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## STAFFIN NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2014



Autumn sun over Clachan

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~ THE LATEST NEWS FROM  
THE TAOBH SEAR ~

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### **Staffin First Responders**

EFFORTS to set up a medical emergency volunteer service in Staffin have sparked an encouraging response. Several local people have indicated they would be willing to take part in training for the Community First Responders initiative, which sees volunteers respond to some 999 calls. The Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS), in partnership with Staffin Community Council, held an information event about the scheme, which already runs in Raasay and Glendale, earlier this month.

The scheme sees trained volunteers who live locally respond to emergency calls, prior to the arrival of an ambulance.

Having trained first responders in Staffin could be a huge asset in the wake of an emergency such as a sudden cardiac arrest, given the distance to the district from the ambulance station and Portree Hospital.

In the event of a 999 call the SAS control centre despatches the nearest

ambulance and then contacts the local first responders who are on duty. They make their way to the scene, providing a better chance for the patient to recover.

The SAS has stressed that first responders do not replace the need for an ambulance, but only enhance the service already in place and can help save lives in harder to reach areas.

At the information event several people indicated to the community council chairwoman Norma Young and the SAS's Alan Knox and Mairi Mooney they would be willing to participate in training and be disclosure-checked.

At least six people are required but preferably eight. They would work in pairs and a rota would be drawn up. Volunteers could put themselves down for as few, or as many nights as they could manage. A minimum of two day's training is required for prospective first responders. It is hoped to arrange the training over two consecutive Saturdays in the New Year.

**The SAS will return to Staffin to hold a follow-up information event on a date to be confirmed in January.**

If anybody is interested in becoming a first responder please contact Norma via [norma.young@highland.gov.uk](mailto:norma.young@highland.gov.uk) or Mairi [mairi.mooney@nhs.net](mailto:mairi.mooney@nhs.net)

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### **Staffin Hall**

MORE than £38,000 has been secured in funding for the proposed new gym in the Staffin Hall.

And the volunteer-run Hall Association is now seeking local residents to join a steering group to develop the ambitious project.

The association came up with the idea of converting the attic above the foyer

into a gym earlier this year. The idea found favour locally following surveys and social media coverage. Martin Perry, the association's chairman, said he was delighted the project was awarded £33,350 from the People's Health Trust.

Martin has also now had confirmation that a further £5,000 has been granted from Highland Council's ward discretionary fund.

"Along with £5,000 from our own funds, this should give us a good facility, including a fitness instructor," he said.

"We now need to put together a steering group to manage the project and make decisions."

Anybody interested in getting involved can get in touch via the shop, email martinperry052@btinternet.com or message the Talla Stafainn Facebook page. A Staffin Hall gym would be an important and popular facility for residents, visitors and other organisations in the community.

Aerobic exercise machines, treadmills, static cycle, rowing-machine and cross trainers could be installed although weights are unlikely because of the potential noise which could affect Hall users and customers to the restaurant.

### **Bun-sgoil Stafainn**

PUPILS from both Staffin and Kilmuir came home laden with silverware following the Royal National Mòd in October.

Youngsters from Bun-Sgoil Stafainn and Kilmuir Primary teamed up as Clann Thròndairnis to win the folk group category.

The group, made up of Megan MacIver, Jonathan Beaton, Isla MacLeod and Erin Gillies, won top prize and were presented with the

Murdo MacFarlane Trophy for under 13-year-olds.

Trotternish children previously won the same competition at the 2012 Mòd held in Dunoon.

The Trotternish pupils also won the action group, drama (Donald MacDonald Memorial Trophy) and waulking song (The Harris Tweed Authority Award) competitions at the Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail.

*Meanwhile, the Mens Gold Medal was won by Angus MacLeod, an Inverness solicitor who has strong Staffin ties. Angus' grandfather Alec Fraser, who hailed from Clachan, was a former headmaster of Staffin School in the post-WW2 war period. Angus' mother Catherine spent part of her childhood in Staffin, along with brothers Archie and Neil.*



Jubilant Trotternish pupils at the Mòd

**Results:** Bun-sgoil Stafainn  
Piano under-13 1st Isla NicLeòid & The Jenny MB Currie Kilt Pin;  
Bagpipes Open under-13 3rd Jonathan Peutan; Folk groups under-13 1st Clann Thròndairnis & Murdo MacFarlane trophy, £500 voucher (The Highland Council Fujitsu prize);  
Action song open under-13 1st Clann Thròndairnis; Drama open under-13 1st Clann Thròndairnis; Waulking songs Open under-19 1st Clann Thròndairnis & The Harris Tweed Authority Trophy;

Presenting a Psalm under-13 2nd Isla NicLeòid; Prescribed song age 7-8 1st Ross MacLeòid; Story telling age 9-10 3rd Erin Nic'Illosa; Story telling age 11-12 3rd Isla NicLeòid; Traditional singing under-13 3rd equal Isla NicLeòid; Clàrsach intermediate 1 Juniors 1st Anna NicNeacail The K Barry Miller trophy; Art poster age 7-8 2nd Ross MacLeòid; Art poster age 9-10 1st Erin Nic'Illosa; Art poster age 11-12 3rd Isla NicLeòid; Bible reading age 9-13 1st Isla NicLeòid; Literary age 11-12 2nd Isla NicLeòid; Reading prose under-13 1st Isla NicLeòid; Dancing Lexy NicLeòid - 1x1st; 2x2nd; 1x3rd and 2x5th

#### **Colonel Jock results:**

Singing Erin Nic'Illosa 2nd  
Chanter Declan Malloy 1st  
Clàrsach Erin Nic'Illosa 2nd  
Anna NicNeacail 1<sup>st</sup>  
Piping Jonathan Peutan 3rd  
(Clàrsach results for girls are for their respective age groups)

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#### **Staffin Remembers the Fallen**



The wreaths laid at the War Memorial

THE names of the men from Staffin who lost their lives in conflicts across

the world were read out at two Remembrance Sunday services. Donald MacLeod, Culnacnoc, and Lachie Gillies, Stenscholl, read out the full names of the men who perished in the First and Second World Wars, including their home townships and rank in the military. Donald did the honours at the Valtos War memorial where more than 20 people gathered. A two-minute silence was held after the last name was read out. Wreaths on behalf of the community council and Staffin's Scottish and Fire Rescue Service unit – who were in full uniform – were also laid.

Following the Valtos service there was a similar tribute at the Staffin War Memorial. Around 40 people, including several youngsters, were in attendance. There was a prayer and Psalm 23 was sung. Lachie read out the memorial's names including that of a soldier who fought in the Boer War. It is the only memorial in Skye and Lochalsh where a casualty from that conflict is listed.

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#### **Sale of Work**

A MAGNIFICENT £14,296 was raised for Cancer Research UK after its annual sale of work in Staffin. The charity's Skye and Lochalsh branch thanked everybody who helped in the Staffin Hall on November 8.

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#### **The Staffin Community Trust ~ Urras An Taobh Sear**

A NEW website – [www.staffin-trust.co.uk](http://www.staffin-trust.co.uk) - was launched in September and has already become a hugely popular online destination for locals and people all over the world. In October there were more than 860 website users, with 417 people new to

the site. More than 2,200 page views were also recorded and there have been visitors from every continent in the world. Ninety per cent of the website traffic originates in the UK, with the USA, Canada and Australia being home to the next most popular. There have also been people logging on from Afghanistan, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates.

The Staffin Trust regards the website as a hugely important economic tool in promoting Staffin. It will also help keep residents informed about its various projects, which is particularly important as we now live in an era which is dominated by the internet. However, the Trust is keenly aware that not everybody has internet access, particularly older members of our community, and will continue to hold regular meetings and community consultations. Anybody can drop in and talk to the development officer Hugh Ross about the Trust projects at the portakabin anytime.



[www.staffin-trust.co.uk](http://www.staffin-trust.co.uk)

We have created a Staffin Business Directory page on the website which will showcase local shops, cafes, B&Bs, self-catering accommodation, visitor attractions etc. Each business will have a photograph and summary, plus contact details. The annual fee will be £20, payable to the Staffin Trust.

Anybody wishing to feature on the page should contact Hugh on 562 464,

e-mail [staffin.ldo@gmail.com](mailto:staffin.ldo@gmail.com) or call in at the portakabin.

We also intend to set up a “Staffin Photo from the Past” page. If anybody has any old pictures they would like to see featured please drop them off to Hugh. All pictures will of course be returned.

- **Staffin Slipway** - Work on the various feasibility studies investigating the potential seafood processing facility and marina development the Slip is progressing. The Trust hopes to be in a position early in the New Year to share the reports’ findings with the community and progress the development.
- **Affordable Housing** – The Trust is working in partnership with the Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association and Highland Council to identify potential sites for affordable homes. It is a key objective, particular as the school roll continues to fall. So far, three different locations have been suggested and are being investigated. The merits of the sites will be discussed by the Trust directors with input from the association, council and landowner(s). Anybody wishing to suggest a potential site in Staffin for affordable housing has until November 30 to do so.
- **Ecomuseum** – The paths, archaeological and economic feasibility studies into the proposed footpaths are nearing completion. The Trust hopes to present detailed proposals in the New Year for further community consultation.

### The Flodigarry Trust

STUDENTS from all over the world studied Gàidhlig in Flodigarry this summer.

Urras Baile Fhlodaigearraidh Community Company continues to offer, in collaboration with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, residential courses in the development of fluency in spoken Gàidhlig.

Two courses for advanced Gàidhlig learners took place this summer. The July course hosted a smaller number of students with the August course also hosting a cohort of learners from various Scottish universities, in addition to the other course participants. The university students hailed from places as diverse as Seattle, USA and Poland, as well as British students. These courses, through the disciplines and experiences planned allow students to progress their learning and proficiency in the language through interaction in Gàidhlig in a more natural and practical setting, throughout the week. Our other plans are progressing steadily and we would hope to meet with the community again, to provide an update, before too long. Further information on course dates for 2015 is available.

[www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/cursaichean-goirid](http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/cursaichean-goirid) or  
[www.flodigarrytownshiptrust/courses](http://www.flodigarrytownshiptrust/courses)

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### Columba 1400

AN EXHIBITION about the family history and art collection of two sisters with strong Staffin ties has begun in Columba 1400.

Catriona and Mairead MacDonald, were born in Karachi, Pakistan, to Skye parents in the 1920s. The family travelled extensively throughout the world but retained their island

links. The multi-cultural flavour is reflected in Catriona and Mairead's work, which includes cartoons, wallpaper designs, textiles and ceramic studies.



The MacDonald sisters.

The exhibition takes in their influences like Stenscholl, Portree, Karachi, London, Durban, Malta and Sark. The exhibition at Columba has samples of the artwork alongside photographs, travel memorabilia and the sisters' family tree. Catriona and Mairead's mother was Margaret (Maggie) MacKinnon, one of a large family of MacKinnons from "Lynton" in Stenscholl.

She had married Dugald Macdonald from Portree, a banker in Karachi, then part of British India.

The family lived away most of their lives, although Catriona died in the Haven care home in Uig in 2006. Maggie MacKinnon's sister, Marion, was John ("Bertie") MacKenzie's grandmother. Another brother of Maggie and Marion was Murdo Mackinnon, the well-known Doctor Beag. It runs from November 14 to December 12, between 10am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, upstairs on the Knowledge Deck.

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A FUN Quiz Night takes place in the Staffin Hall on Friday, November 28, starting at 7.30pm.

The entry fee is £3 per person. BYOB.

