

Mar a thàinig na frith-rathaidean dha Na Bàigh

Eist ri Coinneach Alasdair Choinnich à Scadabhagh ag innse mu na duilgheadasan a bha an cois siubhal air ais ‘s air adhart à Scadabhagh ‘s na bailtean timcheall, ri linn athair. Chaidh seo a chlàradh ann an 1983. **Dur: 1.58**

Cha robh rathaidean no fiù frith-rathaidean as Na Bàigh ri linn Alasdair Choinnich, athair Choinnich Chaimbeul. Bha each agus cairt aig Alasdair ach bha a’ chairt a’ fuireach ann am Miabhag, faisg air an rathad, agus bha an t-each a’ tighinn dhachaidh a Scadabhagh gach oidhche. As a’ gheamhradh, no an uair a bhiodh droch-shìde ann, dh’ fheumadh Alasdair a bhean a thoirt leis nuair a bhiodh e a’ dol tarsuinn na mòintich gu ruige Greosabhagh. Bha seo gun fhios nach deadh an t-each ann am boglach ‘s gum b’ urrainn a bhean a dhol a dh’ iarraidh cuideachadh fhads a dh’ fhuiricheadh e fhèin còmhla ris a’ bheathach. Cha robh mòran eich às Na Bàigh aig an àm sin oir cha robh an talamh idir freagarrach dhaibh.

Thàinig a’ chiad frith-rathad nuair a dhùin Sgoil nan Leadaidhean ann an Scadabhagh agus dh’ fhosgail Sgoil Dhrinisiadar a bha a’ frithealadh air clann à Miabhag, Drinisiadar agus Scadabhagh. Chleachd iadsan am frith-rathad airson bliadhnaichean mòra an dèidh sin gus an tàinig an rathad-mòr mu dheireadh thall.

Tha Coinneach ag innse mar a chaidh am frith-rathad a leudachadh gu ruige Greosabhagh. Bha seo mar chobhair air iasgairean agus luchd-siubhail mara à Stocinis, Cliubhair no Greosabhagh nach b’ urrainn an t-slighe timcheall Rubha Reibinis a dhèanamh ri linn droch-shìde. Leagadh iad acair aig Plocrapol agus chleachdadh iad am frith-rathad airson coiseachd dhachaidh.

The first footpaths in The Bays

Audio of Kenneth Campbell from Scadabay telling about the difficulties involved in overland travel between the neighbouring villages in his father’s time. This item was recorded in 1983. **Dur: 1.58**

There were no roads or footpaths in The Bays in Alasdair Campbell’s day. Alasdair owned a horse and cart but he had to leave the cart in Miavag, close to the road, and ride his horse home to Scadabay each evening. In the winter when there was bad weather Alasdair used to take his wife with him when he had to cross the moor to Grosebay. This was so that she could go for help if the horse happened to get trapped in a bog. There weren’t many horses in The Bays at that time as the land wasn’t suitable for them. The first footpath was created when the Ladies’ School in Scadabay closed and a new school was built in Drinishader. This school catered for pupils from Miavag, Drinishader and Scadabay. Its first pupils and the following generations used the footpath to get to school until the long-awaited main road was built.

Kenneth tells how the footpath was then extended to Grosebay as an “emergency road”. Fishing boats from Cluer, Stockinish and Grosebay that couldn’t make it round Rubha Reibinis dropped anchor at Plocrapool and took the footpath home from there.

