

an talla solais

Ullapool Visual Arts

NEWSLETTER

no. 2 spring/summer 2007

an talla solais AGM

will take place on 6th March at 7.30 p.m. in the committee room of Ullapool Village Hall. We hope to quickly go through the formal requirements and to welcome any new people to the group. Ordinary membership is available, and possibly there will be one or two changes to the committee.

The present committee comprises Office Bearers; Barbara Peffers- Chair, Eleanor White- Vice Chair, Dairmid Macaulay- Secretary, Martin Howard- Treasurer, Ailsa Strange- Membership Secretary, Susan Brown- Minutes Secretary, Ordinary Committee Members; Nancy Angell, Lindsay Blair, Sheila Robertson, Tara Smart, Richard Weekes and Allison Weightman, with Eireann Strange as Ullapool High School Student Representative.

Bridge House Art has been in residence at an talla solais, Market Street for most of the winter with The Portfolio Course run by Eleanor White. This is the second year that Eleanor has used an talla solais space. She is entirely responsible for all aspects of the courses she runs at Market Street, but we are very pleased that having the accommodation here, enables Eleanor to expand numbers, especially of the Portfolio Course, and to develop the course further than she might have been able to do otherwise.

The fourteen week long course ends shortly and Bridge House Art will be exhibiting the students' work from Sunday 25th February – Sunday 4th March. The show, '**Between Tea Breaks**' is open from 1pm – 5pm every day, in an talla solais.

Students; Bridget Ramsey, Sarah Larson, Coryla Jones, Helena Maylin, Isabella Bocchetti, Hazel Thorn, Tara O'Leary, Kieran Baxter, Elizabeth Hardman, Rachel Thomas and Laura EllaKirk will all be taking part.

"As the Bridge House Art portfolio course 06/07 now hurtles towards its grand finale, those of us barracked at an talla solais, drink extra-strength coffee and lie awake at night with minds beset by a myriad of objects, strange forms and unruly sketchbooks.

We are a core group of eight full time students. An additional three part-time students make the weekly, early-morning odyssey from Gairloch High School. Apart from a couple of honourable exceptions, the course is made up of young people in their late teens and early twenties.

Nine applications have been submitted to Art Schools so most of us will be developing our work in that way. We have all gained tremendously from our time on the course. It offers a great range and depth of experience and a firm grounding in drawing and painting. Thanks to the great teaching gifts and seemingly bottomless well of patience of the great Eleanor White, we have all made a real leap forward in terms of our basic drawing and painting skills.

In terms of challenges, we have had to learn to cope with the very intense pace of the course. A rigorous work ethic is maintained throughout so although this course could change your life it may play havoc with your cherished morning lie in! All effort is well rewarded however when it comes to the making of our work and through it we have all gained a real insight into the graft required from a practising artist.

*We have enjoyed the contact with visiting tutors and feel very encouraged by the members of the **an talla solais** committee who pop in to see us during our famously gregarious tea breaks".*

Tara O'Leary, February 07 PHOTO

an talla solais Membership and Members' Show.

We are embarking on our new programme for Spring/Summer 2007, starting with our first 'Members' Show', open to the public from Sunday 25th March until Sunday 15th April, 2pm – 5pm, seven days a week. This will be a mixed show with work for sale. Showing over the Easter holidays, we hope to attract many visitors from the community and from further afield.

Our membership is growing and renewal time is coming up...31st March. Anyone who is not a member can join now, have 13 months membership, and be eligible to submit work in this show. Submission date is 17th March 12noon - 5pm.at Market Street., Ullapool. Further details from the Membership Secretary, Ailsa Strange tel 01854 612288

Ailsa has done an enormous amount of work in arranging and posting out to existing members, renewal membership forms, (**bright blue**, this time) and submission forms for the members' show. Thanks to everyone who has worked hard for an talla solais, over the last year. All support we have is very greatly appreciated and is needed. If you can offer help in any way, we would be glad to hear from you. tel. 01854 612501. Membership is one way to support, as well as other direct help.

'2007 Year of 'Culture in the Highlands' will be part funding a project alongside a contribution from Community Funds Scotland and Ullapool High School. This project has been conceived and managed voluantarly by Allison Weightman. This is an exciting contribution to the festival by an talla solais which has enabled the group to purchase equipment which will remain in the hands of the community for future workshops and hire. We will have a portable sand-blaster, glass-cutter, compressor and hand working tools for glass processing, which will be available for hire in our workshops (or outwith).'

'Through the Looking Glass' will involve pupils from Ullapool catchment area's Primary Schools years p4 - P7 and Ullapool High School. These workshops are designed to raise the awareness of the uses of re-cycled glass in a number of ways. The project with the Ullapool Primary School will result in a stepping stone path made from ceramic and glass tiles which will link the existing path to the xylophone which is being installed in the play area of the school.

The Primary School from out-with the village will be producing mosaic light reflectors made with recycled mirror off-cuts from a glass dealer in Inverness . The children will be encouraged to collect items which they would like to reclaim from the rubbish we produce and in turn innovative mirror frames.

The Secondary school project is a design project which will cover three days, it will be offered to the secondary school pupils from Ullapool High School during their activities week. . In this project there is an emphasis on the process of design using a tree as their 'model', to dress in a fantastical fashion inspired by images and text from Lewis Carroll's, 'Through the Looking Glass'. They will also be encouraged to use reclaimed materials. Eelements of glass will be incorporated to produce a piece which will be exhibited by the High School.

If the budget allows there will be an adult class to cut and sand-blast wine bottles to produce drinking glasses or vases.

*This project will be delivered by a host of artists from Ullapool and beyond, all of whom have different talents to contribute. It is an exciting introduction to the communities involved in the project, to encourage them to think about **that wine bottle that goes in the 'bin!** ' Allison Weightman*

Triangle Arts Trust will be running a two week project on **Tanera**, one of the Summer Isles. Scottish and International Artists will be working there, and hope to run a days workshop in **an talla solais**, Market Street. We are the host establishment for this enterprise while it is working in Wester Ross. The project is a larger one entitled Three Islands, and will also be taking place in Orkney and -?????-
[ELEANOR CAN YOU HELP HERE?](#)

Sea of Glass is a short film (20 minutes) made in Ullapool by people in the community. Professionally photographed and edited, it is the dramatic story of a fisherman, Jake McCrindle, a troubled and tormented individual, who is trapped by circumstances into committing a brutal murder. An original haunting musical soundtrack composed and performed by local musicians adds a distinctive contemporary feel to the tale. The film uses local characters and the spectacular seascape of Lochbroom to bring this story of determinism and free will to life in its 21st century Highland setting. People in the community are going to be involved in designing the set, making the costumes, doing the publicity and promoting the film and most of all acting in it – there will be six local adults and a number of children with parts in the film. Filming will start at the end of March and the film will be screened in the Macphail Theatre on 22nd June as part of Highland 2007 celebrations. Ullapool High School Board will act as host organization for the film while **an talla solais** will act as Production Management. -Donald Blair

Donald Blair and his students from Ullapool High School, are making a film about art in the community which has as its focus the role that an arts centre could play in the village. The film will include interviews with all sorts of people who are interested in art. We will look at art in the high school and the attitudes towards art amongst the young people in art classes. We will look at the way that art is visible in the school and at current exhibitions like *Passing Places* in the Macphail Centre. We will also have some film from **an talla solais** where the students on Eleanor White's Portfolio Course talk about art and about what art means to them. The film will include interviews with practising artists in the village and with committee members from **an talla solais**. The film will also include interviews with other art professionals in the region and beyond and present a picture of the trials and tribulations of trying to make something happen here. The film will last about fifteen minutes and will screen at one or two young people's film festivals in the summer. Donald Blair

An talla solais is still working from 'The Old Library' in Market Street and while still in a period of uncertainty regarding accommodation, we are gaining strength by having a growing membership, putting on a full programme each year, and gaining recognition in a wider field. Several of our activities are being held in **The Macphail Centre**, due to lack of space, while other courses, classes and exhibitions take place in the old library. We are very grateful to the staff of the 'Macphail' for all the help, encouragement and enthusiasm they show us each time we work from there. The exhibition corridor there, although limited in scale, is a vital space for showing work not only as an extra space for us but as a resource for the community. Its constant use, although small, shows just how, large, well lit, custom built, exhibition space is vitally, needed in Ullapool. Equally, there is a desperate need for proper studio space for individuals, and for classes where it is possible to work without an eye to other uses of the space. We need studios where work can be stored, work in progress can be safely left in situ, where making a mess is not an issue, and where a wide range of interesting resources can be made available. -Barbara Peffers

'The Tuesday Class', 'an talla solais at the Macphail Centre'

The Tuesday Class continues to run during term time, from 2.30-5pm at the Macphail Centre. The class has grown to five participants and is jointly tutored by Barbara Peffers and Sheila Robertson. It continues with individuals developing their particular creative directions, including work in Drawing and Painting, Ceramics and Printing. A second exhibition is planned for the summer session when

the fruits of the labours of all students concerned, will be on show. Like last year, this show will be hung in the Macphail Centre. Look out for details to follow. -Sheila Robertson

xxxxxxxPHOTO

A collage by Deirdre, displayed in the foyer on 14th February.

BLAS (Gaelic, taste or savour)

In November, as part of Blas2006, Barbara and Sheila provided a workshop funded by **BLAS** for primary 7 pupils of Ullapool primary School, bringing together children from both Gaelic medium and English medium in the school. This provided a large mural, displayed in the foyer of the High School/Macphail Centre, where the music festival was held. -Sheila Robertson

Healthy Colour - 15th January 07. As part of **Healthy Highland Week 2007**, an talla solais hosted a one day workshop in The Macphail Centre funded by Highland Council, The Macphail Centre and Healthy Highland. This class with 16 places was fully subscribed and subsequently led to the formation of a 'Beginners' Class', organised by the Macphail Centre. Tutors B.P. + S.R.

In November 06, Barbara Peffers and Martin Howard attended a civic award ceremony in Dingwall hosted by the Ross and Cromarty Committee of Highland Council, where **an talla solais** was presented with a **Best Community Project Award**.

HIVAG: Barbara Peffers, Allison Weightman and Lindsay Blair presented papers during the 2 day event at the Macphail Centre, Ullapool, Mon 13 November - 14 November 2006. The Visual Arts Gathering was the outcome of a massive attempt in the summer of 2006 to research the current state of Visual Arts in the Highlands and Islands. The area of study extended from Shetland to Arran and consisted of Georgina Coburn interviewing artists, gallery owners, visual arts workers, educators and arts development workers. The study was commissioned by Hi-Arts. Coburn compiled her research into a report and asked a selection of speakers to personally present their views during the November Gathering. -Lindsay Blair

As a follow-up to this, Barbara and Martin will be attending a consultative meeting between development artist groups and open studio trail organisations in Inverness on March 9th

"The aim of the meeting is to foster better communications between artist led groups, encourage professional networking and actively support the work of those developing Visual Arts in the region. This is part of Hi-Arts Visual Arts Planning and Development Initiative which will examine the recommendations of the "Five Challenges" report., the issues raised at the Gathering in Ullapool and the needs of artist led organisations in the Highlands and Islands." -Georgina Coburn.