

Back to St Kilda

Background

It's the year 2015. The British Army have left St Kilda. They have demolished their buildings, and all that's left are the old thatched houses in a row above the bay. Some of them still have roofs, but a large number are falling apart.

A wealthy individual from Canada has bought St Kilda and is setting up a special project. Fifteen years earlier he saw *Castaway 2000* on television in which a group of people were left on the island of Taransay for a year. But this project is going to be very different in two ways - there will be no communication whatever between St Kilda and the outside world, and the people will be there for *twelve* years. There will be no outside help available to them.



The Canadian sponsor wants to prove that people in today's world can survive in remote inhospitable places. He wants to recruit twelve people to build a home, life and livelihood for themselves and to create a new community which will survive them.

The question is - who will be selected and why?

Selection

In your groups you have to select twelve people who will be suitable for the project. You need to choose people with a variety of skills and attributes. The list of applicants is on the reverse side of this sheet.

Consider these points:

- how useful will each person be?
- how might people endanger the project?
- how and why would they be an asset?
- might people be useful in areas other than the work-related?
- would there be room for the elderly and very young?
- the community won't be working all the time - how will they socialise and relax?
- if you choose only one person from a couple or family group, what kind of reaction might you expect?

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Applicants

Aonghas Bàn MacMhathain (42) (M). Poet and short story writer. Formerly a carpenter working on house furniture and new buildings.

Catrìona Nic a' Bhriuthainn (38) (F). Journalist. Works in radio and television, but previously specialised in print media.

Ceit-Anna NicDhùghaill (45) (F). Housewife. Worked in a shop before she married.

Seòras MacDhùghaill (50) (M). Shopkeeper. Married to Ceit-Anna. Has a small shop where he works on his own. His wife worked there before their marriage but he does not agree with married women working outside the home.

Donnchadh MacSuain (39) (M). Works in a garage. Lost his wife four years earlier. Has two children - **Marsaili** (8) (F) and **Niall** (6) (M).

Eachann MacAmhlaigh (24) (M). Police constable in Aberdeen. Did a university course in forestry.

Seònaid Mhoireach (23) (F). Eachann's girlfriend. Hairdresser. Raised in the city. Has a daughter by Eachann - **Melanie** (2). Pregnant.

Eilidh Chamshron (28) (F). Separated from a sheep and cattle farmer in Sutherland. Qualified in nutrition and catering. Pregnant.

Iagan Bochanan (47) (M) Priest. Was a secondary school science teacher before entering the priesthood.

Maighread Ghrannnd (26) (F). Mental Health nurse. Did not do a General Nursing course.

Màiri Ghreumach (43) (F). Dancer with Scottish Ballet and PE teacher in secondary schools.

Calum Greumach (24) (M). Màiri's. Bus driver and mechanic.

Iseabail NicLeòid (23) (F). Calum's girlfriend. Gardener in city parks. Experienced in growing herbs and vegetables.

Niall Greumach (21) (M). Màiri's. University music student.

Murchadh MacIllFhinnein (64) (F). Minister in the Free Church of Scotland. Was a Civil Servant before entering the ministry.

Peigi NicIllFhinnein (60) (F). Murchadh's wife. Primary teacher before she retired earlier this year.

Seòras MacIllFhinnein (33) (M). Murchadh and Peigi's son. Unable to work since an accident sustained as a teenager. Barely able to walk unaided.

Seumas Stiùbhart (36) (M). Doctor. Builds boats and plays the accordion in his spare time. He is gay.

Dòmhnall Iain MacFhionghain (34) (M). Small farmer. As well as farming he has been involved in fish-farming. Seumas's boyfriend.

Sìne Robasdan (22) (F). Secretary to a company manager. Accounting and computer skills.

Alasdair MacMhaoilein (27) (M). Works in Information Technology. Sìne's boyfriend.

Ùisdean Caimbeul (54) (M). Has had a serious and health-endangering drink problem for 20 years. Stone-mason. Wants the chance to make a new life for himself.

Agnes Dhòmhnallach (52) (F). Ùisdean's sister. Cook in a hospital for over 30 years. Has a drink problem.

Lachlann Dòmhnallach (55). Agnes's husband. Fire-fighter and First Aider. Has a drink problem.

Ùna NicAonghais (57). Schhol cleaner. Separated from her husband. Grown-up children with their own families.