



11th August 2024

Dear Members and Friends

TORRIDON DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2024

Welcome to the Summer (if it exists this year!) edition of the Torridon District Community Association newsletter. The year is hurtling onwards and there are activities and events going on at the Centre, there is a wee round up of what to expect towards the end of this newsletter but first here is an update on who we are, what we do and how you can get involved.....

We hope you agree these are exciting times for our community. Over the last couple of years a small team of volunteers have been busy putting together the community development plan, arranging a feasibility study on the school and successfully applying for funding to pay for Katie, our Community Development Officer. We are also currently finalising the Local Place Plan.

Some projects are led by TKCC but on the whole members of TDCA and TKCC work closely together (sometimes with other partners). But we are a small group of people and cannot do everything we would like to. There are many opportunities for you to get involved with TDCA, and importantly there are different levels of involvement, all of which go towards supporting your community organisation.

The running of Loch Torridon Community Centre has evolved considerably from the days when it replaced the aging timbers of the old village hall. The activities which take place in the hall will always be at the core of what we do, in fact in many ways, we do other things in order to allow us to be able to continue to offer the main hall to users. But the centre is much more complex than a traditional village hall, there are leases to negotiate, budgets to work on, compliance checks and maintenance to keep on top of, and we have responsibilities to our staff and volunteers. With these additional responsibilities comes risk management, policies and procedures and endless paperwork! It really does need a team effort to keep on top of everything.

Who are the TDCA Directors?

There have been a few changes recently, we have already said goodbye to Gail Low and are about to say goodbye to Bobby Forshaw, but currently the Directors are:

Mat Webster (Chair)
Zoe Hudson (Secretary)
Chris Davies
Bobby Forshaw
Laura Reid
Stewart MacPherson
Chris Johnson
Rory Shannon



How can you help?

Become a Director

Help shape the direction of TDCA. Directors' responsibilities cover dealing with finance, funding, risk management, HR, IT and have an overview of the overall running of the Centre. Currently we are in the process of reviewing our structure, how we operate, our funding strategy and looking ahead at our vision and priorities for the next few years. So, this is an important time for us as we head towards our AGM on Thursday 7th November (Save the date - rumour has it there will be biscuits, perhaps even chocolate ones)

Provide ad hoc support

If committees are not your thing, then perhaps you could support the Directors by offering occasional help in your area of expertise/interest (such as IT, marketing, social media etc). We are a small organisation so this wouldn't be a big commitment. If you are better with your hands than techie stuff, perhaps you could help with small repairs, painting or grounds maintenance. Just a few hours a month go a long way to help to keep the centre in good shape.

Helping out at events

Events are a crucial source of income for TDCA. Celtman is the main event but gigs and weddings are important too. We are looking for additional help running the bar, kitchen duties, and general hands-on help. We have a small team of regulars but need more people to come forward to help spread the workload. At commercial events it is normally possible to be paid for your time, or you can choose to volunteer your time. It is not necessary for you to be available for every event.

Celtman 2025 dates are likely to be 14th and 21st June (Save the dates. Biscuit availability unconfirmed at present)

Cinema nights are a regular fixture. Ideally, we would like to have a rota in place to run them. This isn't very technical and you get to see the film for free. We have had a couple of people who have shown interest in taking on running the cinema, the next film is on Saturday 7th September.

Run a class or club

We host a number of these smaller events, perhaps you have a passion for something which isn't offered locally, but need help or funding to kick-start it at the centre. Please talk to us, we may be able to offer support.

What else?

Providing feedback to consultations is important so that you continue to have your say to help shape your community. Becoming a member of TDCA gives you a voice in the organisation and also shows funders and partners that we have your support. Continuing to use the facilities and attending events at the Community Centre is also a great way to support TDCA, allowing us to do more at the centre and in the community. If you have a holiday let / Air B&B please share information (such as this newsletter!) about what's on with your guests.

If you would like to discuss getting more involved, please get in touch
Mat Webster chair@lochtorridoncentre.co.uk 07905 314465



Thanks for reading all that, lets get back to what's happening at the centre.....

WHATS ON - MUSIC:

Saturday 17th August: Ceilidh Dance

Live music, dance, and merriment courtesy of the Islands Ceilidh Band. Doors open 7.30pm, dancing from 8pm. All profits donated to local good causes. Tickets on the door £10

Saturday 19th October: Live music !

We are hoping to announce a popular live band for this night. Just a few l's to dot and t's to cross before we can tell you. But for now.....just save the date! (It's live music, let's be honest, if its biscuits you are after, you are in the wrong place)

Saturday 30th November: St Andrews Day Ceilidh Dance

Pop the date in your diary, get practicing those moves, get ready to celebrate our national day, and we will tell you more a bit closer to the time.

WHATS ON - CRAFTS:

Craft Markets



The popular fortnightly craft market continues into October starting at 10am on alternate Thursdays. A fantastic selection of local arts and crafts from these wonderful stallholders:

Sutherland Horn Craft, Prickly Fish, Amigo Crafts, Hannah Feuerstein, Sugar Croft Faerie, David Hay Woodturning, Graham Park Photography, Patterns Of Light, Ewe Brew, Highland Blooms & the Bruce Blaxter Hospice Stall to name a few.

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WHATS ON - FILM NIGHTS:

Future screenings: 7th September, 5th October, 9th November (TBC), 7th December. We will circulate the details of the films nearer the time, as this gives us the best chance of securing newer film releases. We will announce the films via the Torridon mailing list and our Facebook page.

WHATS ON - CLASSES AND CLUBS:

Craft workshop; Whist; Pilates; Yoga; Country Dancing. Keep an eye on what is going on via our website or Facebook. Most classes restart in the Autumn.

<https://www.lochtorridoncentre.co.uk/whats-on>

<https://www.facebook.com/lochtorridoncentre/>

We look forward to seeing you at the centre over the coming weeks. If you are coming from further afield, please bring some sunshine (and some Hobnobs).

Mat Webster - On behalf of the Directors & Centre Team