

AN LIANAG

AN DÙBHLACHD/DECEMBER 2025



Replacing a few of the stones on Càrn Sheonaid in 2022 that had fallen away over the years. Only faint traces of the path now remain; it had been used more frequently in the past and especially when moving cattle to and from the main road. As is traditional, people would sometimes add stones to the cairn when passing.

Càrn Sheonaid 'Janet's Cairn' *Decker Forrest*

On the night of Wednesday, 20th of December 1865, an 87 year-old woman died from cold and exhaustion near Cnoc Beul an Ath Ruaidh, roughly halfway along a little path that crosses the southern end of the common grazings from northwest to southeast. This coming Saturday will mark the 160th anniversary of her death.

An entry in the Statutory Registers of Deaths listing 'Janet Campbell or MacBeath, a widow' seems to identify her and a little cross checking of census and estate records suggests she had been born Janet MacIver in c.1778 and may have picked up the surname Campbell before later marrying John MacBeath (c.1793-1863) of No. 2 Camuscross. He was 15 years her junior and it is worth noting that his surname is also given as 'McBeth' and 'Beaton' across different records. Sadly, John also died tragically when a roof collapsed on him. Janet was present when it happened and later signed the death register with an 'X'. She died just two years later. A ten-year-old boy named William, presumably a son, was in their home at No. 2 when the 1841 census was taken, but he seems to disappear from subsequent censuses and other records.

A small cairn was made where her body was found and is known to this day as Càrn Sheonaid. It is nice to reflect as we approach the anniversary of her death that her memory has survived through many generations in Camuscross.

With thanks to Greg Thomson, Donnie MacKinnon, Bertie MacInnes and Graeme MacKenzie.

New faces welcomed on CDI board

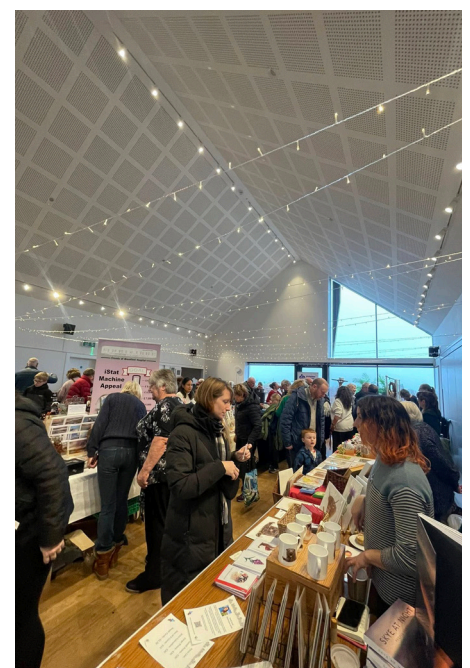


The CDI AGM took place at An Crùbh on 29 November - see back page for more details.

An Crubh Xmas Fair

This year's Christmas Fair in An Crubh was voted the best yet by stallholders and visitors. We packed in 26 tables and the atmosphere was enhanced by music from Gary Mahon and Graeme MacKenzie. Gary Mahon donated an oil painting - won by Lady Claire, and Derek Robertson also donated an oil painting, book and calendar, which was won by Innes Grant. We have to thank the team who collected huge amounts for the raffle, art raffle and bottle stall; they worked from 8.30am in the morning until after 4.30pm.

After discussions with stallholders, staff and the fundraising group, it was decided next year that we should try to hold the fair over two days, Saturday and Sunday with twenty tables. This will allow the very long list of those who didn't get a table to have first dibs as well as those who are already saying they want to come back. Thanks to Siuisaidh, Colleen, Flan, Marrion, Louise, Anne MacK., Alison MacK., Kirsten and others who looked after the shop or Cafe for all their hard work.



Lachie Strummer



Artex

Anyone who was around in the seventies and eighties will remember Artex being used for interior decor.

It was a textured plaster finish that was put onto plasterboard.

I remember having a drink in the Nevisbank in Fort William way back in 1989 with Anne and a few others.

One of her uncles was also having a few drams that night.

Donnie MacDonald, a resident of Claggan.

Donnie was wearing a white woollen Aran sweater, which were popular in those years.

Donnie leaned back against the Artex wall and was clearly enjoying his dram.

However, when he went to step forward he couldn't understand why he couldn't move.

Eventually, he took one almighty lurch

and, because his jumper was entangled in the Artex, he tore a sheet of plasterboard off the wall.

Thankfully no one was injured, but there was a large hole where the plasterboard used to be.

Austin Cambridge

When I worked at Strathaird I knew the local fencer, Lachie MacIntosh, known locally as Lachie Mash.

Lachie was an Elgolian through and through.

He drove an old Austin Cambridge.

Even in the nineteen eighties Austin Cambridges were old cars.

It was in reasonable nick although the only gear that worked was reverse.

Lachie Mash didn't let this minor defect curtail his driving activities.

He could often be seen reversing his way through Elgol, Glasnakille, and Drinan.

I don't think he ever drove to Portree though.

Comb

I remember being at a curry night a few years ago in the Talla Duisdeil.

These were always very enjoyable fund raising occasions with plenty quality food on offer.

A local bodach, sadly no longer with us,

was there waiting patiently in the queue with his plate in hand.

As he leaned forward with a serving spoon his comb flew out of his jacket pocket and landed directly into a large pan of Lamb Rogan Josh!

Thankfully the airborne comb wasn't spotted by anyone else and the bodach quickly removed it without spoiling anyone's evening.

Curry nights were always great craic!

Dolly Parton

Went to a Country Music festival at the Northern Meeting Park, Inverness in September.

I'm not really into cowboy music but it was great craic!

A wide variety of artistes strutting their stuff.

One of the more unusual was a Dolly Parton drag act.

Basically, a guy wearing a blonde wig and a dress.

He played a very clever game.

He'd sing the first line of Islands in the Stream (for example) then point his microphone at the audience who'd then sing the rest of the song.

There were loads of Skye folk in attendance and several beers were consumed! Great craic altogether!

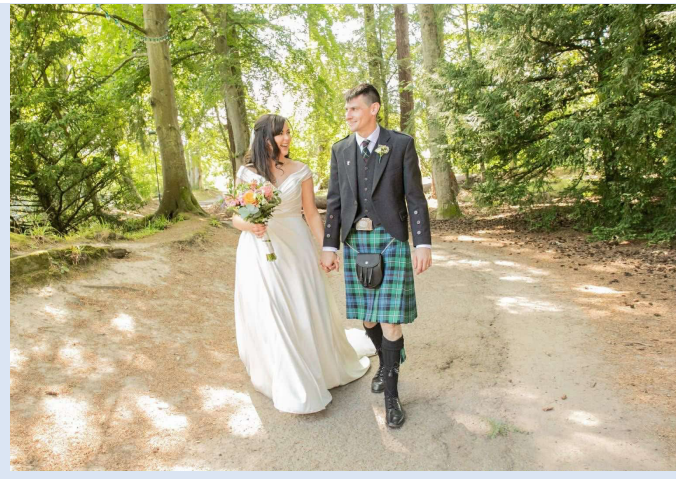


Margot & Angus - First day at School

These two redheads from Camuscross had their first day at Bun-Sgoil Shlèite in August. They've both settled in well and we hope they're enjoying learning with their teacher, Mrs MacKenzie (see page 3!)

Fàilte Margot Bheag!

Congratulations to Victor and Sophie MacConnell on the birth of their beautiful little girl Margot Mary. She was born on Tuesday 9th December weighing 7lb 13oz. And congratulations to the grandparents Alex and Sheila at no. 29 Camuscross!



Congratulations Hector & Sarah

The bonds between Camuscross and Uist run deep, and this was proven once again this past summer when Hector MacKenzie of Camuscross married Sarah MacMillan of Gearraidh Bhailteas, South Uist. Sarah is currently a teacher at Bun-sgoil Shlèite.

Their wedding took place on a bright sunny day on the 16th of July at St Mary's Church in Inverness, with the wedding mass celebrated by Father Michael MacDonald. This was followed by a reception at the Kingsmills Hotel.

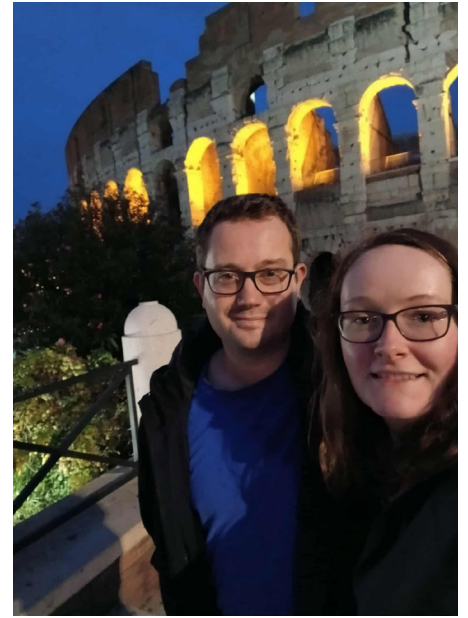
A lovely day was had by all who attended and the Camuscross contingent scrubbed up very well!



Oidhche Shamhna 2025

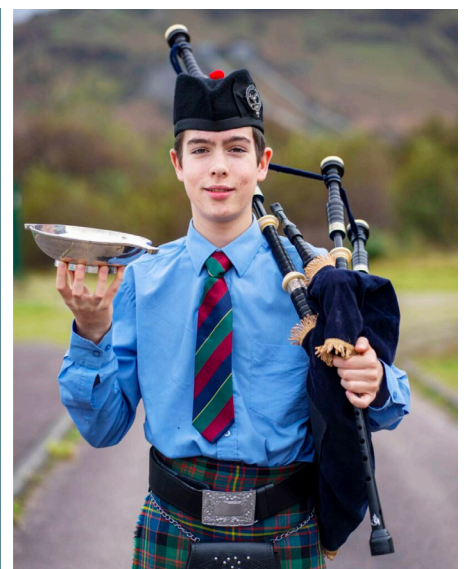
It was a quieter Oidhche Shamhna in Camuscross this year with some of the older kids opting for the bright lights of Ardasar instead of home turf. However, there was a hardy young group who made their way around as many houses as they could. A highlight was visiting Mrs Pat where the children took delight in telling her jokes, riddles, poems and Jedi warriors DC and Micheal even played the Star Wars theme tune on their chanters. The evening ended with topless dooking for apples (the kids, not adults!) and a retelling of the 'Swelling Hag' tale by Dòmhnall Uilleam.





Linda & Michael

Congratulations to local girl Linda Spence who married Michael Rossi on the 18th October. Their wedding took place at an Talla Mhòr at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and was followed by a reception with family and friends at the Eilean Iarmain Hotel. It looks like all the children, especially young Angus, had a great time. The happy couple then headed off for a few days in Rome to celebrate!



Sàr Ghàidheil an t-Sabhail 2025

Chaidh Urram nan Sàr Ghàidheil a bhuileachadh air dithis a tha an-dràsta a' fuireach ann an Camas Chros, Jo NicDhòmhnaill agus Tormod MacGillÌosa OBE, mar dòigh an obair ionmholta aca airson cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig a chomharrachadh.

Tha Jo air ìomhaigh na Gàidhlig a thogail tro ìomadh meadhan is air a liuthad shnàithlean de chultar, dualchas is cànan nan Gàidheil a chur fa chomhair an t-saoghail mhòir.

Tha Tormod air a bhith an sàs ann am foghlam is adhartachadh na Gàidhlig fad ìomadh bliadhna agus bha e na Stiùiriche air Sabhal Mòr Ostaig fad 21 bliadhna.

Tha sinn a' cur meal-a-naidheachd air an dithis aca.

Royal National Mòd

Seonaidh Forrest had a busy competition piping season, taking home the overall junior piping titles at the Isle of Skye, Mallaig & Morar, Arisaig, South Uist and North Uist Highland Games. In October he won first place in the u16 March at the Royal National Mòd in Fort William. Seonaidh is now attending the School of Excellence in Traditional Music in Plockton and thoroughly enjoying it.

CAMUSCROSS GAMES!

Much fun was had at the Camuscross Games at the Park in July. The Logan family excelled at the raft race and in the field, the baking by many volunteers was exceptional, and Seumas did a great turn at the barbecue. The Breakish Cèilidh Band accompanied a road dance of sorts, and random tourists joined in, delighted. The raffle raised £650, which as

advertised, has been donated to promote the Gaelic culture of the township. The money will go to Comunn Eachdraidh Shlèite, the Sleat Local History Society, who will partner with the community to tell our story and to promote local Gaelic identity to a wider audience. More details to come.



Walking Group

We've had a wonderful variety of walks over the last few months in different areas of Sleat. No matter the weather, sunshine, blowing a hoolie or raining full pelt, we'll still get out there, and then enjoy a cozy cuppa in our very own An Crubh afterwards. Great company come rain or shine.



Helping with the Hopper

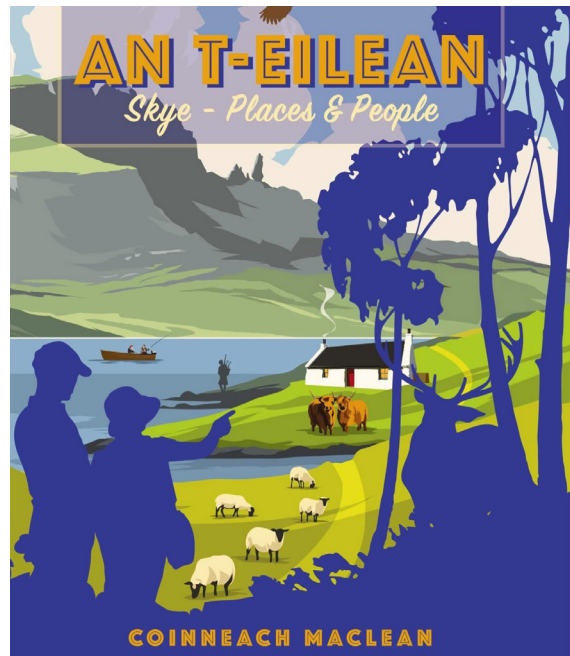
Sabhal Mòr Ostaig kindly offered CDI their woodchips that they no longer need for the An Crubh hopper. Thanks to Gavin, Claire, Donnie, Lorna, Iain, Susan, Duncan R, Seonaidh and Fìoraidh who helped fill bags and transfer them to An Crubh.



Fàilte Mànas Uilleam

Mànas Uilleam MacKinnon Hall was born on Saturday 6th December at 12.30am at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley. His parents, Rona and David, are besotted with this gorgeous little one and looking forward to welcoming him to Camuscross soon.

Iomain Challain - the New Year shinty game will take place on David Campbell's croft by An Lianag at 1pm on the 1st of January. Teams will be picked on the day. Everyone is welcome!



New book release

A new book has just been published by Camuscross resident Coinneach Maclean. 'An t-Eilean. Skye, Place and Peoples' offers an introduction to the Gaelic history and culture of Skye. It builds on the Skye-related material available in Coinneach's other recent publication, 'Travel's to Another Country' but has been extended to include more 'colourful' material and is richly illustrated. Copies are available to buy at An Crùbh.

Lochalsh Mòd 2025

Greg Thomson has been kept busy with his Stòras Shlèite project and having discovered several old songs written by Slèitich, himself, Jasmine Threfall and Alison MacGillivray endeavoured to teach some to the pupils at Bun-sgoil Shlèite.

Such was their interest that they decided restart the school choir and headed to the Lochalsh Mòd in Plockton in October where they swept the boards, winning first with the choir and 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the quartet singing. They sang Caidil Ù Ò (Calum Mòr MacAonghais, Drumfearn), Failte an t-Sàmhradh (John Martin, Camuscross) and Mo Chùlaibh (Lachlan an Tàilleir, Cruard).

There were also several solo competitors from Camuscross & Duisdale winning prizes. Dòmhnall Crisdean MacKinnon won the u10 chanter and Micheal Forrest was 3rd. In the u13 chanter Seumas MacKay was 4th. Seonaidh Forrest took home 3 x 1st in the u18 piping, along with 2nd in the whistle and 2 x 1st for the folk group and guitar and other instrument.

Johnny MacKenzie was second in the S1-2 poetry recitation, third in the S1-2 Singing, second in art and third in literature. His sister Isabelle was third in her solo singing competition.

It is hoped the choir and some of the other winners will perform at a Gaelic event to be held at An Crùbh during Seachdain na Gàidhlig in February 2026. Well done to all who were involved!



NEWS FROM THE EI

WINTER 2025



Bùth Eilean Iarmain

The perfect place for highland inspired festive treats

FEI Venison, Gaelic Whiskies and Gaelic Gins and a selection of Highland inspired gifts

With Christmas fast approaching, where better to pick up some Highland inspired gifts than Bùth Eilean Iarmain.

Whether it's a bottle of our award winning Gaelic Whiskies or Gaelic Gins, something from our wide selection of gifts, edible treats and books there's something for everyone and we're always happy to see you.

Eilean Iarmain Estate Venison

Christmas doesn't have to be about turkey - so if looking for something a little different to eat this Christmas, why not call in a pick up some delicious FEI Estate Venison?



Laoidhean Eilean Iarmain Carols

Talla Dearg

Christmas Carols at Eilean Iarmain

Mulled wine and festive bites from Eilean Iarmain Hotel

Dihaoine 19mh dhen Dùbhlachd
Friday 19th December ~ 6-7f | 6-7pm

Fàilte chridheil air a h-uile duine



Winter Opening Hours:

Mon – Thurs 10am – 5pm | Diluain – Diardaoin 10m – 5f
Fri: 10am - 4.30pm | Dihaoine 10m – 4.30f
Sat / Sun: Closed



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THE ISLE OF SKYE

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



Prize-winning Pooches

The Skye Agricultural Show took place in Portree on the 2nd of August and two local dogs made quite an impression. Sadie, owned by the MacKenzies was 3rd in the working dog category and Johnny was 2nd in the Young Handler competition. Bessie, owned by the Forrests, was 1st in the puppy category and Aonghas was named Best Young Handler. They are just two of many beautiful dogs in Camuscross. The show takes place every year on the first Saturday in August.



Junior Football Success in Europe

Congratulations to Broadford Youth Club and especially their team captain, Seumas Stewart, for taking the side forward to win both the u15 league and cup this season. Following this, the team travelled to Spain in October to compete against a range of European sides at the Football Cup Barcelona Tournament. As is often the case, it is not easy for any Scottish team in Europe, but Broadford Youth Club bucked the trend by winning a game against Stabæk JF. Also of note was the substantial fundraising the whole team undertook throughout the year to raise enough money for this once in a lifetime trip. Well done to Seumas and friends.



A Summer Storm

The weather this summer was very good by Skye standards with quite a few warm sunny days. In August, however, Storm Éowyn knocked out electricity for a few days and the internet for a week! With trees already weakened, Storm Amy caused further damage when it hit on the 3rd of October. On Saturday morning once the storm had passed, there was no electricity, no phone signal, no internet and some damage to property. The particular oak tree shown was responsible for the delayed return of the internet after Storm Amy!



Marrion's Chair *by Mary Blaxland*

Marrion came to my Open Day (marysairs.co.uk) last March, asking if she would be able to re-upholster her Grandmother's Great Grandfather's chair. It was a very old piece and the frame was particularly delicate in places.

Marrion came once a week to my Tuesday afternoon session at the workshop in Camuscross. We stripped the chair down removing all the old stuffing, and then gradually rebuilt it using traditional materials and techniques over several weeks. Webbing, tarpaulin hessian, horsehair, wool felt and calico barrier cloth were used for the stuffing. Marrion covered the chair in a Skye Weavers blue diamond fabric. It was a pleasure to teach Marrion how to restore such an old piece of furniture and keep it alive for another generation.

A' Coimhead air Crotal / A Look at Lichens *Bodach nam Bileag*

A couple of weeks ago, a learned botanist friend came up for a visit. We found her outside one morning in raptures over one of the oaks felled by the recent storm, with 'five different kinds of lichen on its trunk!' Save for a couple of frazzled dandelions, the flower season has gone to ground until snowdrops make a welcome return in a few weeks' time. Until then, we might pay some attention to lichens, these rather less glamorous organisms that encrust tree bark, boulders, rooftops, fence posts, gravestones and the like.

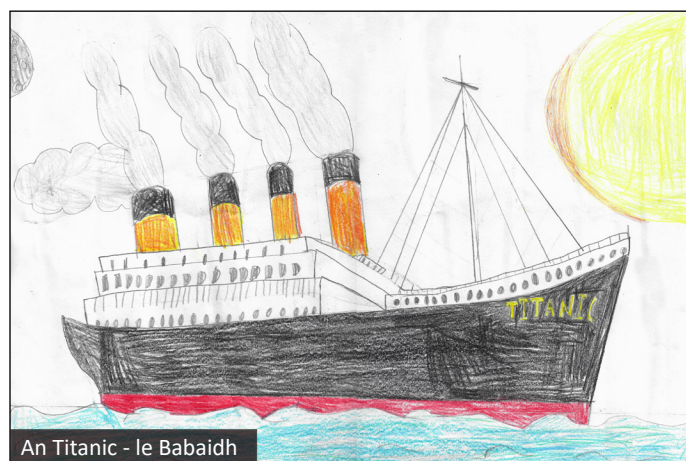
Clean, unpolluted Hebridean air, relatively mild temperatures, relentless rain, and comparatively little human impact have given Skye a remarkable variety of lichens. Beachcombers will be familiar with the vivid orange and yellow splashes of 'sunburst' *Xanthoria* lichens clinging to the rocks, often fertilised by nitrogen-heavy bird droppings. Their striking colour, shielding them from ultraviolet light, contrasts with the pale grey, painterly blotches of the *Lecanora* 'sea-rim lichens'. Woods and boulders alike are home to gorgeously leafy, or seaweedy, foliose lichens, while different types of the exuberantly hairy fruticose lichens are everywhere to be seen.

Highland lichenologists, as might be expected, are an eccentric bunch. The lichen pioneer was the Rev. John Stuart of Luss, translator of much of the Old Testament into Gaelic and enthusiastic taxidermist, whose own wife feared 'that when she shall depart, he will have her stuffed!' A lichenologist closer to our own era is Ronald Burn, Gaelic learner, place-name collector, and first ever 'compleat Munroist'. Both must have learnt their lichens from people familiar with the mountains. Stuart would have known many women who

gathered crotal corcar (*Ochrolechia tartarea*) as a scarlet dyestuff, branded as 'cudbear' and now scarce as a result of commercial overexploitation. Burn, haunter of the hills, mixed with the gamekeepers, ghillies, and shepherds who still inhabited the inland glens before the 'last Highland Clearance' in the wake of the hydroelectric developments after the war.

Lichens, of course, aren't strictly speaking plants at all. Nor are they single organisms. Rather, a lichen is a close biological partnership—or even a miniature ecosystem—typically involving a single fungus, and one or more photosynthesising partners: usually a green alga, and sometimes a cyanobacterium. The photosynthesiser uses sunlight to produce sugars, which are supplied to the fungus. In return, the fungus shelters the photosynthesiser and gives it a stable environment.

This multi-species entanglement continues to give botanists conceptual headaches—and research opportunities—particularly regarding what exactly counts as an organism. Lichens function and reproduce as single, stable biological units, yet they are composed of multiple species, with different genomes, many of which can't survive independently in the wild. Given that our own bodies, especially our guts, are home to tens of trillions of microorganisms, are we really so different ourselves? Perhaps the humble (but biologically very sophisticated) lichen is worth a ponder at Christmas, proof that nature and evolution don't only work through red-toothed competition and exclusion: sometimes alliances, cooperation, and mutual dependence have their place too.



An Titanic - le Babaidh



An Crùbh Events Coordinator

Hi! I'm Evageline (Eve) Majawat. I'm the new Events Coordinator for An Crùbh. It's a multi-role job. I manage the hall bookings and organise events that bring footfall into An Crùbh with marketing and designing thrown into the mix. It's never a boring day!

I'm also a yoga teacher and am so proud that my class was the first public event held at An Crùbh when it first opened its doors. It has been a very exciting and fun few months being part of An Crùbh. I work with some incredible people-staff and volunteers.

I want to make An Crùbh the 'hub' to bring people together to build sustainable connections and share their stories. Expect more collaborative projects in various fields. There is a term, "kita jaga kita" from my hometown Sabah, Malaysia, which means we look out/take care of each other. I hope to reflect that in my work.

If you have any ideas for events or how to improve An Crùbh, do email me at an-crubhoffice@gmail.com. We also always welcome volunteers.

Fun fact: I'm half Chinese and half KadazanDusun (a former headhunting indigenous tribe from Sabah, Malaysia). I can speak 4 languages with English as my first language.



Donnie Smiling with joy for his new found freedom!

Fundraising *by Siùsaidh*

In the New Year we will hold one or two afternoon sessions on computer skills for those needing support. We also hope to have a further computer session at the Lunch Club. There will also be another secret book sale in February and the annual quiz and dinner. We may also have a Spring Fling clothes sale with other charities or a Car Boot/table top sale in March. Another Race Night has also been mooted. If you have any other ideas or want to join the Fundraising Group get in touch. siusaidh.nicneill@gmail.com.



SHOP

22nd & 23rd Dec
Christmas Eve
Christmas & Boxing Day
27th, 28th, 29th & 30th Dec
New Year's Eve
New Year & 2nd January

10 AM - 4.30AM
10 AM - 4.30 PM
CLOSED
10 AM - 4.30PM
10 AM - 2 PM
CLOSED

CAFE

22nd & 23rd December
Christmas Eve
Christmas & Boxing Day
7th, 28th, 29th & 30th Dec
New Year's Eve
New Year & 2nd January

11 AM - 4PM
11 AM - 2PM
CLOSED
11 AM - 4.30PM
11 AM - 2 PM
CLOSED

Reinstating the Lunch Club?

Thanks to everyone who submitted a questionnaire in support of reinstating the lunch club for older members of the community. We were very pleased to receive twenty-two responses. Five of the respondents want to be members only, and five younger members of the community are willing to help in a variety of ways as volunteers. The remaining twelve will be members over 65 attending 'under cover' as volunteers as they too are willing to help wherever needed. We hope that with more publicity, people from other local areas will come and join us.

The most popular choice is to hold the

lunch club every second Thursday. The An Crùbh staff have devised two menus and will alternate between soup and a main on one date and a main and sweet on the following.

Seventeen people would also like occasional additional activities.

The lunch club promises good food and good fun with people able to meet and chat on a regular basis. There will always be the opportunity to make suggestions and changes. This is your lunch club.

We are finalising the budget and will submit our funding application as soon as possible. We hope to have good news soon!



CAMUSCROSS & DUISDALE INITIATIVE
IOMAIRT CHAMAS CHROS & DHÙISDEIL

CDI AGM Update

The CDI AGM took place at An Crùbh on 29 November and marked the end of an era with two longstanding office-bearers, David Collins and Donnie MacKinnon, stepping down.

Donnie MacKinnon of Torr an Aigh has been a board member for the majority of CDI's existence and held the position of board chair several times.

David Collins of Barabhaig has been CDI company secretary since 2011. He confirmed this would be his final

AGM as company secretary before moving away next year. Both have contributed enormously to CDI and An Crùbh.

Claire Wylie was re-elected as a director, Norman Gillies was elected following a year as a co-opted member, and Nicola Thomson and Emma Armstrong were welcomed as new directors. Lorna Pike and Eilidh Robertson will continue as co-opted members, with Eilidh taking on part of the company secretary role.

The board noted that it is encouraging to have a strong and growing group that includes younger members of the community. They thanked everyone for their ongoing support.

If you'd like to be involved with the Board of CDI or with An Crùbh's separate trading Board 'An Crùbh Ltd', contact Dave or Susan.