



Camuscross & Duisdale Initiative News



Summer is here and we have come through another challenging winter. We are delighted that the solar panels are working very well, although unfortunately the battery is not yet functioning and will be replaced by the installers with a new system.

Trade has been good recently in the shop and the café and Saturday night takeaways are proving popular. The hall has been busy with regular weekend markets and fairs scheduled throughout the summer. We were pleased to host the recent SEALL events including the incredible Gaelic harmony group, Sian as well as Duncan Chisholm and Hamish Napier, two of Scotland's most talented musicians. These events sold out so quickly that an additional matinee performance was held in the afternoon.

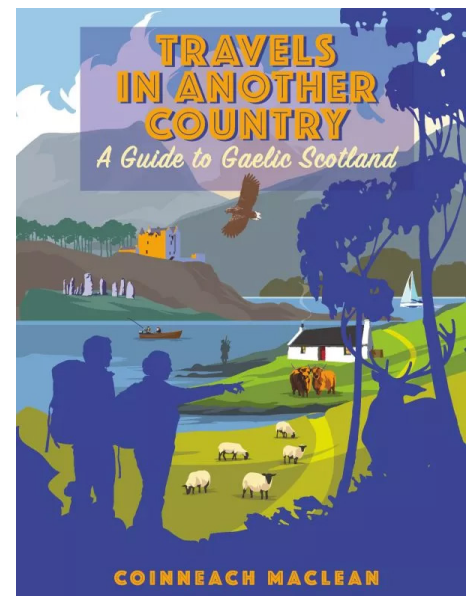
There are some exciting initiatives in the planning. Unfortunately, our first attempt to obtain funding for a community growing initiative was unsuccessful. This is only to be expected given the increase in competition for a continually diminishing level of resources. There are other options to be explored and we will make other approaches.

Completion of installation of the equipment for live streaming has been delayed but everything will be in place for a full programme of events as soon as possible. We intend to retain the ballet and opera that were popular in Talla Dhùisdeil but add to the variety of screenings in response to public demand. Look out for publicity in An Lianag and at An Crùbh and let us know what you would like to see.

More CDI news inside...

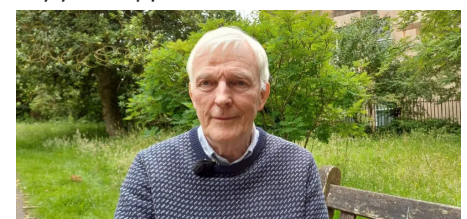


Nicola Thomson has been nominated for **Solo VA of the year** at the UK VA awards. Read more about her virtual assistant business inside!



Congratulations to Coinneach Maclean on the recent publication of his book **'Travels in Another Country'**. Coinneach journeys through the present and former Gaelic speaking areas of Scotland from the perspective of the native Gaels giving the reader a more rounded understanding of the history and culture of the Gaelic peoples of Scotland. Meal do naidheachd a Choinnich!

Buy your copy at **An Crubh**.



Lachie Strummer



Guitar

I bought a Fylde acoustic guitar in Glasgow in 1985 or thereabouts.

A very nice instrument built by a man called Roger Bucknall.

Over the years it suffered various knocks and developed the odd crack, usually during Camuscross New Years.

Last year I thought it was time to get it repaired.

I contacted Roger Bucknall who is still building and repairing guitars.

He was able to inform me that my guitar was built by him in 1978.

Repaired by the very same man in 2024!

I'll be more careful with it in the future.

Calum Plastic

Another story concerning my old shipmate known to one and all as Calum Plastic. Calum was from Scalpay, Harris. His wife was from Kilmuir.

Someone once asked Plastic if he was a Skye Man.

Plastic replied, 'No, but the wife is!'

Kenny Salmon

Seems ages ago now but it used to be great craic each Spring when Kenny Salmon and his team arrived to fish for Salmon and sea trout with their bag nets.

All the way from Achiltibuie.

One of the boys was Murdo Ross, known

locally as 'Murdo Rat'.

Murdo had been in the Royal Navy and was reminiscing about being in a brawl in some exotic port.

He mentioned being hit on the head with a crowbar and described it as being 'quite sore'!

Murdo Rat was never one to make a fuss.

A Running Jump

I remember hearing about a passenger desperate to catch the last ferry.

He ran down the quayside and noticed that the ferry was a metre or so off the pier.

He decided to go for it, took a running jump, and managed to clamber aboard with his suitcase.

A crew member who had just witnessed the incident said, 'why did you do that? We're just arriving!'

Stòras Shlèite Update *Greg MacThòmais*

Stòras Shlèite, the oral history project that I've been involved with via the Library at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, has been busy both in the collection and presentation of material. Myself and project fieldworker, Ruairidh Graham from Breakish, have been out and about interviewing native Gaelic speakers all over Sleat and recording fantastic recollections about school days, crofting and fishing, pastimes, local characters and all manner of other interesting subjects.

We have continued collecting and identifying songs from the parish and now have over 200 Gaelic songs from Sleat on our list, from early Clan Donald material to the village poets of the 20th century such as Dòmhnall Iseabail of Camuscross and Dai Beag of Calligarry. It was one of the main aims of the project that the material collected wouldn't just be preserved in the College's archives but returned to the people of Sleat and, hopefully, used by the next generation of Slèitich. With that in mind we thought it would be a great idea to reestablish a school choir with an emphasis on learning songs with a local connection.

I'm happy to say that the first two



Children from Bun-sgoil Shlèite, learning their new songs with Greg and Jasmine

songs attempted by the choir have a slight Camuscross bias! In our first choir session we sang John Martin's 'Fàilte an t-Samhraidh' which the children still remembered from a few months ago and belted out enthusiastically! The first new song that we've learned is 'Slèibhte' by John MacGillivray of 8 Camuscross, a song of longing for home that mentions some local landmarks such as Druim Bàn and Àird Ghunail. The song is set to the tune of 'The Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond'. Mr. MacGillivray can be heard performing the song on the Tobar an Dualchais website (TAD ID: [2628](#))

New CDI Members

We are delighted to welcome new members who have joined us recently. A steadily increasing membership is something positive to mention in our search for funding for projects and demonstrates commitment and enthusiasm in the community. If you would like to become a member and you live in Camuscross or Duisdale, you can apply for Ordinary Membership. Associate Membership is open to all others. Ordinary members are eligible to vote at the AGM but associate members are not. Membership is free and you will receive notice of events at An Crùbh and the weekly takeaway menu. Forms are available on the website www.camuscross.org or you can contact the Membership Secretary at lornapike50@gmail.com.

CDI Chair's Newsletter: Your Community Initiative Needs You



Simon Whatmore
CDI Director and Chair

At the Continuing the Conversation Event last year, I was asked if the board could give the community more visibility of what's happening. This newsletter is a response to that request which was welcomed for the interest it displayed in CDI. While there is much to be positive about in what has been achieved so far, it also contains an urgent appeal for essential support so please read on.



CAMUSCROSS & DUISDALE INITIATIVE
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THE YEAR SO FAR

The best bits:

- We are delighted with the impact the solar panels are having on our electricity bills.
- The hall and the café are well used by locals and visitors with some challenging - but fun and financially valuable - larger events.
- The motorhome park is proving very popular.
- The EV chargers are attracting people to An Crùbh.
- Our shop and café teams are an asset to the community hub, without which it would be nothing.
- Our team of volunteers support the staff in busy times and indicate an ongoing community commitment to CDI.
- Our Fundraising Group work relentlessly all year round and raise significant additional income.
- Individuals also contribute through organisation of the monthly quiz and 50:50 Lottery.

Less good:

- The sources of community funding usually available to initiatives such as ours continue to diminish and become increasingly competitive.
- Shop revenue is lower due to competition from larger supermarkets.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

The financial situation following the pandemic remains a major challenge to initiatives such as ours. The CDI Board continually strives to identify suitable funding sources. We are also formulating a Donations Strategy and a donation point will soon be installed in the café. We encourage you to increase our revenue by supporting the café and shop where you can. Even just one item purchased helps. Spend £5 and it helps even more. Ideas for additional product ranges are always welcome and staff will make every effort to stock these for you.

In addition, CDI and An Crùbh Ltd are facing some huge challenges.

THE CDI BOARD

Let me first start with the CDI Board. At the start of the year, a long-standing member of the board stepped down and

we have been unable to recruit a replacement. At the next AGM (circa Nov'25) another member of the board, who has also given long service to CDI, will stand down. It is, anyway, necessary to keep refreshing board membership from the community on a regular basis.

Through this newsletter, the board is calling upon members of the local community to become volunteer directors. The board needs individuals with a spread of skills or experience from business, finance, hospitality, charity work or simply people with energy who want to help out and get things done. Members of the wider Sleat community, up to a total of three, can also be co-opted on an annual basis.

Board meetings are once a month for two hours. At those meetings the board review the activities of the charity and the trading company, agree actions, track progress and take decisions in the interests of the charity and the community. Some directors have specific areas of focus or projects they lead, with support from the other members.

There is no financial liability if you become a director and all board members are covered by 3rd Party liability insurance. We are obliged to recruit a minimum of two new members. Without replacing these director positions, CDI will be legally unable to operate.

Adverts will be posted shortly. For more information, please contact:

David Collins (CDI Company Secretary) via email: secretarycamuscross@gmail.com, or in person.

THE ACL BOARD

Turning to An Crùbh Ltd (ACL): as most of you know, ACL was set up as CDI's independent trading subsidiary. The intention was that it would generate profit which it would then pass up to the parent charity, CDI, for the benefit of the community. This is a common practice and was done to provide income to CDI and protect the charity from financial liability in the event that ACL became insolvent.

ACL is required to have a separate Board of Directors. At its inception, ACL employed a business manager to run the business on behalf of CDI. In 2023, ACL's business manager left to take up another post and, ...continued on following page

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due to the financial situation referred to above, could not be replaced. Susan Walker, Claire Wylie and David Collins took on the job of running ACL as the volunteer management team and acting as ACL board members. They have successfully steered ACL through some difficult financial times.

The time is now overdue to find an alternative solution to the management of ACL.

The CDI board is investigating how a 'manager' position could be financed so that we don't need a volunteer management team. This will depend on ACL having a very good trading year.

Bear in mind, even if we are able to resolve the situation regarding the volunteer management team, ACL will still require new members for a separate Board of Directors.

As with the situation for the CDI Board, if recruitment does not happen, and people do not come forward into this role, the consequences will be that ACL will be unable to function and will therefore cease to trade.

If you are interested in joining the board of ACL, please contact:

- Susan Walker via email: susancamuscross@gmail.com or in person;
- Claire Wylie via email: clairecamuscross@gmail.com) or in person.

Together, the boards provide the infrastructure required to support An Crùbh. Without them, there will be no café, shop or hall for the community.

We have a community hub to be proud of and the community made it happen. If you wish these highly valued facilities to continue to operate, please seriously consider what you can do to ensure their survival.

Our strength is in our community!

Simon Whatmore
Chair CDI



Anns na duaisean a tha a' comharrachadh luachan **Bun-sgoil Shlèite**, fhuair **Seumas** an duais airson Coibhneas agus ghlèidh **Maisie** an duais airson Sàr Frithealadh airson a' bhliadhna 24-25. Congratulations to **Seumas** for his school value award for kindness and to **Maisie** for her attendance award at the recent Bun-sgoil Shlèite Prizegiving.

LAMBING LOVE



On your way past croft 22 you might notice four hungry lambs being bottle fed at various points in the day. Lexie, Dot, Maggie and Rose were orphans from this year's lambing.



Eòghan feeding the lambs

CAMUSCROSS GAMES

Saturday 19th July 2025

DEAR CAMUSCROSS, DUISDALE AND DRUMFERN RESIDENTS

We warmly invite you to join us for a fun, community event aimed at the whole family.
Starting at the foreshore near Tides Reach then moving to The Park.

Events:

- 1.00PM RAFT RACE- FORESHORE NEAR TIDES REACH
- PIPED PROCESSION TO THE PARK
- FUN GAMES - INCLUDING TUG OF WAR
- FUN DOG SHOW
- SIDE SHOWS
- REFRESHMENTS
- LIVE MUSIC
- CEILIDH

CAMUSCROSS GAMES
ARE GRATEFUL TO:

KINLOCH LODGE
SPRIG AT JUNIPER HOUSE
TALISKER
LEAN TO
EILEAN IARMAIN HOTEL
DUALCHAS ARCHITECTS

FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

Thank you ❤️

WE ARE UNABLE TO OFFER ANY PARKING FACILITIES FOR THIS EVENT SO ASK THAT YOU MAKE YOUR WAY ON FOOT.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANY MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVENT PLEASE EMAIL ALEX BELL
peakwater@hotmail.com



Babaidh taking a turn



Martha with one of her lambs!

Raft Race

- TEAMS OF FOUR FROM CAMUSCROSS, DUISDALE AND DRUMFEARN
- HOMEMADE RAFTS
- START TIME -SATURDAY 19TH BY TIDES REACH, 1 PM.
- REGISTER WITH **ALEX BELL** BY WEDNESDAY 16TH JULY
peakwater@hotmail.com

RAFFLE PRIZES INCLUDE

- LUNCH FOR TWO AT KINLOCH LODGE
- MEAL FOR TWO AT THE SPRIG
- BOTTLE 10 YR OLD TALISKER
- COFFEE VOUCHER FOR LEAN TO
- BOTTLE EI GIN



Information

EVENT UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE DEDICATED NOTICE BOARD AT **The Park** AND THE NOTICE BOARD NEXT TO THE TELEPHONE



We will be offering hot and cold drinks, and locally made cakes all donated by bakers in the community.

There will also be a barbecue and beer available. Please feel free to bring your own bottle.

CASH ONLY



Life's a beach!

drop in anytime!

Sunday 27 July 1-5pm An Crùbh, Skye
come learn about marine litter on Skye's beaches...
and what we can do about it.



workshops

displays

CAFE

chat

kids activities



Condolences

The community was saddened to hear of the death of Sara Hunter, 37, who had grown up in Drumfearn and attended Bun-sgoil Shlèite, with her brothers Hamish (now living in Camuscross) and Gordon. A graveside service took place on Tuesday 1st July at Kilbeg. Thoughts are with Shona and the family.

WHIST NIGHTS

The Sleat Whist Group enjoyed another successful season at An Crùbh last winter. We were pleased to welcome some new faces and raised £1,375 for local charities. The chosen charities were Camuscross & Duisdale Initiative, MacMillan Cancer Support, RagTag & Textile, RNLI (Mallaig), Skye & Lochalsh Young Carers and South Skye Community Nurses Fund. Whist nights take place every second Tuesday at 7.30pm and will begin again on 7 October with a practice night. The cost is £5 to play with the option to buy raffle tickets and all proceeds go to local charities. In addition to playing whist and raising money, we enjoy a good laugh and a chat on a winter's evening. Players come from Sleat, Broadford, Breakish and Kintail so there is a real sense of community interaction with lively discussion and a great deal of hilarity. All are welcome, especially complete beginners. It's not a difficult game and the main purpose of our evenings is to enjoy a night out. Tea and coffee are supplied but please bring your own snacks. Hope to see you there!

Skye Mòd Success

It was a successful Skye Mòd 2025 for Camuscross children. **Johnny** won gold medals for the short talk/conversation and for his poster, as well as a bronze for writing a news article. **Isabelle**, meanwhile, won bronze for solo singing and a silver medal for poetry. **Micheal** won a gold medal for his poetry and bronze for his song. Competing for the first time was **Dòmhnall Crisdean** who won silver in the beginners chanter. Mo bheannachd oirbh uile!



A' lasadh chothroman sa Ghàidhlig/A wee business with a Gaelic spark

Thòisich Lasair ann an 2021, a' tabhann measgachadh de sheirbheisean tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig – nam measg, rianachd do ghnìomhachasan beaga, pròiseactan Gàidhlig, meadhanan sòisealta agus rianachd phearsanta. (Ach ma tha Beurla nas fhasa dhuibh – tha sinn toilichte cuideachadh!)

Am-bliadhna, tha sinn gu sònraichte toilichte taic a chumail ri Cruthachadh Chothroman – prògram airson gnìomhachasan a bheir sgilean feumail dhaibh, ach le freumhan ann an coimhearsnachd agus cultar na Gàidhlig. Bidh cothrom aca uile feuchainn air duais luach £5,000, a chaidh a thogail bho mheasgachadh de ghnìomhachasan taiceil, nam measg Pràban na Linne agus Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Chaidh am program fhosgladh le Ceit Fhoirbeis, air 13mh an t-Ògmhios aig Jans ann am Port Rìgh.

Nuair a thòisich Lasair, bha oifis bheag agam aig mullach na staidhre – feumail airson leum sìos agus stobadh nigheadaireachd san inneal! Ach mu dheireadh thall, chuir mi romhan seann phortacabin m' athair a sgeadachadh. Le taic mhòr bho Mamaidh, ghluais mi a-staigh o chionn bliadhna, agus tha mi air mo dhòigh. Ged nach eil e idir bòidheach bhon taobh a-muigh, tha an oifis bheag gu math grinn, agus tha e na urram dhomh a bhith ag obair an sin, san aon àite far an do shuidh m' athair fhèin fad iomadh bliadhna. Tha an soighne aige fhathast air a' bhalla, gam chumail ceart le na faclan: "Tha Dia nas motha na rud sam bith a thig fam chomhair an-diugh." Thòisich Eilidh Niclain, à Uibhist a Tuath, còmhla rium sa Mhàrt. Tha i air togail mhòr a thoirt dhomh - tha i sgileil, earbsach agus tha tuigse shoilleir aice air na seirbheisean a tha sinn a' tabhainn.

Nach sinn a tha fortanach a bhith tighinn beò ann an coimhearsnachdan far am faighear cothroman is cosnadh sa Ghàidhlig.

I started Lasair as a VA (Virtual Assistant) with the aim of offering business and personal admin services, social media support, and projects through the medium of Gaelic (and, if English is easier – we're happy to help!).

This year, we're delighted to be supporting Cruthachadh Chothroman, a new programme from HIE, aimed at Gaelic businesses, to grow their skills but in a way that is rooted in the language and culture. The programme has a Dragon's Den-style session at the end, which has been sponsored by a number of Gaelic-supporting businesses, including Pràban na Linne agus Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and there is £5,000 up for grabs. The programme was launched by Deputy First Minister Kate Forbes, on 13th June at Jans in Portree.

When I started Lasair, the "office" was the landing at the top of the stairs – a bit too handy for multitasking with the washing etc! So eventually, I decided to revamp my late Dad's old office in the much-loved "portacabin." Despite its shabby exterior, with Mum's help we created a nice wee office inside. It is an honour to work where my Dad sat for many years, and his old sign still hangs on the wall, reminding me daily that "God is greater than anything I may face today."

In March of this year, Eilidh Johnson from North Uist joined me, bringing brilliant support to the business. She is super skilled, reliable and totally understands what we are trying to achieve in offering Gaelic support services.

How fortunate we are to live in communities where working in Gaelic is possible – and growing.

Nicola NicThòmais



Musical Theatre

At the end of April Caitlin (left) played Peter Pan in the LMPA Academy production of Shrek - the musical. There were two sell-out shows at Las in Portree and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Caitlin has been attending the LMPA classes since she was age five and was able to put her singing, dancing and acting skills to use.

As we go to print Caitlin, Adam, Martha, Babaidh and Isabelle are all preparing for the LMPA Academy big summer show **Pure Inspiration - Dream, Believe, Achieve**. Good luck to all of them!



Air Oidhche Shathairne, 22mh dhen t-Ògmhios, bha dinnear paella gu math spòrsail ann an Tàlla Bhreacais, gus airgead a chruinneachadh airson 's gun tèid sgioba ball-coise fo aois 15 an Àth Leathainn gu Barcelona airson farpais òigridh eadar-nàiseanta.

On Saturday 22nd June, a very successful paella dinner was held in Breakish Hall to raise money for Broadford under-15 football team to travel to Barcelona in October to play in an international youth tournament. Everybody really enjoyed the evening. Many thanks to everyone who contributed ingredients, prawns, and live music!

Our Just Giving page is: [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/byc-runtospain](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/byc-runtospain)



NEWS FROM THE EI

SUMMER 2025



Enjoy a Taste of Eilean Iarmain...

We're well into the summer season now and our new menus are going down a storm!

Whether you choose to book a table in our restaurant, eat in the relaxed Bar Am Pràban, or take advantage of the stunning scenery and dine on our waterfront lawn by the pier, you'll have a choice of some wonderful, hearty, Highland inspired dishes.

We also offer a full "Take Away" service - so if you really don't want to cook let us do it for you! You can order your takeaway by phone or by calling in to Bar Am Pràban.

Our menus reflect the abundance of fresh local produce we have here at Eilean Iarmain, including shellfish and game. Drumfearn mussels and our own Estate venison are always popular choices.



Bùth Eilean Iarmain

The Bùth (shop) is now open weekdays from 10am. As well as the full range of Gaelic Whiskies and Gaelic Gins we stock a lovely range of locally made gifts - and of course ice creams! If you haven't been in the bùth for a while - pop in - we think you'll be surprised!

We're now also stocking HEDGEWITCH Midge Repellent - and Highland Hounds dog accessories. If you're planning a barbecue then there's no better than our Eilean Iarmain Venison - meat doesn't get more free-range or with less food miles than this!



Gallery An Talla Dearg is Open

The gallery situated on the shore by the old stone pier at Eilean Iarmain and hosts a range of exhibitions from March to November. Gallery An Talla Dearg aims to promote artists whose work celebrates Scottish landscapes and wildlife.

04 July - 16 July	Scott MacDonald
18 July - 13 August	Jim Woodman
15 August - 1 October	Derek Robertson
03 October - 21 October	Liz Myhill
23 October - 19 November	Matt James Brown



HOTEL EILEAN IARMAIN
THE ISLE OF SKYE

t: 01471 833 332
e: hotel@eileaniarmain.co.uk
w: www.eileaniarmain.co.uk

We are grateful to Fearann Eilean Iarmain for printing this edition of An Lianag. Tapadh leibh!

Fèis an Earraich

Fèis an Earraich took place in Portree High School on the first week of April and a number of the children from Camuscross attended. They participated in activities such as chanter, fiddle, groupwork, Gaelic singing, sound production and drama. Delivering workshops in art was Gwen Culbertson and also helping during the week and 'Fear an Taighe' at the ceilidh finale was Ali Stewart.



Stock Judging Prize

First year at Portree High School came to a close for Aonghas Forrest with an award for his stock judging skills during the school's activity days. Pupils were able to attend the auction mart in Portree and learn about the desirable physical attributes of different stock. When the pupils were put to the test Aonghas came out on top and was awarded, to his delight, a box of celebrations!

Aonghas was also pleased that his Gaelic fishing podcast was awarded third place in the National Gaelic Podcast Competition, 'Dè do bheachd?' Sin thu fhèin 'ille!



High School for Johnny

Johnny MacKenzie, 9 Camuscross, was awarded the prize as Bun-sgoil Shlèite's Tosgaire na Gaidhlig – Ambassador for Gaelic at the school's leavers' assembly held on Friday 27th June. The award recognised his skill, ability and pride in the language – noting the high marks he had achieved when winning the short talk and conversation competition for fluent speakers at the recent Skye Mòd. Sin thu fhèin Johnny – keep it up and best wishes as you move up to Portree High school.

CAMUSCROSS GRAZINGS' UPDATE

Decker Forrest

Residents and visitors to Camuscross will have been aware of the usual sights, sounds and smells of crofting in Spring and early Summer. Several exceptionally good dry spells allowed for much-needed rhododendron cutting on the main grazings and a muirburn on Ard Snaosaig. Those of us with sheep were particularly grateful for the good weather during lambing, which has always tended to take place a little later in Sleat than elsewhere. There were also calves born and they are looking good. Shearing has now gotten underway and soon the hill ground will be alive with freshly shorn sheep and anxious lambs eagerly exploring their new surroundings and getting a taste for heather. The Grazings Committee has a big year ahead as it prepares for new fencing and repairs on Àird Gunnail. This is a complicated and costly project, but absolutely essential to the viability of crofting in Camuscross.



Gavin with one of two calves born in April



The falaisgear on Ard Snaosaig

ST JOHN'S WORT / EALA-BHÌ *Bodach nam Bileag*

St John's Wort, the eala-bhì, tends to lie low on the verge, lost among the meadow buttercups. It's a modest yellow flower, but the neat, elegant arrangement of its five petals catches the careful eye. Like many plants of this kind (and there are several different subspecies across Europe under the same name), the tannins and related compounds in its leaves, stems, and flowers give it astringent properties. These account for its traditional use as a treatment for minor burns, skin irritations, and inflammation. The Skye author and traveller Martin Martin writes of how islanders cured fractures using an ointment of:

Betonica Pauli [probably heath speedwell], St. John's Wort, Golden Rod, all cut and bruis'd in Sheeps-grease, or Fresh Butter, to a consistence, some of this they spread on a Cloath, and lay on the Wound, which continues untied for a few days.

In tradition, however, St John's Wort is most renowned for its protective properties. Nearly two centuries after Martin, the folklorist Alexander Carmichael visited the housebound 92-year-old John Beaton. Beaton, a former shepherd living in Àird nan Laogh in South Uist, was descended from the famous Skye Beaton medical family. Carmichael thought he 'probably knew more about plants and plant habitats and characteristics than any other man in Scotland'. Among the rhymes he wrote down from the old man was:

An eala-bhì! 's an eala-bhì!
Mo niarach neach aig am bith
Buainidh mis' i leis an làimh dheis,
Paisgidh mis' i leis an làimh chli,
Ge b' e chuireas tu ri crò an àil
Cha bhith e gu brath gun nì.

St John's Wort! and St John's Wort
I envy anyone who has it,
I shall pull it with my right hand,
I shall wrap it up with my left hand.
Whatever of it you put in the cattle fold
It will never be without cattle.

A couple of decades later, Father Allan McDonald of Eriskay records a shorter verse about this 'lucky plant':

An eala sin 's an eala-bhì
'S math dhan imprig air am bi.

That wort, the St John's Wort,
It's a good house-flitting which it's in.

Across Europe, St John's Wort was widely regarded as a talisman against evil and supernatural harm. Its other name in Gaelic is achlasan Chaluim Chille, translated, not very poetically, as 'the armpit bundle (or oxtersful) of St Columba'. According to tradition, Calum Cille gave a clump of the flowers to a young herd boy in Mull who was scared of wolves in the night, instructing him to place it under his left armpit for divine protection. As the historical botanist Mary Beith suggests, this

may be because the armpit 'is so well endowed with nerve-endings, glands, and blood vessels that it readily absorbs substances into the body's system as a whole', such as rutin, the antidepressant and anti-inflammatory molecule found in St John's Wort.

To benefit from its powers, it was believed you had to find St John's Wort by chance, then recite:

Luibh Chaluim Chille gun sireadh, gun iarraidh,
'S a dheòin Dhè cha bhàsaich mi a-nochd.

The plant of St Columba, unlooked for, unwanted,
And with God's will I shall not die tonight.

The botanist John Lightfoot, who knew the Highlands well, wrote that:

The superstitious in Scotland carry this plant about them as a charm against the dire effects of witchcraft and enchantment. They also cure, or fancy they cure their ropy milk, which they suppose to be under some malignant influence, by putting this herb into it, and milking afresh upon it.

A more secular age has put to flight the witches and malicious demons that St John's Wort was once believed to ward off. After they had disappeared, the flower was reputed to cure melancholia; today it is widely touted as a purported remedy for (mild) depression—albeit one with dangerous side effects if ill-advisedly mixed with certain medications. It is probably safer (and maybe just as effective) just to leave the flowers to bloom by the roadside.



Illustration by Kirsten Shearer

July 2025 - Events at An Crùbh

Come along and join in the community events. No booking required unless indicated.

Wednesday 2nd / 7pm - 9pm / South Skye Table Tennis Group

Thursday 3rd / 6.30pm-7.45pm / Gokul Yoga

Wednesday 9th / 7pm - 9pm / South Skye Table Tennis Group

Friday 11th / 4pm / Latha a bha seo...ann an Eilean a' Cheò

Prìob-thaisbeanadh le Sgoil-shamhraidh Drama 2025

One day...in the Misty Isle

A pop-up performance by Sgoil-shamhraidh Drama 2025

(Bidh tuilleadh fiosrachaidh air facebook.com/feisean - more info to come on facebook.com/feisean)

Saturday 12th / 10am - 3pm / Abriachan Nursery Plant Sale & Isle of Skye

Free Range Traditional Meat & Poultry Sale

Saturday 12th / 5.15pm - 6.45pm / Women's Circle - Empowerment and Restoration through Community

Wednesday 16th / 7pm - 9pm / South Skye Table Tennis Group

Thursday 17th / 6.30pm-7.45pm / Gokul Yoga

Saturday 19th / 11am - 3pm / Summer Market

Wednesday 23rd / 7pm - 9pm / South Skye Table Tennis Group

Friday 25th AN CRÙBH CAFE CLOSED

Sunday 27th / 1pm - 5pm / Sleat Nature Group - Life's a Beach

Monday 28th / 6.30pm-7.30pm / Yoga & Movement - Satria Arts Scotland*

Wednesday 30th / 7pm - 9pm / South Skye Table Tennis Group

Thursday 31st / 6.30pm-7.45pm / Gokul Yoga

Look out for further information on Facebook (An Crùbh Skye) Instagram and our What's On? page www.ancrubh.com

Please note that Events can be subject to change.

Please check ahead with the organisation for cancellations/amendments.



OPENING HOURS

Cafe

Wednesday-Sunday 10am-4pm

Kitchen shuts at 3pm

Shop

Monday-Saturday 10am-4:30pm

Sunday 10am-4pm

Post Office

Mon-Sat 11am-4pm

**subject to change at short notice.*

Fundraising by Sìusaidh

The Summer Fair (which continues on July 19th, August 30th, and September 27th) used to be held at the Clan, but this year the CDI Fundraising Group took it on. We helped with setting up and clearing away, and we are hopeful that the proceeds will be enough to buy four new tables for the hall.

We're now turning our attention to the Christmas Fair, which will take place on November 22nd and promises lots of new stalls.

We'd really love some extra help — particularly with the raffle, the bottle stall, and other fundraising activities.

If you're able to lend a hand and would like to volunteer, please get in touch: siusaidh.nicneill@gmail.com

Double Points

An Crùbh shop would like to say a big thank you to all our valued customers. For the whole of July, double points will be awarded on all shop purchases to loyalty card holders.

Are you looking for some summer reading? A new delivery of Scottish books will be on sale soon covering fiction and non-fiction and there's sure to be something of interest for most tastes.



SCHOOL'S OUT FOR GOOD FOR OUR S6s

Congratulations to Grace, Thomas, Ali and Catherine who finished their exams in May and who all have exciting plans for the future. Grace is off to Napier University to study Mass Communications, Advertising and Public Relations. Thomas is training to be a chef at The Sprig and doing flying lessons in between times. Ali will be off to the Nautical College in Glasgow in August to begin his Cadetship as an SPD Deck Officer and Catherine is headed to college in Glasgow to begin her nursing career. **Gur math thèid leibh uile!**



An Lianag is produced in association with **Camuscross & Duisdale Initiative** (SC041149).

The next edition is due in late Autumn 2025, please contact Flòraidh Forrest on floraidh.forrest@gmail.com if you'd like to contribute.

Local businesses are invited to advertise for a small fee of £10.

If you are a CDI member, please join our **CDI Facebook group** for sharing news, plans and discussions relating to the community.