

Chapter 1 : The Hebrides, Scotland

Riddoch on the Outer Hebrides is a thought-provoking commentary based on broadcaster Lesley Riddoch's cycle journey through a beautiful island chain facing seismic.

Thoughts on Hebridean women Is it easier to sing than speak out? It follows on from the Lewis Women shows in the past, the first of which was held in to mark the opening of the new An Lanntair arts centre. These concerts brought together some of the finest Gaelic singers from the island and now the concept has been extended to the whole of the Outer Hebrides. It brings together singers from the Butt to Barra, and across the generations too. You can guarantee a night of world-class singing. If Hebridean Women can express themselves so beautifully in song, and in all other art forms, why then does the Hebridean Woman not seem to have much of A Voice in public life? While there are women who occupy big positions in the culture sector – Caroline MacLennan as HebCelt festival director has to be the example here – they are conspicuous by their absence in civic life. There are only three female councillors at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, out of Looking at the numbers, absolutely nothing has changed since she was writing in For so many of these Hebridean women were firebrands. Tough as old boots – and totally in charge at home – but fierce and smart too. Plenty of them were political animals, albeit domesticated ones whose strong views about current affairs were mainly aired inside the house. She would shout at the politicians on the telly and I remember her yelling: If I could catch him, I would break his teeth with a stick! My late granny, in spirited form as usual, and me Then there were the Herring Girls, who travelled the length and breadth of the country, working in the most uncomfortable conditions. During our blether about Hebridean Women, Alex Macdonald recalled how her granny, a Herring Girl, was all over, from Shetland to Lowestoft, and then went on to help with the War effort in a munitions factory. After the War, women reverted to the more traditional female roles, with the importance of home heightened so painfully with the loss of the Iolaire. The menfolk benefited from these strong, nurturing, supportive mothers – former Chancellor Alistair Darling, who has a Lewis mother, is a case in point – but the number of women in public life has been startlingly small over the past century. Baillie Julia Fraser chaired committees of the town council nearly years ago. Ann Urquhart was the first Lady Provost, 50 years ago. There have been no female conveners of the council and no female MPs or MSPs, although there have been a few female candidates. While opportunities have opened up a lot more for women – since the 60s, in particular, with the advent of contraception – there are still barriers. A big one is our fear of the labels we could attract. Language can be so powerful. Watson, who gave a speech at the UN in to launch their campaign for gender equality, said: It was ammunition used against me because I was so afraid of being called spoilt or difficult. You have to let your perception of yourself have a lot more weight. There was the previous timings of meetings – going back 15 years, they would go on until 9 or 10pm, sometimes even later if it was really controversial – and also the perception that these meetings were rather combative. Take this exchange, overheard in a bank in Stornoway last week. A bodach was carrying out his business when he asked his female bank clerk one of three on that day: Sometimes that sexism is very subtle. After all, what did she know? Getting shot in the head might have had something to do with it. But it might be time for the Hebridean Woman to shed her self-consciousness, rediscover her inner firebrand, and speak out. If that means going for public office, so much the better. And who cares what anyone else says or thinks.

Chapter 2 : Riddoch on the Outer Hebrides by Lesley Riddoch

Setting off on a cycling tour of the Highlands, Lesley Riddoch was expecting aching legs and midge bites - what she did not anticipate was discovering a race of people on the brink of losing their ancient ways of life forever. In this book she looks at the people of the Hebrides, exploring the.

Early career[edit] Born in Wolverhampton , England, Riddoch moved with her Scottish parents to Belfast in , then to Glasgow in , where she attended Drewsteignton, a fee-paying private school then located in the affluent suburb of Bearsden. In she attended the University of Oxford and graduated with an honours degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. She was also elected president of the student union in After graduating she studied for a postgraduate diploma in journalism at Cardiff University. Journalism[edit] She founded and directed a feminist magazine known as Harpies and Quines which launched in The magazine ceased trading in , having been declared bankrupt after cashflow problems. Writing columns for The National , The Scotsman , and occasionally The Guardian , in she was shortlisted for the Orwell prize, [2] an award given to those judged to be making political writing into an art form. In Riddoch won a Cosmopolitan woman award for Communication and in her Radio Scotland production team won a best talk show award. Between and she had her own daily radio programme the Lesley Riddoch on Radio Scotland. In she chaired the Celtic Film and Television Festival , a small festival rewarding non-English language productions. In , she produced and presented an independent documentary about the history and development of the Dundee waterfront called "The Great Tay Bridge Mystery â€” Who Dunnit? Other work[edit] Riddoch was involved in the buyout of Eigg by the local community. She assisted in putting together the buyout plan and later became a trustee of the Isle of Eigg Trust. The trust bought the island in In , Riddoch served as a member of the Scottish Prisons Commission. In , she published her account of a cycle journey up the Outer Hebrides , Riddoch on the Outer Hebrides. This book had been based on a BBC Radio Scotland series On the Bike; in which over 13 weeks Riddoch cycled from Barra to the Butt of Lewis meeting the characters, enjoying the craic and observing the customs of the Hebridean islands. She has also worked with African women journalists to help them create a monthly webpaper called Africawoman â€” three editions of their own paper were distributed on trains and buses in Scotland prior to the Gleneagles summit In early , Riddoch co-founded the think tank, Nordic Horizons with Scottish Government funding â€” which has brought Nordic experts and specialists to Scotland to share social policy insights and experiences. In , Riddoch published Blossom: What Scotland Needs To Flourish, in which she relates stories of Scots who have struggled against the odds to improve their communities and makes comparisons with the Nordic nations to suggest ways forward for Scotland.

Chapter 3 : Riddoch on the Outer Hebrides | Books from Scotland

Riddoch, a radio journalist in Scotland, herein travels the length of the Outer Hebrides, mostly by bicycle, from the island of Barra in the south to the Butt of Lewis - a headland - in the north, to report on the state of the Gaels and all things Gaelic: the traditional occupations (weaving, fishing, crofting), religion, music, and language.

Chapter 4 : Is it easier to sing than speak out? Thoughts on Hebridean women â€” Hebrides Writer

Riddoch on the Outer Hebrides She met an amazing set of characters; posties, weavers, story tellers and shamanic astrologers to name but a few. The radio programmes broadcast on BBC Radio Scotland were very popular.

Chapter 5 : cycling in the hebrides | Download eBook PDF/EPUB

"Riddoch on the Outer Hebrides" is a thought-provoking commentary based on broadcaster Lesley Riddoch's cycle journey through a beautiful island chain facing seismic cultural and economic change.

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Riddoch on the Outer Hebrides By (author) Lesley Riddoch "Riddoch on the Outer Hebrides" is a thought-provoking commentary based on broadcaster Lesley Riddoch's cycle journey through a beautiful island chain facing seismic cultural and economic change.

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Lesley Riddoch is an awarding winning broadcaster and journalist who writes regularly for the Scotsman and Guardian, this is her blog. Another side of Lesley Riddoch: *Riddoch on the Outer Hebrides* Another side of Lesley Riddoch.

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