

*Ioachdar Thròndairnis*  
**Trotternish**  
our place in the future

'Dè th'ann an dàn  
ach grèim an tiotan tim  
no an obair-ghrèis do là?'

What else is poetry but  
frozen moments from  
our lives,  
or the tapestry of  
our time here?

as *An Nathair Aigh le*  
*Maoilios M Caimbeul*  
*a Flòdaigearaidh*



There are four distinct  
communities in our peninsula.

**Staffin** - the place of pillars in  
Norse, is warmly termed 'an  
taobh sear' in Gaelic.

**Cille Mhoire** is the correct name  
for Kilmuir. Traditionally, Mary's  
churchyard was known as  
'dùthaich nan stàpag'.

**Uig** simply means bay, and it is a  
very common Norse placename.  
It is also tagged onto the end  
of placenames - as in Altabhaig,  
**Kensaleyre & Borve** - Gaelic &  
Norse have combined to give us  
'the head of the gravel beach'.  
The Norse name Borve promises  
the presence of a Pictish  
monument.

**Aig  
muir  
is  
tir**

"I appreciate being able to carry on working  
my croft because it was handed down from  
my father and that means something to me.  
We plan as a Trust to move towards  
low input crofting, by aiming for niche  
markets with a local label for  
added value meat and vegetables."  
*(John Angus Mackenzie of the Borve and  
Anishader Township Trust)*

"My brother and I started off young at the  
creel fishing. You can make a living if you  
work hard, but you've got to be cut out  
for the lifestyle. Recently, my own young lad  
joined me on the boat. Prawns are our main  
catch today. And the prime objective of local  
fishermen here is to upgrade the pier at Uig."  
*(Donald Angus Campbell of Uig)*

"I became interested in the history around  
me when I was a teenager with time on my  
hands. In the closing years of this millennium,  
the Staffin Jurassic beds have yielded dinosaur  
fossils of international importance. There is  
no doubt that Staffin is now recognised  
as the dinosaur centre of the UK."  
*(Dougie Ross of Staffin Museum)*



**Théid  
dùthchas an  
aghaidh  
nan creag**

The Dùthchas Project is promoting  
sustainability in remote rural areas.  
If you would like to hear more  
about Dùthchas or have ideas for  
the future wellbeing of Trotternish,  
please contact us:

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The photographers were:  
Cailean Maclean, Mike Williams,  
Willie Urquhart & Fiona MacDonald

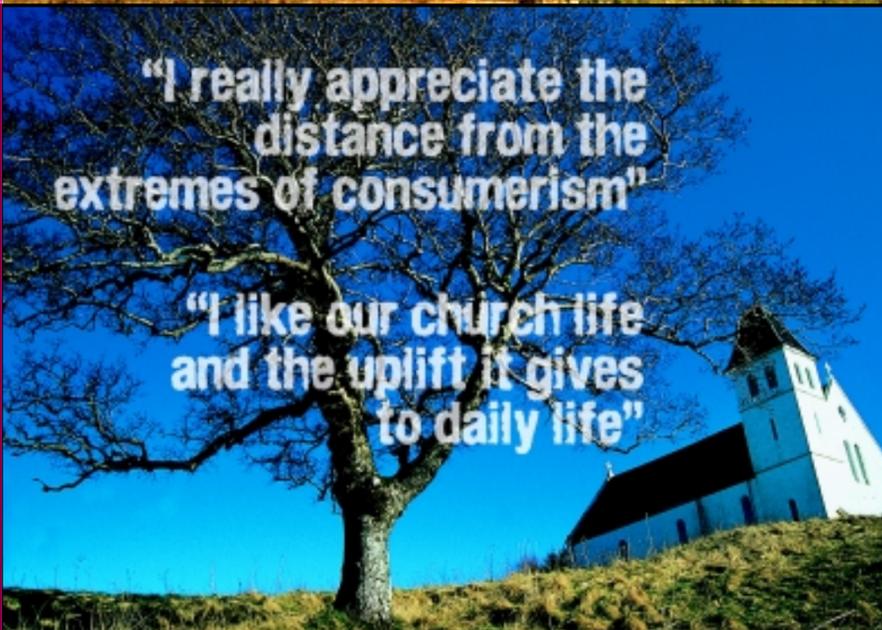
Dùthchas is working in three areas of  
Scotland: North Sutherland, North Uist  
and Trotternish (in Skye). For further  
information telephone 01463 244202.

Pelican Design Consultants 01478 612558



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where the  
landscape is  
reflected in  
the people



"I really appreciate the  
distance from the  
extremes of consumerism"

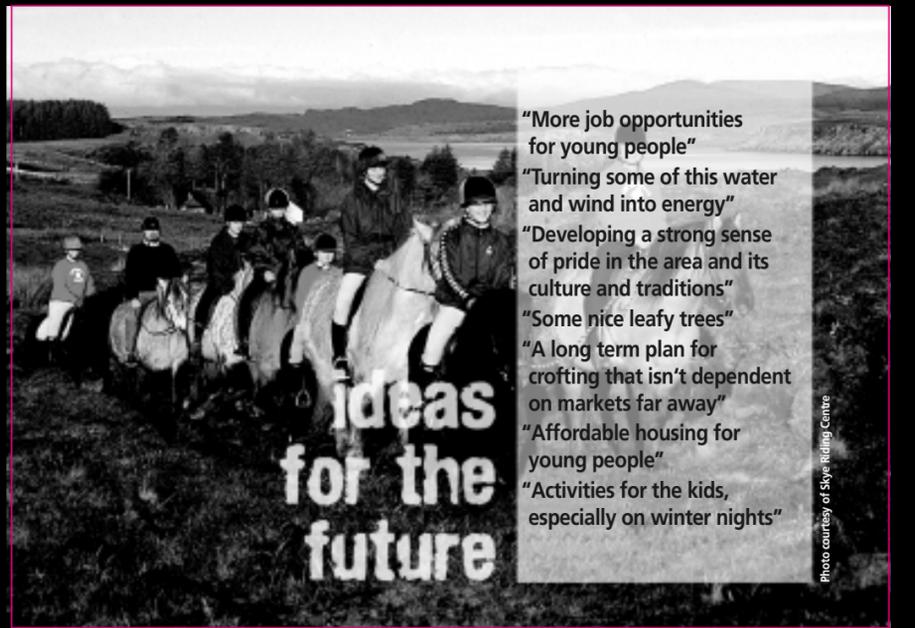
"I like our church life  
and the uplift it gives  
to daily life"



**“S e na daoine a tha deanamh an dùthaich anns a’ chiad aite.”**

Dùthchas spoke to 320 men, women and children in the Trotternish peninsula. You identified the things that are special about the place, and what you would like to see for the future here.

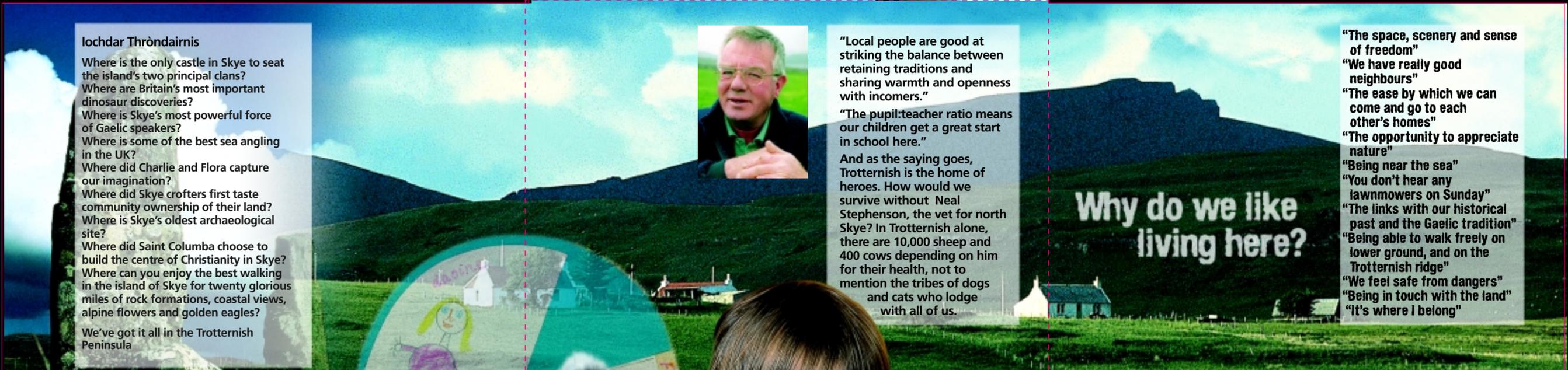
“The thing that means the most to me here is the beauty of the people - not their physical beauty though that is there too, but their warmth. And with the blood ties and the historical links, the landscape is very much reflected in the character of the people.”  
*(Hector Mackenzie of Hungladair)*



**ideas for the future**

- “More job opportunities for young people”
- “Turning some of this water and wind into energy”
- “Developing a strong sense of pride in the area and its culture and traditions”
- “Some nice leafy trees”
- “A long term plan for crofting that isn’t dependent on markets far away”
- “Affordable housing for young people”
- “Activities for the kids, especially on winter nights”

Photo courtesy of Skye Riding Centre



- lochdar Thròndairnis**
- Where is the only castle in Skye to seat the island’s two principal clans?
  - Where are Britain’s most important dinosaur discoveries?
  - Where is Skye’s most powerful force of Gaelic speakers?
  - Where is some of the best sea angling in the UK?
  - Where did Charlie and Flora capture our imagination?
  - Where did Skye crofters first taste community ownership of their land?
  - Where is Skye’s oldest archaeological site?
  - Where did Saint Columba choose to build the centre of Christianity in Skye?
  - Where can you enjoy the best walking in the island of Skye for twenty glorious miles of rock formations, coastal views, alpine flowers and golden eagles?
- We’ve got it all in the Trotternish Peninsula



“Local people are good at striking the balance between retaining traditions and sharing warmth and openness with incomers.”

“The pupil:teacher ratio means our children get a great start in school here.”

And as the saying goes, Trotternish is the home of heroes. How would we survive without Neal Stephenson, the vet for north Skye? In Trotternish alone, there are 10,000 sheep and 400 cows depending on him for their health, not to mention the tribes of dogs and cats who lodge with all of us.

**Why do we like living here?**

- “The space, scenery and sense of freedom”
- “We have really good neighbours”
- “The ease by which we can come and go to each other’s homes”
- “The opportunity to appreciate nature”
- “Being near the sea”
- “You don’t hear any lawnmowers on Sunday”
- “The links with our historical past and the Gaelic tradition”
- “Being able to walk freely on lower ground, and on the Trotternish ridge”
- “We feel safe from dangers”
- “Being in touch with the land”
- “It’s where I belong”



**Trotternish is a great place to bring up children**

“We’ve got clean fresh air here, and there are no factories”

“We’re all good friends, and we get on with each other”

“I like the beach for playing in the summer”

“There aren’t many burglaries”

“It’s easy to get to sleep here”

*An dealbh le Ciorstaidh Pheutan*