

Community Groups & Activities

Croileagan Staffin Playgroup (under 5 years)

Supervised activities for children under 5 years. Gaelic not essential
Mon & Wed, 1 – 3 pm, Staffin Community Hall

Contact: Marion Mortimer on 01470-562356

Staffin Crusaders (primary school children)

Christian children's club for primary school children (games, arts & crafts, singing, drama, bible stories etc). Open to all.

Most Thursdays during school term time, 3.15 – 4.30 pm, School

Contact: Murdina Nicolson on 01470-562702

Youth Club (1st yr high school – 18)

A time to meet, chat and catch up with friends (games, lots of sports, music etc). Wed 7.30-9.30 pm, Fri 7.30-10.00 pm, Community Hall

Contacts: Maggie Willoughby 01470-562703, Anne MacLeod

01470-562328, Catriona Nicolson 01470-562229

Youth Fellowship (teenager)

Christian youth club. Open to all. Sat, 7.30-9.30 pm, Community Hall

Contact: Graham Wade 01470-562277

Staffin Lunch Club (senior citizens)

Lunch for the "young at heart" every month on the last Wed, 1 pm
at Columba 1400, transport provided if required.

Contact: Jane Ross on 01470-562303

Skye Old People's Welfare Minibus (over 60')

...runs every last Saturday at about 1 pm to Portree.

Contact: Janet Lamont on 01470-562374

Staffin Community Hall Association

Take action for the re-development of Talla Staffain. Contacts:

Mairi MacDonald 01470-562718, Ann MacLeod 01470-562328

Staffin Community Trust - Urras an Taobh Sear

It is actively developing projects on behalf of the community to
stimulate economic and social activities and improve services.

Every last Tues, except in December, 7.30 pm, Columba 1400

Contact: Donald MacDonald on 01470-562325

Staffin WRI (open to any female of any age)

The programme is varied from arts and crafts, talks, film shows etc.

Sept-April, except Jan. On the first Mon, 8pm, Columba 1400

Contact: Sylvia Porter on 01470-562302

STAFFIN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER Summer 2005



*Dear resident and visitor
Thig a steach: Welcome*

There is a lot happening in our community!
Find out more inside....

- @ **HRH** The Princess Royal will visit Staffin on **28th July**
to celebrate the **5th anniversary of Columba 1400**.
- @ Surf around Staffin - The **3D Map** is about to be finished.
Each household will receive a **free copy** on CD-Rom.
- @ Off the beaten track – **Walks** in Staffin, including the new
Digg and Brogaig paths, **Museum in the Environment**
- @ Food for the Staffin Community Hall - **Charity Café** open
- @ **The Storr** : 1st August – 15th September, special ticket
offer and local products from the Staffin Youth Club.
- @ Protect the **mussels** – SNH **evening talk & walk** about
the rare freshwater pearl mussels, **Friday 24th June**
- @ "Rock On" & "Digging Deep": Scottish **Geology** Festival &
Highland **Archaeology** Fortnight - Come back in autumn!



Urras an Taobh Sear Staffin Community Trust

Surf around Staffin - 3D Map available soon

The Three Dimensional Map of Staffin is almost finished and Trust members saw a version of the final product recently. The Map allows computer users the opportunity to search the Staffin area and access data on patronymics, place names and local history.

In many ways the project will never be complete and this project should be seen as a starting point. Despite best intentions not all the data will be right – people will have different stories to tell, different versions of place names and undoubtedly corrections to the patronymics. However, all the data is useful and there will be opportunities for people to make corrections and add further information. It might even inspire someone to start a local historical society!

A computer based at Columba 1400 will have all the data available and this can be added to as required. The data will be password protected so that only trained people can change the information but it will be available for all to look at. This will be a useful resource for visitors and locals alike.

Every home in the community can have a copy of the data on a CD Rom if they wish but of course this will not have any additions or corrections. Further copies are going to the library in Portree and the local primary school as well as every Gaelic medium school in Scotland.

We hope to have it available to everyone in August if not earlier.
Tha sinn an dòchas gun cord e ruibh.

The Storr: 1st August - 15th September

With only a few weeks to go till the start of The Storr, local residents can still take advantage of a **special ticket offer** for dates between **1st and 6th August** – with tickets available at the discounted rate of £15 (adults) and £7.50 (children). Tickets are available from Aros in Portree, tel 01478 613750. The *West Highland Free Press* is also running a prize draw for a pair of free tickets to the event on any available date in August and September. Both offers finish at the end of June - so if you haven't already placed your booking, or entered the competition, you really ought to do so soon.

The Storr **event team** is now almost complete, with around 50 recruits from Skye being contracted to work alongside **nva** staff and freelancers between July and September. The roll call from Trotternish itself includes check-in staff, stewards, production crew, technical crew and some of the guiding team. Youngsters from **Staffin Youth Club** are also hoping to benefit from The Storr project. They're developing ideas for marketing a range of local products – bottled water, high energy sweets, a personal survival kit – which can be sold to visitors attending the event, and help raise funds for the Youth Club at the same time. Advice about the range of items, design and marketing is being provided by two of The Storr production team, Vicki Payton and David Nutter who run their own creative design company called <slight>.

Posters and leaflets publicising The Storr have already been distributed throughout Skye, the Highlands and indeed the rest of Scotland. If you'd like an extra poster, or a bundle of leaflets so that you can spread the word to family, friends and other contacts, then get in touch with Local Opportunities Co-ordinator Pam Swift – tel 01470 562710.

This newsletter was put together by the Staffin Community Trust on behalf of the Staffin Community Framework. Many thanks for all the articles and help. We especially like to thank Columba 1400 for the copies. Please let us know your news & events for the autumn issue (Sept-Nov '05), Meike, tel 562255

News at Columba 1400

We have now settled down to a very busy year in Columba 1400. 110 participants have graduated since the beginning of February with 393 more expected before the end of the year.

With the programme obviously getting busier - we have been fortunate enough to be in a position to create a new full time post within the programme.

The end of March saw Jenny Sandiford take up the role of Programme Support and we would very much like to extend a warm welcome to her in joining the team.



Jenny was born in Northumberland but later moved to Norfolk at the age of 5. After school, she went to college to do a First Diploma in Rural Studies and then moved back to Northumberland to do a National Diploma in Land Use and Recreation. During this time, Jenny volunteered with the RSBP, Forestry Commission and the Wildlife Trust. This saw her developing a real

passion for birds of prey and was fortunate enough to get a job in a Bird of Prey centre.

Jenny moved to Skye in May 2002 and set up the business she now runs with her partner Euan Naylor, Isle of Skye Falconry. Her first connection with Columba began in October 2002 when the falconry was introduced to the programme as part of the focus theme. She decided to get more involved with as she feels Columba will help her with the other work that she does.

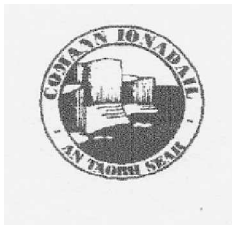
HRH The Princess Royal is visiting Staffin on 28th July to celebrate the 5th birthday of Columba 1400. The Princess has been actively involved since becoming patron in 2003. The visit will give Her Royal Highness the opportunity to observe one of our Ambassadors' programmes in action. This programme will see the return of Archbishop Michael Ramsay's Technical College from Camberwell in London. AMRTC have been annual visitors to Staffin and the Columban Ambassadors – pupils, staff and managers - have led the transformation of the school. With a free school meal entitlement of 70%, AMRTC is set in a particularly 'tough reality'. In 1999, it became the first school in the UK to require a full time resident police constable on staff. Since that time AMRTC has come back from HMI Special Measures to be regarded as a model of school culture with an "atmosphere of purpose". Columba 1400 has always been honoured to be a part of their process of transformation.

The **Café** is open to the community & visitors alike for the summer season and Discount Vouchers have been sent out to all B&B providers in the area, this entitles any visitor who stays overnight a 10% discount on all food served in the Café. There is also one voucher per book that is designed to be used by the B&B provider personally. If there is anyone in the community that did not receive a booklet please let us know and we will post one out ASAP.

Treat your self and the family to something different. We have theme nights organised for the Café during the coming Season. **July 1st** will be Mexican and the **September 16th** will be a Chinese night.

Learning Centre

There are now 5 members of the community who have taken on the challenge of working toward the ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence) certificate with financial help from ILA Scotland. This group will meet occasionally in the learning Centre here in Columba 1400 over the next few months to work toward their goal. We wish them well on this journey. If you are interested in the ECDL, give us a call and we will help get you started.



Staffin Community Council

The Community Council have been working very closely with the **Local Fire Brigade** to get them retained status which has now been done. They have recruited and trained other members into the fire brigade and they now have a small fire engine which is housed temporarily at Keepers Cottage in Staffin. There are still ongoing discussions with regard to the sighting of a fire station beside the new church. Land has been earmarked for this for some time but as yet no planning application has been submitted. There is going to be a meeting between the Fire Master and HC Planning Department to find out where we stand. This has been going on for eight years now

The **Staffin/Portree road** is another ongoing problem the Community Council has been involved in for a long time. Ian MacDonald the local councillor has been in touch with Sylvia Porter (CC Secretary) to say that the road is due to be resurfaced for approximately two miles out of Portree.

A **Local Plan** is to be drawn up for each area within Highland Council. The formal draft will be in the autumn. There will be advertised meetings possibly August/September for anyone who has any development plans or anything they wish to have written in to the local plan. There are no large development sites in the Staffin council area but there are single dwellings in the pipeline.

Please read the minutes of our meetings which are displayed in the local shops, the Community Hall, the post office and at Columba 1400. All the Highland Council Meeting Minutes are available online www.highland.gov.uk

Next meetings: Tue, 5th July, 7.30pm, Staffin Primary School
There is no meeting in August.

Discover Staffin - Walk off the beaten track Museum in the Environment project

Stafainn, meaning the “place of pillars” is hugely endowed with riches in terms of scenery, archaeology, history, Gaelic culture, geology, palaeontology, fauna and flora – and a **variety of walks**. Well known ones are the Storr which is popular with thousands of visitors each year and will be ‘highlighted’ even more this summer. The Quiraing is another one, with its famous features Prison, Needle and Table. But have you ever walked along the old Diatomite Road to the foot of the Ridge at beautiful Loch Cuithir, took a walk down to magic Brother’s Point, explored Kilmartin Cemetery, took the path from Columba 1400 over the cliffs to the slipway and back through the township? All these will be part of the **Museum in the Environment**. Still at the beginning, this three year Trust project has already provided two **new paths**, one starts from a purposely constructed car park at the end of the Brogaig township road leading into Staffin Bay, the other one provides access to Loch Sheunta, known as “the healing loch” in Digg. Car parking and a pedestrian gate will also be provided this summer. Planning permission has been awarded for another path making the geologically interesting Flodigarry shore more accessible.

The Museum in the Environment will be “**without walls**” - in the environment. It is here that nature and culture can be explored and are explained at the sites where the things really happened. The project will provide access and interpretation. In 2004 the Staffin Community Trust has been awarded **grants** from several agencies to develop the project. It is financed by the North Highland LEADER+ 2000-2006 Programme, The Scottish Executive, Heritage Lottery Fund, SNH, Skye & Lochalsh Enterprise, the Highland Council and the Staffin Trust - but is still looking for more sponsorship and funding. The project has already created **work in the community** with two part time project workers and local contractors working on the paths.

Discussions are also ongoing with universities regarding possibilities of **research and field studies** in the area. (Museum in the Environment, Project Office, Tigh Agnes, Ellishadder, Staffin, Isle of Skye, IV51 9JE, Tel 01470 562255)

**SCOTTISH
NATURAL
HERITAGE**



'The Kilmartin River – Mussel in on the action!'

Learn more about your local river; evening talk on freshwater pearl mussels, followed by short walk to the Kilmartin River to see the mussels for yourself -

Friday 24th June, 7pm, Staffin Primary School

Freshwater pearl mussels can grow over 15cm long but can live to over 100 years old! They are only found in rivers that contain salmon or trout, as their **life cycle** is dependant on them. The larvae of the mussels live harmlessly in the gills of young salmon or trout for about a year before they drop off into the river bed to grow. The mussels then feed by drawing in water and filtering out fine particles, with an adult being able to filter about 50litres of water a day. Occasionally, a **freshwater pearl mussel** will bear a pearl that is thought to originate from a grain of sand or parasite inside the mussel being coated in mother of pearl. As a result many pearl mussel populations have been exploited by fishers looking for pearls, leading to a **dramatic decline** of this rare mollusc. Scotland is a stronghold for the mussels, supporting about half of the remaining world population. The Kilmartin River is one of only 61 known breeding sites, and is the only river on Skye to have a relatively healthy population of mussels. A recent survey has shown that pearl mussel fishing is continuing to threaten the Kilmartin River mussel population. A talk will be given in Staffin Primary School on **Friday the 24th June at 7pm** to learn more about the mussels and the threats to their survival, followed by a short visit to Kilmartin River to see some **mussels in action**. A Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) specialist will tell us about the mussels, whilst Dugie Ross, Staffin Community Trust Project Officer will also give us a brief insight to the history of mussels in the Kilmartin River. **Refreshments** will be available in the school afterwards.

All welcome.

**For further details please contact
Karen Phillip (SNH), Portree 01478 613329**



SUNDAY SERVICES

Free Church of Scotland

June 19 th	12.00 noon UIG & STAFFIN	5.00 pm KILMUIR	7.00 pm STAFFIN
June 26 th	As above.		
July 3 rd	12.00 noon UIG & KILMALUAG	5.00 pm KILMUIR	7.00 pm STAFFIN
July 10 th	12.00 noon UIG & STAFFIN	5.00 pm KILMUIR	7.00 pm STAFFIN
July 17 th	As above.		
July 24 th	12.00 noon UIG & KILMALUAG	5.00 pm KILMUIR	7.00 pm STAFFIN
July 31 st	12.00 noon UIG & STAFFIN	5.00 pm KILMUIR	7.00 pm KILMUIR C. of S. Joint Gaelic service
Aug 7 th	12.00 noon UIG & STAFFIN	5.00 pm KILMUIR	7.00 pm STAFFIN
Aug 14 th	12.00 noon UIG & KILMALUAG	5.00 pm KILMUIR	7.00 pm STAFFIN
Aug 21 st	12.00 noon UIG & STAFFIN	5.00 pm KILMUIR	7.00 pm STAFFIN
Aug 28 th	12.00 noon UIG (only)	6.30.pm UIG	

Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland

All services held in Staffin 12.00 noon and 5.00pm.

Free Church of Scotland (Continuing)

All services held in Staffin 12.00 noon and 6.00pm.



While you are on holiday in Kilmuir and Staffin why not worship in one of the local churches? You will be made most welcome.
The times and location of services of churches in the area are set out below.

Church of Scotland

June 19 th	11.00 am Staffin	6.00 pm Kilmuir
June 26 th	11.00 am Kilmuir Family/Meal	7.00 pm Staffin Gaelic(FC)
July 3 rd	11.00 am Staffin	6.00 pm Kilmuir
July 10 th	11.00 am Kilmuir	6.00 pm Staffin
July 17 th	11.00 am Staffin	6.00 pm Kilmuir
July 24 th	11.00 am Kilmuir	6.00 pm Staffin
July 31 st	11.00 am Staffin	7.00 pm Kilmuir Gaelic

August 7 th	11.00 am Kilmuir	6.00 pm Staffin
August 14 th	11.00 am Staffin Family	6.00 pm Kilmuir
August 21 st	11.00 am Kilmuir	6.00 pm Staffin
August 28 th	11.00 am Staffin	6.00 pm Kilmuir

August 7 th	11.00 am Kilmuir	6.00 pm Staffin
August 14 th	11.00 am Staffin Family	6.00 pm Kilmuir
August 21 st	11.00 am Kilmuir	6.00 pm Staffin
August 28 th	11.00 am Staffin	6.00 pm Kilmuir

Gaelic services are held alternately in Church of Scotland and Free Church
Family denotes a family service
Meal indicates that a congregational meal is held afterwards to which visitors are always invited.

Staffin Community Hall

Staffin Community Hall Association are in the process of putting together their application to the Community Fund for **funding** for the renovation of the **Talla Stafainn** - Staffin Community Hall which is going to cost in the region of £750,000. The new hall will have a full size sports hall, a café, shop, laundrette, increased parking and will also house the Local Doctors Surgery.

The **Oystercatcher Charity Cafe** has been opened since Easter to help with funds for the hall renovation. It is open for morning tea/coffee and home baking, for lunches and as the season progresses for evening meals. We also do takeaway food at the weekend.

Opening hours: 10am - 5pm Mon-Thursday, 10am-8.30pm Fri & Sat
As it gets busier, possibly from July the cafe will be open every evening. We will be sending out priced menus shortly to all.
See you all there for a strupag! (cuppa)

Geraldine Siegerson's **Children's Ceramic Class**
from Saturday, 11th June, 10.00 – 12.00 am at Columba 1400
£5.00 per session, including a snack & drink
Booking is essential. Please phone Tel 562408.

.....
'Fossils at Flodigarry' - Children's Summer Event
Thursday 4th August, 1.30 - 3.30pm, children aged 6-12
(parents welcome). Booking is essential,
Skye & Lochalsh Rangers, 01471 822774 or 822905

.....
Enjoy a game of **Badminton!**?
Mixed doubles, Mondays, 7.00 – 9.00 pm, £3.00 per night, Hall
Please bring your trainers and racket - if you have.
For more information, please phone Tel 562408

.....
'Rock On' Scottish Geology Festival, September 2005
Dinosaurs and more in Staffin – www.scottishgeology.com

.....
'Step into the Past' – Highland Archaeology Fortnight 2005
Saturday 1st- Sunday 16th October – more in the next edition!