

Dear Glendale Trust members,

I thought it appropriate that I should inform you through the newsletter that I have resigned as chair and a director of The Glendale Trust. Last night (10th October 2012) I formally stood down, informing the board:

“Further to my resignation letter of the 25th August 2012 and the board discussion that took place on the 3rd September, I write to you today to confirm that as the end of the board meeting today the 10th October 2012 that I have resigned as a director and chairman of The Glendale Trust.

I have reflected over the last few weeks on both my original desire to stand aside and of course on developments that have taken place since then.

As I indicated in my letter of the 25th August, I believe now is the right time to step aside to allow others to steer the trust on the next stage of its journey.

In taking this decision today I reflect on what we have achieved over the last few years and I believe we should be proud of what we have all delivered particularly as regards to the heritage project as well as the encouraging progress with the Meanish project. It has been a privilege to serve as the chair of the trust and see the organization make a positive contribution to the life of Glendale.

I am grateful of the support you and the other directors have given me as chair and in particular the way we have worked together.

Although I am standing down I should state my desire to continue to support the work of the trust. I have no doubt that the trust has been a force for good in Glendale and that as the trust further develops it will continue to benefit the community.”

I would also like to thank the members for all the support that has been given to the trust that have resulted in our activities being such a success. As I review the trust today it is perhaps worth reflecting on some of the developments. The Heritage Exhibition has grown considerably as well as documenting the story of the people of Glendale it has proved to be a popular tourist destination, has provided employment and in particular has allowed a number of young people to develop work related skills. As part of this we have engaged with organisations such as CnaG to foster opportunities for Gaelic speaking students to work with the exhibition and at the same time enhance the Gaelic offering of the exhibition and offer Gaelic language classes as part of the exhibition. There has also been much progress on the development of a book that will be published next year on the poetry of the Glendale bard, Neil MacLeod, of course a timely publication which will mark 100 years since the death of Neil. The highlight of the Heritage Exhibition is very much the annual homecoming festivities. The homecoming has grown over the last three years and is much enjoyed by the many that participate in the varied events.

The same is true of the Glendale Burns Supper which not only attracts guests from Glendale but from elsewhere from the island with the supper having proved to be a popular event.

Whilst the primary aim of the trust is not to host social functions, events such as Hogmanay and Midsummer events at Meanish have also proved to be popular. Another occasion that the trust has

been behind is re-establishing the annual remembrance service at the Glendale War Memorial with the service being well attended.

Communication with members has also been enhanced through the regular, and popular, Glendale Trust newsletter which is produced by Ocean Graham on behalf of the trust.

I would like to thank the members for the support that has been shown for all the various activities.

I am also most grateful of the many messages of support post the recent challenging events.

In this regard perhaps it would be helpful to set the record straight on where the trust stood as far as the football match was concerned on Sunday 26th August 2012.

The Glendale Trust were approached and asked to support a football match between Glendale and the Three Chimneys as well as fund raising for facilities. The trust has participated in football is part of the homecoming and I would say as a principle is very supportive of developing sport in Glendale. The directors felt however that we could not support as a trust a football match on a Sunday as we recognised that no such event had ever taken place on a Sunday in living memory and based on this and other precedence that we should remain in support respecting the status quo.

In closing, it has been a pleasure to serve the trust and I look forward to continuing to do so as a member.

Ian Blackford

11th October 2012