



A' GHIBLEAN/APRIL 2026



Kate Forbes' MSP Visit

On Friday 13 February, An Crùbh hosted a visit by Kate Forbes MSP who was accompanied by her replacement candidate for the constituency, Eilidh Munro. They met with some CDI Board members and volunteers and then had a tour of the building. Both Kate and Eilidh were very impressed by what has been achieved and very engaged with our future plans. We felt that we succeeded in getting across the precarious financial position we are in at present and how much commitment and community effort is needed to keep everything functioning as it should.

An exciting evening of recitals by internationally renowned opera singers followed by Skye Chorus performing Fauré's Requiem plus pieces from Handel's Theodora

OPERA GALA & FAURÉ'S REQUIEM

Anthony Cleverton
CONDUCTOR & MUSICAL DIRECTOR

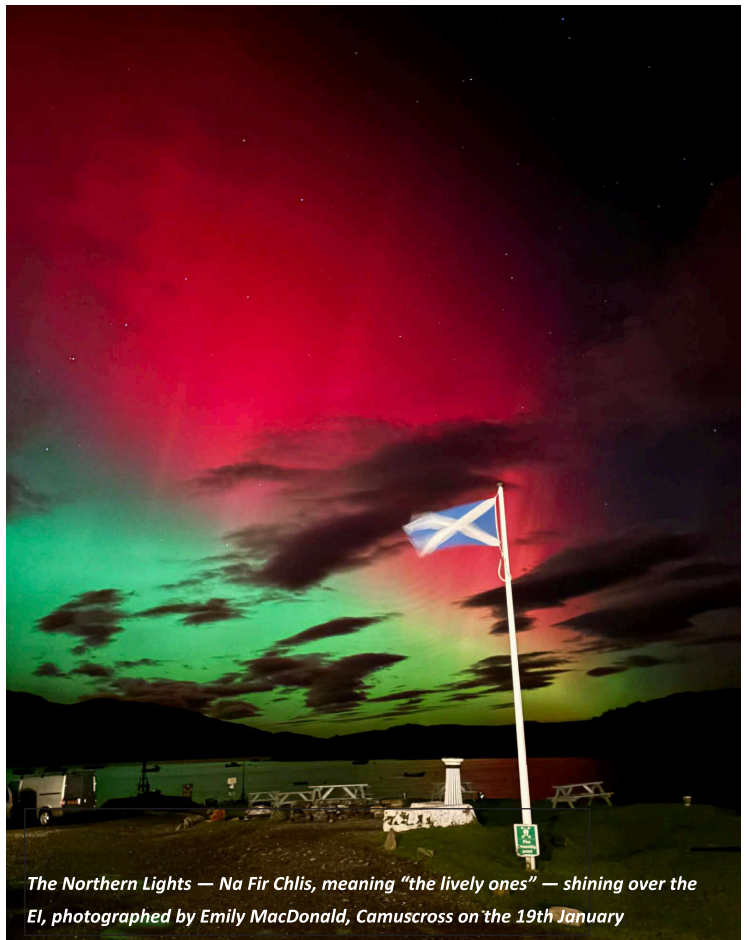
Claire Wild SOPRANO
Paul Hopwood TENOR
James Cleverton BASS
Robin Humphreys ACCOMPANIST

Friday 3rd April 2026,
Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Sleat

Saturday 4th April 2026,
Free Church,
Shepherd's Way, Portree

DOORS OPEN AT 7.00PM
PERFORMANCE COMMENCES AT 7.30PM

Good luck to Gwen Culbertson, Rachel Findlay, Abigail Burnyeat, Sheila Dick and Mark Wringe who will be performing at two concerts with Skye Chorus over the Easter Weekend.



The Northern Lights — Na Fir Chlis, meaning “the lively ones” — shining over the EI, photographed by Emily MacDonald, Camuscross on the 19th January

Lachie Strummer



Pigs' Ears

Recently visited the Highland Larder shop in the Black Isle.

They have every conceivable cut of meat from every species of farmed animal. I asked the lady behind the counter if she had pigs' ears.

She started crying, ran off and shouted, 'Why are men so horrible? I've always looked like this!'

Contortionist

I once knew a guy who was a highly respected contortionist. He would bend over backwards to help people.

HMS Tiptoe

My father had a colleague in the police who served in the Royal Navy.

He once recalled being a sailor on the submarine HMS Tiptoe.

When the order went out 'Tiptoe to battlestations!' half the crew would walk quietly and stealthily with their heels off the deck bearing their weight on their toes.

Glasgow Airport

I heard recently that a man fainted on the luggage carousel at Glasgow Airport. Thankfully, he came round slowly.

Holly and Hyacinth

Back in the early 1990s we were persuaded to take a couple of goats for the croft.

An old shipmate, who I worked with at Kyleakin, had quite a few goats on his croft in Breakish. All their names started with the letter 'H'.

Ronnie and his wife Connie arrived in their Volvo estate with two goats in the back. I'm not sure if the goats had been wearing seatbelts.

The next morning I went to check on the goats.

Somewhat alarmingly, they were both on top of the corrugated iron roof of our old stone byre.

Their stay in Cruard was a short one and they were duly given a lift back to Breakish.



Commendation

Congratulations to Calum Robertson, from 9 Camuscross, who received a Royal Navy Commendation in the recent King's New Year's Honours list.

Calum, who is serving as a Marine Engineering technician, was honoured as a result of his 'swift, courageous and professional response' during an incident on board his ship last year.

Calum, who is 25, is currently based at HMS Sultan in Gosport, Hampshire.

Lunch Club is back!

We are delighted to announce that the Lunch Club, held at the EI until the pandemic, has now been re-established at An Crùbh. This has been made possible by funding for a pilot phase from the Budhmor Fund which supports groups whose work benefits older people in Skye and Raasay.

An Crùbh provides a lovely venue for friends and neighbours, who might not otherwise meet on a regular basis, to gather together and chat over lunch. The club meets every second Thursday and so far has 27 members, so we are close to filling the café if everyone comes. Meals are pre-ordered to enable everything to run smoothly in the kitchen. The lunch club brings its own entourage of 5 volunteers who do all the serving and washing-up for the group. In addition, there are several members from within the group who are very willing to help if necessary. Transport to and from An Crùbh is provided for those who need it.

The first lunch was held on 29 January and 20 people attended. Everyone had a lovely time catching up on a beautiful sunny day and enjoyed the wonderful two course meal. Our original plan was to have two volunteers in the shop

during the staff lunch break in case anyone wanted to buy perishable goods after lunch but no one left the table until after 2.30. This was doubtless due to the generous portions served! We introduced the option of small portions for subsequent lunches and will shortly be seeking feedback on how successful this has been, as well as views on menu choices and how we all did generally. This information will inform the next funding bid and the structure of the lunch club in future.

There will be two more lunches in this pilot phase. If you would like to join us, please contact lornapike50@gmail.com. Once again, our grateful thanks to the Budhmor Fund for making this possible!



Small Events, Big Impact!

What is it they say - behind every community initiative lies a brilliant fundraising group? Well, in Camuscross and Duisdale, that is certainly the case!

Over the past eight years, the **Fundraising Group has raised a remarkable £30,000** to support the work of CDI and its community hub, An Crùbh. That funding has gone directly into practical, much-needed items - soup kettles, tables, loudspeakers - and now plans are in place to purchase a container to ease the ongoing pressure on storage at An Crùbh. £7,500 has been brought in through Gift Aid alone.

From car boot sales to Galloping Gourmets, quiz nights to the ever-popular Blind Date with a Book, these are events run by the community, for the community and they make a real and lasting difference.

February's quiz night brought in over £300, with thanks to quizmaster Keith MacKenzie for keeping things lively and to Chris for the delicious food. The raffle prizes were, as always, generous. Congratulations to Balmacara for winning the Tobar Ard topside, and to Mark Wringe, now the latest custodian of the Camus Cross Community Hairdryer.

The recent car boot sale was a little quieter than usual, but still well worth running and a good reminder that not every event needs to be a big one to play its part.

While larger projects rely on grant funding which are often secured through significant effort - often by Susan Walker of An Crùbh's trading board - they need to be spent on specific things. However, the Fundraising Group provides a flexible, steady and reliable source of income that can be used as needed. Since An Crùbh opened, they have been a constant presence, helping to keep things going in a very practical and versatile way.

The group is always open to new members and fresh ideas are always welcome. **Siùsaidh NicNèill, who has been central to the group's work, is stepping down this year, and we want to record our sincere thanks to her on behalf of both the group and the wider community of Camuscross and Duisdale.**

If you would like to get involved, even in a small way, please get in touch with Eve at An Crùbh, who is supporting the group and helping to bring new events into the hall.

A final word from Siùsaidh: *"Mìle, mìle taing dhuibh, to everyone who has ever donated a prize, bought tickets or books, attended events or just generally supported us since 2017. Tha sinn fada nur comain!"*

NEXT EVENT: Charity Café on 13th April.



Siùsaidh (in the centre) has been central to the fundraising group



Caitlin and Martha (inset) Culbertson in Matilda

Local LMPA Stars

Another fantastic set of performances from LMPA last weekend, with not one but two shows taking to the stage - Disney's Jungle Book for the junior group and Roald Dahl's Matilda for the seniors.

Camuscross and Duisdale were well represented throughout. Isabelle Mackenzie delivered a brilliant performance as Baloo, while Bàbaidh Thomson, Maisie MacKay and Effie Knot (Drumfearn) all played their part in the lively, energetic and thoroughly enjoyable sing-along.

The senior cast brought Matilda to life and certainly didn't disappoint. It's a hugely talented group, with Caitlin Culbertson shining as Lavender and giving a glimpse of what's still to come. Her sister Martha also joined the senior team this year, adding to the strong local presence on stage.

We are very fortunate to have an organisation like LMPA in our area, and it's clear just how much time, effort and dedication goes into producing shows of this standard. Fundraising also took place over the weekend to support a trip to Birmingham later this year for the senior group.

LMPA continues to offer a wide range of classes, including acting, musical theatre, singing and dance, providing brilliant opportunities for young people locally. There are classes also taking place during the Easter break, check facebook for details.



Eachdraidh Chroitean Chamas Chros | Camuscross Croft History *Greg Thomson*

In this issue of An Lianag, I'd like to look at some of the occupations that people were employed in during the 19th century in Camuscross and Duisdale.

Again, like the previously published croft histories, this is a work in progress, therefore if anyone has any amendments or can add to the stories of the people and families mentioned, I'd love to hear from you: gregmachthomais@gmail.com The 19th century was a time of great change in Skye. It was marked by a growth in population early in the century, reaching a high point of almost 3000 people in Sleat in 1831, followed by a long decline due to famine, emigration, disease and clearance. Some jobs and crafts continued from earlier times while others were developed as society and technology adapted and as fortunes changed at the port of Isle Ornsay.

The great majority of male heads of household from the 1841 census until 1901 in Camuscross and Duisdale are entered as crofters (sometimes noted as farmers or agricultural labourers), cotters, fishermen and mariners. However, the focus of this piece will be other occupations among the townships' population as recorded in statutory registers.

Women would be noted in census returns as crofters if they were the head of the household and as 'crofter's wife' if their husband was absent on the day of the census, often if the husband was a mariner and absent for a large part of the year. Some women were noted as 'fieldworker', 'general servant', and 'pauper' for older women who perhaps could no longer work and were reliant on local charity before the Old Age Pensions Act (1908) and the National Service Act (1946) came into law. Other occupations held by women include laundress (Mary Gillies b.1861 of Duisdale Beag), domestic servant (Catherine MacDonald of Camuscross), dairymaid (Margaret MacIntosh b.1829 of Duisdale Mòr). Margaret and her husband, Donald Robertson, and their family, were cleared from their home in Duisdale and moved to Camuscross to make way for Duisdale House in the late 1860s.

Blacksmiths, such as Donald MacInnes of

7 and 8 Camuscross, would have held a unique place in rural society in the 19th century. As well as the essential tools forged by the smith such as toirisceilean (peat irons), casan-crom (foot ploughs), spades, plough shares and all kinds of agricultural and domestic ironmongery, the smithy and forge would have been a permanently warm refuge and centre of the area's transmission of news and stories. Many trades were passed down the generations which can be seen in the case of Donald, who was the son of another smith and another Donald.

In a time long before ordering clothes and footwear was possible via the internet or even J. D. Williams, the tailor and the shoemaker would have provided most items not knitted or woven at home. Cruard seems to have been the centre in the area for handmade goods. The people involved in these crafts would have had garden ground attached to their houses and would not have been croft tenants such as in the rest of Camuscross and Duisdale. Tailors included John Gillies (b.1823) and his son Lachlan (Lachlan an Tàilleir 1871-1946) of Cruard, Lachlan MacKinnon (1771-1857) of Cruard and Alexander Kemp of Gairloch and later, Camuscross.

Ewen Robertson (b.1836) of Camuscross, Ewen MacLure (1812-1898) of Cruard, Donald MacDonald (b.1821) of Camuscross, Ewen MacDonald (1796-1862) of Duisdale, Donald Martin (b.1828) of Duisdale Mòr and John MacInnes (1793-1878) of Duisdale Beag were all noted as shoemakers. Again, the shoemaker's craft was often passed down from generation to generation.

Ann Johnston (1800-1877) of Duisdale Mòr is recorded as a hand loom weaver, Effy MacDonald (1799-1877) of Camuscross as a weaveress, and Margaret MacLure (b.1807) of Camuscross as a wool weaver.

Much of the population was employed in agricultural and estate activities. Archibald Campbell (b.1823) of 7 Cruard, Myles MacInnes (b.1766) of Duisdale Mòr, and Kenneth MacKinnon (1836-1912) of 2 Duisdale Mòr were employed as gamekeepers. Donald Grant (1824-1890) of Duisdale and Camuscross and great-grandfather of Innes Grant, Donald MacInnes (1809-1897) of Duisdale Mòr,

Charles MacPherson (1841-1909) of Camuscross and great-grandfather of Peter and Dolina, and Finlay MacMillan of Duisdale Mòr were shepherds in different parts of Sleat and Strath such as Ord and Corrie.

Isle Ornsay was a major port at the centre of the herring industry which employed many fishermen in Camuscross and Duisdale. To safely transport the landed herring to markets at home and abroad, and as distant as Germany, Eastern Europe and Russia, coopers were employed as skilled craftsmen to fabricate barrels and casks. Alexander Nicolson (b.1801) of Duisdale Beag and Donald MacKinnon (b.1791) of 37 Camuscross were among the coopers employed in the area. Donald had previously been cleared from Mùrsaig, by Drumfearn, and is an ancestor of Donnie MacKinnon.

Among the religious occupations noted in statutory registers and census returns were Donald MacLure (1791-1866), a catechist from Duisdale Beag, Malcolm Kennedy (1795-1866), a catechist of 31 Camuscross, Alexander MacInnes (b.1870), a Church of Scotland missionary from Duisdale Beag, and John MacKinnon (1786-1856) of Duisdale Mòr, the Church of Scotland minister.

Other occupations found in census returns and living in Camuscross and Duisdale include schoolmasters, grocers, carpenters, pensioned soldiers, masons, a print compositor, policemen (both at home and in Glasgow) sea captains and an accoucheur (or obstetrician).

This account is not exhaustive, and it would be great to research these and other occupations further to give a fuller account of life in Sleat in the 19th century. I am grateful to Linda Spence at the Museum of the Isles and Katharine Mockett of the United States for much of the genealogical information contained in this piece.





Captain Lachie Gillies

Iomain Challainn Shoirbheachail

We had another brilliant turnout of players and spectators for our annual Iomain Challainn - New Year's Day shinty, which took place on Croft 22.

Over 30 players in three mixed teams fought it out, with honours this year going to the blue team, captained by Lachie Gillies. He lifted a beautiful trophy, crafted by Graeme MacKenzie. The day's star player was 5-year-old Angus Adcock, playing shinty for the first time but showing no fear against his older opponents!

As always the event couldn't happen without support from the community. Big thanks to Donald MacKenzie for mowing the field, Lucilla at FEI & the Hotel Eilean Iarmain for food and refreshments, DW & Abigail Burnyeat for the bacon rolls & to Alasdair Stewart for his Piping. To David Campbell for the use of the field, Iain MacAskill, Pete Fowler & the CDI who all donated whisky as well as everyone else who contributed on the day, with special mention for Ceit and Mary Logan for their organisation and help.

The weather was pretty kind to us and it was great to see so many people from near and far so enthusiastically supporting this great community event. *Written by organiser Keith MacKenzie.*

Recipe: Paisley Loaf

Paisley Loaf is a recipe shared by Elaine Scott (Cruard) whose mum made it frequently when she was growing up. Despite its fairly austere ingredients list, it's a satisfying and hearty bake that goes beautifully with a cuppa and is reminiscent of clottie dumpling. It's also accidentally vegan!

- 1 cup raisins
- 1 cup currants
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup sugar
- 3oz margarine
- 2 cups self raising flour
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon

Add water, raisins, currants, sugar and margarine to a pan and simmer for 2/3 mins. Allow to cool slightly. Add dry ingredients and mix well. Pour into lined loaf tin and bake at 190 degrees for 40 mins.

Live Screenings Return



Friday 10 April at An Crùbh will see the long-awaited return of the showing of the very best in opera, ballet, with the addition of sports, drama and children's entertainment. The live relays from Covent Garden in London to Talla Dhùisdeil were very popular with a loyal audience but getting the hall to a tolerable temperature in the depth of winter was a challenge. An Crùbh was an obvious alternative venue, and Fearann Eilean Iarmain very supportively allowed CDI to purchase all the technical equipment for a knock-down price, which was funded by a generous donation from a local resident. Installation costs were funded by another donor. Early testing showed a fault that had developed with the projector while out of use, and CDI paid directly for repair and overhaul by a specialist in London. The results, from further testing in the last few weeks are fantastic, offering a truly immersive experience. But long days and bright evenings will soon be with us, making it difficult to achieve blackout. So grab the opportunity to see a stupendous production from **Glyndebourne** applauded by critics and directed by David MacVicar of **Giulio Cesare** (Julius Caesar) at **7pm on Friday 10 April at An Crùbh**. (Handy for a takeaway before the show).

As this is not a live relay, but from a recording to which Hans Petri has the rights, there will be no ticket charge on the night, but donations for the screening project will be very welcome, while we work on agreements with various sources for a full programme beginning in autumn. We'll also take the opportunity to continue finding out what you want to see. Suggestions for expanding beyond the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet relays include so far Six Nations rugby, Wimbledon, National Theatre productions, Andre Rieu, and Glyndebourne and Met productions. The best seat in the house for a fraction of the ticket price, and all right on our doorstep.

Creamh – Wild Garlic *Bodach nam Bileag*

Creamh, or wild garlic (or ramsoms), hasn't made much of an appearance so far this year, but it won't be long before road verges and damp woodland floors will be carpeted with its white star-shaped flowers – the 'lurachain chreamhach fhàsmhor' ('growing garlicky ransom flowers') praised by the poet Alasdair mac Mhaighstir Alasdair in his *Allt an t-Siucair* or 'Sugar Burn' – and also reek of its pungent pong. Its Latin name, *Allium ursinum*, links it to other members of the *Allium* ('pungent') family, including onions, leeks, and chives. Like its relatives, wild garlic produces distinctive organosulphur compounds to deter pests, yet humans (some of us at least) have long appreciated these strong odours and flavours and adapted them to local cuisines around the globe.

The plant's flat leaves and bulbous roots are edible, raw or cooked. Beyond its uses in the kitchen, wild garlic has a long history of medical uses, valued for its ability to ward off microbial infections as much as for cures. This is largely due to allicin, a natural, short-lived sulphur compound responsible for the sharp smell of freshly crushed garlic.

Wild garlic is also thought to offer (modest) cardiovascular benefits, including lowering blood pressure, reducing clot formations, and limiting oxidative stress. The Skye traveller Martin Martin noted that an infusion of wild garlic leaves was used 'as a Remedy against the Stone': that is, against gallstones and kidney stones. In Ireland, the plant was sometimes applied for toothache or skin sores, likely because of the burning sensation of garlic juice.

Wild garlic's cure-all reputation is summed up in the Gaelic proverb 'Leighis air gach tinn, creamh is ìm a' Cheitein': 'a cure for every illness, wild garlic and May butter'. There is a similar, more picturesque saying in the West of England, 'Eat leeks in Lide [the 'sailing month' of March] and ramsins in May, and all the year after physicians may play'.

According to an early medieval Irish law tract, a tenant was expected to provide an annual *crimfeis* or 'garlic festival' before Easter, for his lord and three followers, where they would be regaled with milk, cheese, and wild garlic. Nowadays,

TikTok influencers have been known to use wild garlic in local 'artisanal pesto' – but there are more traditional recipes too. Brothchán Foltchep, or Brothchán Roy, is supposed to have been St Columba's favourite soup. This recipe adds wild garlic to the (compulsory) leeks.

Ingredients

- 3–4 medium leeks
- A good handful of wild garlic (creamh), finely chopped
- 3 tablespoons butter
- About ½ teaspoon salt (or to taste)
- ½ cup oatmeal
- 3½ cups chicken stock (or water, if you prefer it plainer)
- ½ to ¾ cup double cream
- 2–3 tablespoons chopped parsley
- Freshly ground black pepper

Method

1. Prepare the leeks

Wash the leeks well. Slice them finely, using the white and pale green parts.

2. Begin the broth

Melt the butter in a large pot over a medium heat. Add the leeks with a little salt, and let them cook gently for 3–5 minutes, until soft and fragrant, but not browned.

3. Add the oatmeal

Stir in the oatmeal and let it toast lightly in the butter and leeks for a minute or two.

4. Make the soup

Pour in the stock and bring to a gentle simmer. Let it cook quietly for about 25–30 minutes, until the oats are tender and the broth has thickened to a soft, velvety consistency.

5. Add the wild garlic

Stir in the wild garlic (creamh) towards the end, allowing it just a few minutes to soften and release its fresh, green flavour.

6. Finish with cream and herbs

Add the cream and warm through for another 2–3 minutes. Stir in the parsley and black pepper, and taste for seasoning.





NEWS FROM THE EI

SPRING 2026

Bùth Eilean Iarmain

Where better to pick up some Highland inspired gifts than Bùth Eilean Iarmain.

We're now stocking jewellery and candle holders made from antler and bullets, charcuterie boards, local jams and chutneys, local pottery by John Sloan, recycled wool rugs, Skye toiletries, a selection of books including several local authors, a nice selection of cards and of course, the award winning Gaelic Whiskies and Gaelic Gins.

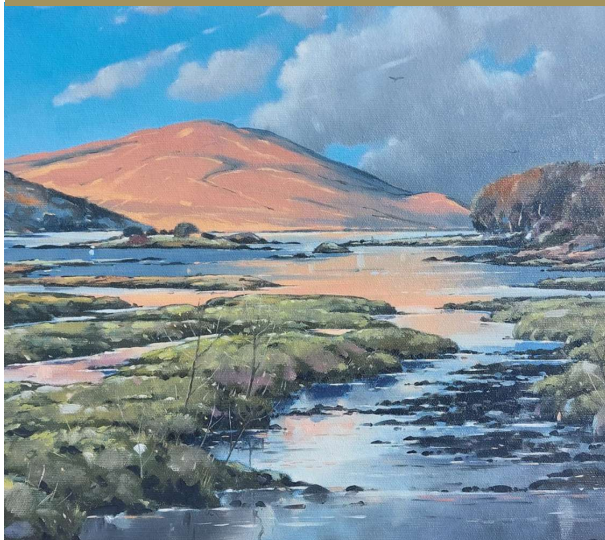
With spring ahead of us, why not call in and pick up some delicious FEI Estate Venison for your barbecue?



Opening Hours:

Mon-Fri 10am – 6pm
Diluain – Diardaoin 10m – 6f
Sat / Sun: Closed

Gallery An Talla Dearg - 2026 Schedule



Skye & Lochalsh Arts & Crafts Assoc	10 Apr - 22 Apr
A Lochcarron Trio: featuring Aileen Grant, Steven Proudfoot, Cindie Reiter	24 Apr - 06 May
Helen L Robertson	08 May - 27 May
Jim Woodman	29 May - 24 Jun
Scott MacDonald	26 Jun - 08 Jul
Marianne Worthy & Maddy Osborn	10 Jul - 22 Jul
Claire Rooney & Lindsay Johnston	24 Jul - 05 Aug
Matt James Brown	07 Aug - 19 Aug
Derek Robertson	21 Aug - 07 Oct
Liz Myhill	09 Oct - 28 Oct
Matt James Brown	30 Oct - 25 Nov



EILEAN IARMAIN
THE ISLE OF SKYE

t: 01471 833 266
e: info@eileaniarmain.co.uk
w: www.eileaniarmain.co.uk

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

Craobhan: Gaelic Tree Names Wordsearch

C	N	E	H	A	H	S	H	H	C	A	R	A	D
E	A	D	H	H	D	H	C	U	L	A	A	A	
G	D	H	O	A	B	C	A	A	I	C	H	S	H
G	S	M	B	E	I	T	H	E	N	I	A	A	S
H	I	A	O	I	I	A	H	H	N	E	I	B	U
B	O	U	L	I	A	C	O	T	S	H	O	N	T
E	C	A	T	D	C	I	H	I	E	N	H	I	C
O	H	O	H	H	H	I	G	G	A	S	E	R	D
L	E	A	M	H	A	N	E	S	N	F	A	A	R
R	A	A	F	I	L	S	N	I	N	U	F	D	O
E	A	N	N	A	R	O	A	C	B	N	L	D	M
E	S	A	E	D	H	G	F	E	E	O	N	A	A
E	B	F	A	I	D	H	B	H	I	L	E	D	N
G	H	H	T	S	A	H	C	A	E	L	I	E	S

- Darach (Oak)
- Uinnseann (Ash)
- Droman (Elder)
- Beithe (Birch)
- Sgitheach (Hawthorn)
- Seileach (Willow – Salix)
- Caorann (Rowan)
- Giuthas (Pine – Pinus)
- Faidhbhile (Beech – Fagus)
- Leamhan (Elm)



CAMUSCROSS & DUISDALE INITIATIVE
IOMAIRT CHAMAS CHROS & DHÙISDEIL

Plans for Planning!

There are interesting plans in the making to provide a much needed storage container, proposed holiday accommodation and a polycrub enabling us to reap the benefits of increased storage space, generate more income and grow our own produce. We are very grateful to Rory Flynn for assisting us with the planning application for these developments.

We will be applying for funding in the new financial year for costs to cover the groundworks required and hope we can give you some positive news in the near future.



Hardy local lassies

A group of women have been braving the cold temperatures each Sunday morning as they take a dip in the sea. If you're interested in joining them, pop along to the parking space beside Pete's blue shed on Sunday mornings, usually at 11.30am!



The Col Jock & other Successes

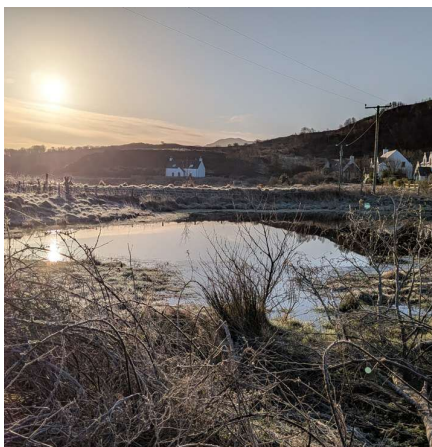
Each year in October the Colonel Jock MacDonald memorial competition is held in Viewfield house in Portree. This year, due to the passing of a committee member, the event was postponed until February 2026.

Despite the change in date the event still attracted some of the finest young traditional musicians from across Skye and Lochalsh. This year Seumas Stewart of Camuscross won the advanced

Fiddle, Dòmhnall Crisdean MacKinnon was 3rd in the beginners chanter. And Seonaidh Forrest was awarded the title of Best Skye Piper.

More recently Seonaidh and Micheal Forrest competed in the Lochaber Junior Piping Competition. Seonaidh was the overall winner of the under 18 category and Micheal was 4th in the under 10 chanter.

'S math a rinn sibh uile 'illean!



Saltmarsh investigations for Durham Students

The Geography Department at Durham University were on Skye last week for their annual Easter residential field trip. They were looking for evidence of coastal changes over the last 7,000 years, and investigating whether modern sea-level rise caused by human-driven climate change is detectable in the salt marsh.

This was be the first scientific investigation of the active saltmarsh and of the sediments around the two ponds in in the village (one at the El and the other on Graeme and Anne's croft). The fieldwork involved a mixture of observations, mapping, surveying, and sediment coring to examine layers of peat, silt, and sand.

What appeared at first to be a simple site turned out to be far more complex than initially thought, but nonetheless very interesting—especially once Anne and Graeme began sharing some of its history. In the next edition of An Lianag we'll provide more information on their findings

Cuirm Shònraichte sa Choimhearsnachd

Families and friends packed An Crùbh in February for a memorable ceilidh night organised by Bun-sgoil Shlèite Parent Council to mark Seachdain na Gàidhlig (World Gaelic Week).

The event brought together musical talent spanning the community including plenty from Camuscross & Duisdale. Bun-sgoil Shlèite pupils performed on fiddle, piano and chanter. The school choir, led by Greg Thomson and Jasmine Threlfall, performed Sleat songs and poems as part of the Storas Shlèite project. One highlight was Greg and Jasmine singing the song 'An t-Uisge' a translation by Greg of the Johnny Flynn and Laura Marling song 'The Water'. The choir were wonderful backing singers!

Another highlight was double Gold Medalist, and Bun-sgoil Shlèite heat teacher, Kenny Nicolson singing a selection of Gaelic songs accompanied on the cello by Alison McGillivray, which enthralled the entire audience – including all his pupils!

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig music student MacKenzie Loudon piped for the opening, and the young Ardvasar piper Sam De Vries, took to the stage after the interval. He was followed by Seonaidh Forrest and his quartet from Plockton Music School. Dance music for the evening was provided by Iseabail Strachan alongside music students from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

The ceilidh was the culmination of dance workshops and singing sessions held at the school over the past two months. Not only did it show the vast array of local talent in our community, it also acted as a reminder of the central role that Gaelic language and culture plays in our community.



Slàn leibh Emma & David

This month we say a fond farewell to Emma and David Collins as they trade our windswept shores for the gentler climate of Co. Wicklow, Ireland!

Emma and David have called Camuscross home for more than 25 years. During that time, they have raised their three sons here and have made an immeasurable contribution to the life of the community.

Their support for CDI has been steadfast from the very beginning, with David serving as Company Secretary for 15 years and helping to secure the funding that brought An Crùbh from dream to reality. Emma has been a long-standing member of the fundraising committee and a constant champion of An Crùbh, bringing her energy, creativity, and enthusiasm to many a local event.

Both are artists, though David spent his career as a solicitor. Emma's working life on Skye has been wonderfully varied. She turned her hand to gardening, had a brief stint as a Dinner Lady at Bun-sgoil Shlèite, she worked in the Co-op and Skye Batiks, and enjoyed a spell at both EI and Kinloch, having a go at the whelks along the way. They have also run a successful B&B and self-catering.

Emma and David will be greatly missed, not only for all they have done, but for the warmth, humour, and generosity they have brought to our community.

An Crùbh Events - April 2026

Regular Events

3, 10
Fridays

Line Dancing

A fun & sociable activity to keep fit.
momacquarrie@me.com

2 PM to 3 PM

5, 12,
19, 26
Sundays

Barre

A low impact, full body Yoga, Pilates & dance-inspired workout to nourish your body & mind. Booking is essential.
gokulyogaskye@gmail.com

10 AM to 11 AM

11
Saturday

Women's Circle

Empowerment & restoration through community.
soulwisdom.fenja@gmail.com

5PM to 7 PM

11
Saturday

Abriachan Nurseries @An Crùbh

Shop quality plants to start your spring gardening.

10 AM to 3 PM

7, 21
Tuesdays

Whist

Come for an enjoyable evening of cards. Everyone is welcomed.
lornapike50@gmail.com

7.30 PM to 10 PM

1, 8, 15, 29
Wednesdays
***and Monday 20th**

Table Tennis

Join fun sessions with the South Skye Table Tennis Group.
southskyyettg@gmail.com

7 PM to 9 PM

23
Thursday

Art Book Club

Art Book Club
Spend an enjoyable afternoon with the cool crowd.
ieg.blair45@gmail.com

2.15PM to 4PM

3, 17, 24
Fridays

Capacitar Wellbeing

A body-mind-spirit movement for good health & self development.
sheilamaehamilton@yahoo.com

11AM to 12 PM

2, 9,
23, 30
Thursdays

Yoga

Strengthen the body & calm the mind in this class taught by Tulan Yoga & Barre (formerly Gokul Yoga Skye).
gokulyogaskye@gmail.com

6 PM to 7.45 PM

Please note that Events are subject to change. Please check ahead with the organisation for cancellations/ amendments.

CAMUSCROSS GAMES 2026

11TH JULY
THE PARK

ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE GAMES IN THE 1950's -
KINDLY SUPPLIED BY MARY MACDONALD

This year's games will be on **Saturday 11 July**. Anyone who'd like to get involved is welcome at **Morag and Alex's on Thursday 16 April at 6 pm for a chat**. As Mary MacDonald's photograph from the Games in the 1950s shows there used to be dancing and piping!

Special Events

4
Saturday

Willow platter workshop

Learn to weave your own willow platter in this beginner level workshop taught by Laura Cunningham of Stonechat Baskets.
Email
laura@wildlifecraftskye.co.uk

1 PM to 4 PM

10
Friday

Screening of G.F. Handel: Giulio Cesare

Watch the opera whilst raising funds for CDI's live screening/broadcast projects. Entry by donation.

6.30 PM

13
Monday

Charity cafe

Everyone is invited to enjoy some homemade soups, cakes & sandwiches. Organised by CDI Fundraising Group for local community projects.

11 AM to 3 PM

14
Tuesday

Sleat Local History Society

Learn our local history from experts and locals.
sleatlocalhistorysociety.org.uk

7 PM to 9.30 PM

22
Wednesday

The Scottish Outdoor and Adventure Film Tour

Watch inspiring films showing the best of Scotland in a gathering of like-minded people. Buy tickets
@scottish_adventure_film_tour

11 AM onwards

24
Friday

Tern concert

Let this Scandi/Scottish folk band mesmerise you in their live intimate concert. Buy your tickets on eventbrite or at the door.

7 PM onwards

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

The next edition is due in late Summer 2026, 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.