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# TAFFIN NEWSLETTER

Summer 2014



~ THE LATEST NEWS FROM  
THE TAOBH SEAR ~

## Staffin Sheep Dog Trials

STAFFIN is poised to again play host to an exciting day of world-class sheep dog trials. Around 60 handlers and their dogs are expected in Elishadder on Friday July 18. It will be day six of the Hebridean Circuit as entrants compete for the prestigious shield and overall championship for the Hebridean Cup.



One of the organisers Ian MacDonald, Digg, said there would be a top field of “world-standard” collies and a full day of family entertainment.

“There will be the usual very high standard of handlers and their dogs,” he said. “We hope to have trialists from Scotland, Ireland, England, Wales and Europe all taking part again on what has been described as one of the most challenging courses on the trials circuit.

“Among the competitors putting their dogs and shepherding skills to test will be past Scottish champions Scott Renwick and John MacKillop and former English National champions Alf

Kyme and Jim Cropper, plus a contingent from Ireland to name but a few.”

Swede and former Continental champion Mosse Magnusson, who now lives in Perthshire, will be the judge at the Elishadder contest.

The Staffin trials start at 9am. All money raised will go towards Skye Cancer Care and donations are gratefully appreciated.

Ian added: “We hope to have good food available, raffle prizes and various stalls for everybody to come along and enjoy a good family day out and support a good cause.”

For further information or if anybody is willing to help out please contact Ian or his wife Donna on 01470 562388 or 07717 065500.

## Bun-sgoil Stafainn

WITH the World Cup now in full swing our school pupils have themselves been in amongst the silverware at the Skye Mòd as they continued Staffin’s rich history of success at the annual Gaelic event. Well done to all, the results are below.

Meanwhile, long-serving teacher Amy Cruickshank is retiring this session after four decades teaching in Staffin, both at the old school and the current building.

Amy will be a big miss and everybody in the wider community would like to wish her a long and happy retirement and thank her for everything she has done over the years.

## Results:

### Ainm/Farpais/Àite ~name/comp./placing

*Declan Malloy, Feadan 2*  
*Jonathan Peutan, Piobaireachd 2*  
*Erin NicIlliosa, Bìobull 3*  
*Isla NicLeòid, Bìobull 1*  
*Emily NicMhathain, Bìobull 2*  
*Isla NicLeòid, Cur a-mach na loidhne 1*  
*Megan NicIomhair, Cur a-mach na loidhne 3*  
*Erin NicIlliosa, Leughadh 2*  
*Isla NicLeòid, Leughadh 1*  
*Ross MacLeòid & Lexy NicLeòid, Còmhradh eadar dithis 1*  
*Isla NicLeòid & Emily NicMhathain, Còmhradh eadar dithis 2=*  
*Erin NicIlliosa, Sgeulachd 1*  
*Isla NicLeòid, Sgeulachd 3*  
*Megan NicIomhair, Còmhradh goirid 3*  
*Emily NicMhathain Còmhradh goirid 1*  
*Bun-sgoil Stafainn P4-7, Verse speaking 1*  
*Erin NicIlliosa, Seinn aon neach 2*  
*Isla NicLeòid, Seinn aon neach 2*

Ross MacLeòid, *Seinn aon neach 2*  
 Isla NicLeòid, *Seinn aon neach 2*  
 Erin NicIlliosa, *Seinn aon neach 3*  
 Erin NicIlliosa, *Clàrsach (Beginners) 3=*  
 Isla NicLeòid, *Bocsa ciùil (Intermediate) 1*  
 Emily NicMhathainn, *Meur-chlàr*  
*(Intermediate) 1*  
 Isla NicLeòid, *Meur-chlàr (Intermediate) 2*  
 Bun-sgoil Stafainn, *Buidheann ciùil & seinn 1*  
 Ross MacLeòid, *Postair 2*  
 Erin NicIlliosa, *Postair 1*  
 Emily NicMhathainn, *Postair 1*  
 Isla NicLeòid, *Postair 2*  
 Jonathan Peutan, *Postair 3*  
 Isla NicLeòid, *Sgrìobhadh 1*  
 Emily NicMhathainn *Sgrìobhadh 3*  
 Bun-sgoil Stafainn, *Luadh 1*

#### *Trophies:*

Isla NicLeòid, Iain (Cordovox)  
 MacDonald Trophy (Bocsa ciùil);  
 Isla NicLeòid Presenting Mòd Committee  
 Trophy (Cur a-mach na loidhne);  
 Bun-sgoil Stafainn, Urras Baile  
 Fhlòdaigearraidh Trophy (Luadh);  
 Bun-sgoil Stafainn Verse Speaking Trophy  
 Bun-sgoil Stafainn Run-Rig Trophy  
 (Buidheann ciùil & seinn).

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#### **The Staffin Trust**

PROGRESS updates on the Slip development, the eco-museum and other projects were provided at the recent AGM. The Trust was delighted with the big turnout and Roddy Gillies, Lachie Gillies (Glaspein), Jennifer Shanks and Seumas Gillanders joined the board as directors, while the membership also grew on the night.



**Staffin Slip** - A site meeting was held on June 16 between the Trust, Skye Sea Harvest (the company behind the seafood processing building) and the marine engineer who is tasked with investigating how the Slip development could be constructed.

John Porteous of Wallace Stone will investigate how increased water depth could be

achieved at the slip for vessels and will also examine the road as part of a major feasibility study.

**Eco-museum** - We will hold a public consultation event in the Staffin Hall on **Saturday July 5 between 11am and 2pm** to provide information on our proposals to create new walking paths and improve existing tracks across the district.

The routes would add to the paths created in 2009 so a comprehensive walking trail could be established. It would mean Staffin could be heavily promoted as *the* walking destination in Skye. Holidaymakers would be encouraged to spend more time in the community and boost our economy by staying at bed and breakfasts and shopping and eating out locally.

Trust representatives will be on hand to discuss the project. The Trust was hugely appreciative of the various townships' co-operation with the original eco-museum and has tried to get round all the clerks in the last few weeks to keep everybody updated. *It is the Trust's policy that no paths will be created if townships or tenants are unhappy about the proposals.* Feasibility studies into the routes will start in July but construction, if approval is granted, will not start until next year.

**Old Man of Storr** - As we approach high season everybody in Staffin will be familiar with the parking chaos at the Storr with vehicles of all shapes and sizes are left on the main A855 road because of the limited car park. Highland Council's planning and development service in Inverness, which owns the site, is drawing up an action plan for parking and other improvements. The Trust sees the Storr as a key gateway because 70 per cent of its thousands of visitors travel on to Staffin after their hike and is keen to improve amenities in the area, in partnership with the council.

#### **STOP PRESS...New website**

The Trust directors have agreed to fund a new Staffin Community Trust website and we hope to have it live later this summer. It will include regular updates on major projects, information about Staffin, a local business directory and "what's on" section. Development officer Hugh Ross is happy to talk to anybody about the website or any other Trust project. Drop in to the Portakabin beside the Church of Scotland between Monday and Friday, phone 562 464 or e-mail [staffin.lido@gmail.com](mailto:staffin.lido@gmail.com)

### **The Flodigarry Trust**

Urras Bhaile Fhlòdaigearraidh has now become a community company having satisfactorily completed the required legal process, *writes chairwoman Margaret Nicolson.*

The Trust continues with its development plans for a community facility for the Trotternish peninsula. The committee comprising membership across the locality will again meet with the community to share development information in the not too distant future.

“Very recently we worked in collaboration with Whitewave at their successful music festival, Ceòl on the Croft,” said Margaret. “We continue to work in partnership with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig by providing community Gàidhlig development courses for adults. The remaining course dates this year are July 7-11 and August 25-29.”

### **Staffin Hall**

INCOME from the shop, the restaurant’s rental and Hall events have sparked a significant car park expansion after a slope was recently removed by John Gillies, Sattle.

The Hall renovation project has now been completed with the exception of a small area of external painting to be completed. The shop has also had some new shelving and drinks chiller. Further refurbishment will continue in September and there is further good news, said Hall Association chairman Martin Perry.

“In May, another £10,000 was paid from the shop to the Hall funds,” he said. “This brings the grand total donated to £71,000 since the shop became a community shop in June 2006. What an achievement! This is thanks to everyone who has supported the shop which allows more funds to be re-generated into the Hall. The Hall Association would like to extend its thanks to everybody who has supported it.”

“New pots with beautiful flowers have been planted again by Sheila Furlong this year,” added Martin. “We are grateful to her as they always look lovely.”

### **STOP PRESS...New gym?**

The Hall Association has been discussing possible uses for an empty space in the attic above the foyer. The idea of developing a gym has been considered and plans are being drawn up to investigate the idea. Although it is at a

very early stage the Association is hopeful that there will be enough interest from all sections of the community to provide evidence to potential funding organisations that there is need for a local gym. A Staffin Hall gym could be an important facility for other organisations in the community.

The Association envisage the gym having aerobic exercise machines, treadmill, static cycle, rowing-machine and cross trainer rather than weights as noise affecting users in the hall and restaurant would have to be limited.

We are keen to progress with this project however we will need to demonstrate community support for it. The Association will have short survey forms that can be completed at the eco-museum consultation event at the Hall on Saturday July 5 and also in the shop afterwards. We’re keen to get the community’s thoughts on the gym idea so please fill in a form. More information and details will be made available when we know more about how we will progress this project.

### **Hall Events**

The next quiz is scheduled for October or November when everyone has more time in their busy schedule. Any thoughts on quiz themes would be appreciated. Please see Andrea or Greg.

Weekly events continue at the hall: Monday – Zumba fitness 7.30-8.30pm; Tuesday –Bowls 7.30-9.30pm (check with organiser) and Thursday – Badminton 7.30-9.30pm.

### **Columba 1400**

Here in Columba 1400 we are enjoying a very busy summer, *writes Jackie Gillies.* So far this year we have had various groups from around Scotland, plus our yearly visit from the young people of TCU in Texas.



**Columba  
1400**

Loretto School will be here as usual in July staying in Quiraing Lodge and working with their own future leaders and next year's school prefects. We will be welcoming back a group of young people and adults connected to CHAS (Children's Hospice Association Scotland) and for the first time a larger than normal group consisting of English and Asian students working on their own Student Leadership Challenge. September onwards will see the centre busy with young people from the Highlands, South Ayrshire, the Borders and South Lanarkshire.

### **CBE**

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our esteemed founder and chairman Rev Norman Drummond on his richly deserved CBE for public and voluntary service, particularly to young people. This is an important recognition of Norman's great vision and commitment, reflected in the work of Columba 1400 in the past 14 years. It is a good time to remind ourselves of Norman's key message that "the most important person in Columba 1400 is the next young person who walks through our door."

*Café opening times over the summer period are Monday to Saturday 10am – 8pm.*

If you would like to be added to our mailing list for information or café menus, please call 01478 611400 or e-mail [info@columba1400.com](mailto:info@columba1400.com)

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### **Staffin AFC**

THE club unfortunately withdrew from the Skye and Lochalsh Bagshaw Amateur League before the start of the 2014 season because of doubts a team could be raised every week. The club had struggled to find someone willing to take on the responsibility of managing the team so decided to pull out of the league and review the position at the end of the year. The team, which was playing home matches in Uig because of the Staffin pitch's poor surface, had come through a couple of disappointing seasons in the last couple of years. However, the potential of some of the younger players and commitment of the squad, who regularly travelled to Gairloch, Plockton, Glenelg and Kyle at weekends and week nights for matches, was not in doubt.



This is the first season for several years that the north end of Skye does not have a team in the league and despite Staffin's absence our players are still in demand. Daibidh MacDonnell, Martin Shaw and Allen Cowe are currently turning out for Struan; Joe Curry is on Sleat's books while Ally MacLeod is in the Portree Juniors team. Teenagers Allan Wilson and Robert MacDonald are also playing with the under-17s. Five-a-side football was still held at the Columba astroturf pitch on Saturdays at 5pm during the winter and the younger players played regularly on Friday nights. If anybody is interested in finding out more about the club or would be interested in taking up the reins for next season please contact Colin Wilson on 01470 562 750. \*The club was delighted to hear that David Nicolson has made a good recovery after dislocating his knee during a recent match.

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### **Staffin Community Council**

HEALTH officials recently gave our community councillors an update on the refurbishment work being carried out at the doctor's surgery. The shed has now been demolished, the chimney removed, car park resurfaced and the exterior of the building painted. A ramp is set to be installed at the building's rear for access. NHS Highland officials Kate Earnshaw and Tracey Ligema also provided information about the proposed restructuring of hospital services in Skye. It would see Portree Hospital lose its beds with only outpatient and minor injury clinics left up to 11pm. The Dr Mackinnon Memorial in Broadford would become Skye's main hospital. Staffin Community Council was set to debate the issues and draw up its formal response to the public consultation at its meeting on Thursday July 3.

