

Crossroads North Argyll Update

We were successful in securing funding from Independent Age and The Community Recovery Fund to provide free respite for unpaid carers in Oban and Lorn for 3 months from November. Also included in the funding was money to develop a free respite pilot on the islands of Coll, Tiree and Mull.

Independent Age also gave us free tickets, for unpaid carers, to a Christmas Show "That'll be the Day" (the U.K.'s most popular touring Rock&Roll show). This was all done over Zoom. Feedback from the unpaid carers was that it was a very enjoyable evening in the comfort of their own homes. Normally, it is very difficult for unpaid carers to attend any shows like this, so it was a treat.

One quote from an unpaid carer – "Just wanted to say I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the show after watching it last night. It was like being at "The Royal Variety Show".

We were very lucky to be able to take our Monday Support Group, for unpaid carers, out for Christmas Lunch to Poppies. They thoroughly enjoyed it as they get picked up from home and driven to Poppies. Their meal is paid for and they got a wee gift from Santa too. We received funding from The Oban Common Good Fund, to run the Monday Support Group.

One Quote from an unpaid carer – "I had a great time at Poppies for our Christmas Lunch. It was like I was being looked after for once. It is nice to meet with other unpaid carers as they understand what being in a caring role is like. The staff at Crossroads are great."

The Board and myself had to take the difficult decision to cease face-to-face support from January of this year because of the existing lockdown. All staff are keeping in touch with the unpaid carers by phone and also doing doorstep visits, picking up prescriptions and groceries if required.

Some of the staff have now received their vaccination, so we will hopefully be on our way to opening up the face-to-face support again soon, when it is safe to do so, following the proper guidelines.