



The 15th Clan MacLeod Jubilee Parliament

Lewis ✨ Harris ✨ Skye ✨ Raasay
26 July ~ 5 August 2006

Orbost visit, Wednesday 02 August

Please be ready to board the Orbost coach at **13.45** at the Dunvegan Community Hall. The bus will leave promptly at 14.00 for our short trip to Orbost. Please note that we will be on foot and outside at Orbost, and the areas where we will walk include uneven gravel roadways and grassy areas.

Archaeological investigations across Skye have uncovered evidence of human occupation in an unbroken sequence from prehistoric times to the present day. Contemporary Orbost is a working example of a sustainable mixed use, rural island economy. While there are some tourist-oriented enterprises, Orbost residents today are employed in a variety of artisan and agricultural interests, as well as in traditional trades. The Orbost Estate was purchased in 1997 by Highlands and Islands Enterprise in partnership with Skye and Lochalsh Enterprise to provide new opportunities for economic and cultural regeneration.

We will be greeted at Orbost Farm by Rachael Jackson, one of many MacLeods featured in James Hunter's book "Scottish Exodus". Rachael will introduce us to the history of the area and describe the economic plans for the future. She and her husband operate "Early Bird Enterprises", and their farm features wild boar (which we may be able to spy in the woods), Soay sheep, and Highland cattle. "Isle of Skye Fresh Produce" is another Orbost farm that we can also visit, which supplies locally grown vegetables to restaurants and individuals both on and off Skye. The farm is owned by Roger and Fiona Whiddon, and includes field grown and "greenhouse" activities. Orbost is also the home of musical instrument maker Seamus MacKinnon and stonemason Niall Tonagh.

There will be a few craft stalls open for us, with items for sale produced in Orbost and neighboring communities. Items will include the work of photographer Phil Gorten, print maker Marion MacPhee, felt bags and handmade jewelry by Rowena MacKinnon, and wool from Dragonfly Studios.

At 15.00 a short archaeological walk will be led by George Kozikowski. Participants will leave from the parking lot and visit several sites featuring the ruins of black houses as well as an iron age settlement. If there is time, the walk will include a visit to the black sand beaches at Loch Bharcasaig.

The coach will return at 16.15 to take us back to Dunvegan Hall.

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