# Highland

# **COACH TOURS**



## From the Potting Shed

A glorious summer arrived in mid-May, and it has been wall to wall, non-stop sunshine for several memorable weeks now.

The attraction of good weather and a favourable forecast gave a clear window for a man to take his boat out and have a look at the Outer Hebrides and further westward to the Islands of St Kilda. A good sailing friend of many years arranged to join us and we set sail from Oban on the 28th May at 7am.

After visiting the Islands of Iona, Treshnish and Barra, we arrived at a little place called Leverburgh on the Island of Harris. The next morning we were off at dawn out into the Atlantic Ocean, heading due west. My old seafaring skills had not deserted me and by noon we were cruising round some of the most lonely islands in Europe, surrounded by clouds of sea birds, 1000ft cliffs and being entertained by the occasional Minke whale. Saw lots of

dolphins on the way as an added treat! St Kilda was evacuated in 1930 and now only a small military presence and three wardens stay on the

We were back on Harris late that evening and off for Oban and the mainland at the crack of dawn, crossing the Minch and visiting Portree on the Isle of Skye. Our quests just made their flight from Glasgow, and everyone slept for 12 hours totally exhausted, sunburned and happy!!!

#### All the very best to everyone!

lan Cleaver MD and Head Gardener







### onald and the Arab Sheik

Sheik Abdul Amunkir was admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Glasgow for heart surgery, but prior to the surgery, the doctors needed a supply of his blood in case the need arose. As the gentleman had a rare type of blood, it couldn't be found locally, so, the call went out for help.

Finally the NHS located one Donald from Drumcrea who had a similar blood type. Donald willingly donated his blood for the Sheik.

After the surgery, Sheik Abdul sent Donald, as appreciation for giving his blood, a new BMW, diamonds and £10,000 in cash.

A few days later, once again, the Sheik had to go through corrective surgery. His doctor telephoned Donald who was more than happy to donate his blood again. After the second surgery, the Sheik sent Donald a thank-you card and a quarter bottle of cheap whisky.

Donald was shocked that the Sheik did not reciprocate his kind gesture as he had anticipated. He phoned the Sheik and asked him, 'I thought you would be generous again, that you would give me a BMW, diamonds and some money, but you only gave me a thank-you card and a quarter bottle of whisky.'

To this the Sheik replied, "Ochone, Ochone, laddie, but I now have West Highland blood runnin' through ma veins!!!"

### To book or for further information call:

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(9am - 10pm 7 days)

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