community such as wholefoods, yam, LED light bulbs and facilities such as a laundrette.

Available locally produced: Bread, home baking, vegetarian ready meals, fish, vegetables, jams, chutneys, eggs and more. All subject to supply and seasonality. Wide range of local art and crafts. We also have wholefoods, yam, local interest books (Gaelic and English), local maps and more. Come in, have a browse, stay for a coffee and make use of our free WiFi. Catch Ceòl Bhàrd every Sunday – drop in from 12 noon to 4pm.