



Europe Direct Information Centre Outer Hebrides

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Robots to help people with dementia in Western Isles

In this Issue:

- Dementia Robot pg1
- Energy Prize pg1
- Bathing Water Rules pg1
- European Year of Citizens Event pg2
- Stag Bakery news pg2
- Croatia news pg2



NHS Western Isles will be piloting the Giraff for the first time in Scotland, as part of the European Union project 'Remodem', which aims to investigate ways to support people with dementia living in remote communities.

NHS Western Isles is placing a robot into the homes of people with dementia, as part of a pilot scheme to help them to continue to live independently. A relative or carer potentially hundreds of miles away can remotely drive the machine around the house to check that medication is being taken, and that food is being eaten.

The pair can also have a chat through a two-way video call system from any location. Their face will appear on the screen allowing them to chat to the other person. Former trials in Australia have demonstrated that dementia sufferers are not frightened by the Giraff.

EUROZONE



€1 = £0.86
€1 = \$1.31

Source: European Central Bank 18 July 2013

EU Bathing Water Rules



EU rules to safeguard public health and bathing waters were updated and simplified in 2006 to allow for a more proactive approach to be taken to inform the public about bathing water quality which now falls into one of four categories; 'poor', 'sufficient', 'good' and 'excellent'. This new approach builds on scientific knowledge on protecting health and the environment.

Certain parameters have changed and the authorities now have to inform the public about levels of both E-coli and faecal streptococci in all bathing water. The classification depends on a long-term 3-4 years trend, instead of a single year's result as was previously the case. This makes the new procedure more realistic and reliable than its predecessor, and makes classification less vulnerable to being skewed by bad weather or one-off incidents.

The UK, like all EU member states, monitors the quality of its waters, and the Commission is not expecting any major changes in the number of beaches that meet quality requirements this year, but if there are changes wouldn't you rather be informed of them, before you decide to get in the water?

CNES in Running for Prestigious European Energy Prize

CnES has been shortlisted to represent Scotland in the prestigious Renewable Energy Systems Champions League competition run by Intelligent Energy Europe. The Comhairle is competing for the 'Most Advanced RES Community' award in the fiercely contested 'Population less than 100,000' category. The Comhairle was selected to represent Scotland because of its long history of involvement in European Renewable Energy Projects and its commitment to reduce island Carbon emissions by at least 20% by 2020.



This '20 by 2020' target was established by the ISLEPACT project which the Comhairle led on behalf of 11 island groups across Europe. The target will be achieved through community generation of renewable electricity, implementation of the joint Comhairle / NHS Western Isles Carbon Management Plan and various other initiatives.

Over the past 10 years, the Comhairle has directly funded community energy projects with £1.4 million of grant investment and this has been matched by a similar amount from Community Energy Scotland enabling local communities to develop and deliver highly ambitious Renewable Energy schemes, making them leaders in Europe. With community wind turbines now appearing at Lochcarnan, Horshader, North Tolsta and Galson, local communities are beginning to seize the benefits of Renewable Energy while contributing to Outer Hebrides Carbon reduction targets.

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European Year of Citizens 2013 Event at Western Isles Hospital



To mark the European Year of Citizens 2013, which aims to inform EU citizens of their rights within the EU, the EDIC supported NHS Western Isles by providing an information stand on EU Citizens Health Care Rights. The EDIC also provided information on travelling rights and general rights of EU Citizens within the EU.

<http://europa.eu/citizens-2013/>

<http://www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk/>

Business Growth for Stag Bakeries



Stag Bakeries has a baking heritage dating back to 1885. In 2007 the company relocated to a new purpose-built bakery, allowing Stag to blend traditional recipes with modern craft bakery skills and technology. Great emphasis is placed

on training and development of the workforce ensuring that Stag can achieve consistently the standards that their customers have come to expect.

Now that they are well established in their new premises with its increased capacity, the company is keen to expand off-island into new markets. To help them grow their business further, Business Gateway has provided a £5,000 grant to assist Stag to further establish their brand, and develop new packaging. The company is currently opening up new national and international markets, thereby securing jobs and making the business more sustainable.

The funding was part-financed by the Comhairle and the



European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Croatia celebrates becoming the 28th member of the EU



On the 1st of July 2013 Croatia celebrated becoming an official member of the European Union and its 28th member. Croatia first applied for European Union membership in 2003, and after 10 years became successful in its bid.

Officially known as the Republic of Croatia it is a small Country, mainly made up of 1200 islands and islets. Its is located in Central and Southeast Europe bordering Bosnia, Herzegovina Hungary, Montenegro, Serbia and Salina. Its capital is Zagreb.

It has a population of approximately 4.5m. Croatian is the official language, making it the 24th official language of the European Union. It's current currency is the Kuna and Croatia will shortly change over to the Euro once having fulfilled the set criteria.

Left is a map of Croatia and the National Flag of Croatia

It is ranked the 18th most popular tourist destination, and has 116 lovely blue flagged beaches.

