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**Job Vacancies**

- Fabricator of uPVC windows & doors (Nessglaze)
- Development Worker (Laxdale Community Association)
- Apprentice Emergency Gas Responder (SGNI)
- Domestic assistant (Western Isles Health Board)
- Catering Assistant (NHS Stornoway)
- Work Experience Opportunity for a Care Experienced Person (ISCRA)
- Time served Joiners (O'Mac Construction)
- Development Worker (Newtown Community Association)

[MORE JOB VACANCIES](#)

**N&W Lewis News**

- Spiorad na Mara survey resumes
- New Lewis Revival book to launch

[MORE N&W LEWIS NEWS](#)

**Barra News**

- Bùth Bharraigh celebrates 10th birthday
- Fashion show fun for pupils

[MORE BARRA NEWS](#)

**Uist News**

- Weather favours ailing MV Loch Portain
- Edge of the World screens at TC
- Supermarket in charity album pledge
- Co-op members raise charity cash
- Benbecula endorsement for Modern Apprenticeships

[MORE UIST NEWS](#)

**Harris News**

- Weather favours ailing MV Loch Portain
- Lost campers found by ranger

[MORE HARRIS NEWS](#)

**For sale, for free**

- Double Mattress - free!
- Belling Farmhouse (town) gas cooker and electric (2) ovens for sale

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**Introducing The Redefined CFO**  
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**MUCK RACK** A PR Guide To Journalists  
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Friday 24th November 2023  
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Donald Maclean of Lochs MOT is offering EV services in the Western Isles.

**Lochs MOT brings EV servicing to Western Isles**

CREATED: 14 NOVEMBER 2023

General News

Electric car owners in the Western Isles finally have a garage at which to get their vehicles serviced.

Lochs MOT Centre in Leurbost has expanded its operations to include the servicing and repairing of electric vehicles (EVs), including a callout service, meaning an end to drivers needing to travel to the mainland to have any work done.

The filling of the Western Isles EV void comes thanks to an investment in specialist tools and training from Lochs MOT owner Donald Maclean, who has brought in EV battery repair equipment and achieved the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) Level 4 qualification that allows the diagnosis, testing and repair of electric/hybrid vehicles and their components.

Donald's decision to make his garage - which has three permanent staff and four part-time staff - a qualified EV repair centre came three months ago and stemmed from the lack of options given to the increasing amount of electric car owners in the Hebrides.

"If you were driving here with an electric car there is no place to get a service. If you get a flat, a garage can change a tire, but they cannot service your vehicle," he says.

"Everyone is building the renewables, the windmills, the energy, but who is doing the vehicles?"



Donald takes a look at an EV battery at Lochs MOT.

This lack of qualified local EV garages has meant that car owners have been forking out double in order to have their cars checked in mainland locations such as Inverness.

"A service could be £200. But to get that done in Inverness I would have to also book the ferry, get my food, lose a day of work, and I would have a huge mileage on the vehicle," Donald says.

"You are talking anything from £350 to £500 just to get your vehicles serviced, and you have lost time. Plus we are exporting jobs."

The reticence for island garages to take the plunge into working with EV batteries has much to do with cost. Upgrading his garage and skillset was a major expense for Donald, whose training was undertaken in the south of England and he estimates cost around £4,000 when accommodation and travel are included. A garage needing to purchase tools and train a mechanic from scratch could be paying as much as £24,000, he believes.



A selection of specially insulated tools required to work on electric vehicles.

Nonetheless Lochs MOT made the change as an investment in the future. Although **the Western Isles remains in the bottom ten green transport regions in the UK** with only **400 battery or hybrid vehicles estimated to be on the islands in 2022** (2 per cent of all vehicles), philosophical and legal changes are brewing. UK law currently aims to ban the sale of petrol and diesel cars from 2035, with the consequence being that **sales in electric vehicles rose 20 per cent in 2022**.

Similarly, per ChargePlace Scotland, the **islands now also have 41 public EV charging stations**, not including private or commercial properties charging their own vehicles, and there is a financial incentive for large employers such as the council and NHS to have vehicles repaired on the island rather than sending them across the Minch for multiple days.

By choosing to take on the burden, and reaching out for support from Business Gateway and Energy Saving Trust, Donald hopes his garage - which he started five years ago after concluding a career as a lorry driver and wind turbine mechanic because he "wanted to come home" - will be in a prime position for a future trend.

It is a hope that EV drivers in the Western Isles will share, having been so long left in an infrastructure desert.

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**Funeral Notices**

- Funeral of the late Kenneth Macritchie
- Funeral of the late Dolina Macaskill
- Funeral of the late Alistair S Mackenzie

Placing Funeral Notices on welovestornoway.com

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**Uist community Info**

Skittles return to Berneray Hall  
Skittles are returning to Berneray Community Hall later this week after the success of a debut...

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Athletics Club fundraising ceillidh  
North Uist Amateur Athletics Club is holding a fundraising ceillidh on Friday, December 8, in...

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Family support drop-in at Cothrom  
Cothrom is hosting a Family Engagement event next Wednesday (November 22) to capture local opinion on what...

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Gaelic-speaking accommodation required  
North Uist adult Gaelic language school, Love Gaelic, is looking for more Gaelic-speaking...

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Update - Nov 17 - Christmas events roundup  
Christmas is fast approaching, and we have compiled a list to help you keep tabs on the...

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Berneray Ri Chèile Ceilidh  
A Ri Chèile Ceilidh is planned for Berneray Hall on Saturday, November 25. The ceilidh, taking...

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Sollas Week 2024 dates  
The ever-popular Sollas Week next year will take place between July 13 and 20, Taigh Sgìre Sholais have...

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Cemetery upkeep fund appeal  
Contributions are being sought from each local household for the upkeep and maintenance of...

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Digital camera workshop on machair  
If you have a digital camera but are not making the most of it, you may be interested to hear that...

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GCA book sale raises over £500  
Grimsay Community Association raised over £500 at their weekend secondhand book sale. After...

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**Community Info**

Christmas lights to shine through isles  
The spirit of the holiday season will soon illuminate the Western Isles as Christmas lights are...

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Marybank and Maryhill Community Association EGM Thursday 7 December  
**Marybank and Maryhill Community Association EGM**  
Please come along to the dining room at the Failte...

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Seasonal grazings for let  
**SEASONAL GRAZINGS FOR LET (NOT FOR HORSES) Arnish Road Grazings (3.88ha approx) Gress Park (approx...**

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New Lewis Revival book to launch  
A new book aiming to separate truth from exaggeration in the Lewis Revival is to hold a launch...

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Soup and Pudding Lunch - 25 November  
**ISLE OF LEWIS CANCER RESEARCH COMMITTEE**  
**SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 12:00 - 2:00 M. A. MACLEOD...**

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AGM of Western Isles Foyer  
The 2023 **Annual General Meeting** of Western Isles Foyer will take place on Thursday 7th December...

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AGM of Third Sector Hebrides and Volunteering Hebrides  
**NOTICE OF MEETING** of the 2023 **Annual General Meeting** of Third Sector Hebrides and Volunteering...

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World Gaelic Week funding available  
Funding is again being made available for those wishing to celebrate Seachdain na Gàidhlig (World...

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Islands Book Trust AGM  
**Islands Book Trust ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING to be held in person and via the Zoom platform, at...**

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UOG publishes annual report ahead of AGM  
Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn published its annual report yesterday (Thursday November 2), ahead of...

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