

## Rum 2016

In May 2016, cbec staff boarded the ferry to the Isle of Rum for our annual get together. Thankfully, for some, the crossing was particularly calm. On arrival, we were warmly greeted at the new and improved Rum Bunkhouse. Set right on the shoreline, the Bunkhouse has amazing views across Kinloch bay. As the Isle of Rum has a population of less than forty, cbec staff soon became known to the locals.



Friday 13th May was the Anniversary Ceildh on Rum. cbec danced the night away to music from Edinburgh band Ghetto Tractor. This was a new experience for some whilst others certainly knew what they were doing!

With the Saturday morning sunshine, cbec staff headed off in all directions across the island to explore. There was fell running, cycling, hill walking, otter spotting, fishing and even a bit of



swimming in the sea! Rum has outstanding opportunities for observing wildlife in its natural environment and the landscape is completely unspoilt. The weather was very good to us and more blue skies on Sunday saw people head off again to see more of the island. Having convinced the driver of one of the very few vehicles on Rum to take them to Harris in the West of the island, some of the girls set off to find the wild Rum ponies. These ponies are used during the deer cull season as they are sturdy, sure-footed and placid.

Set in the centre of the village is Kinloch Castle. The castle has a rather eccentric history and no visit to Rum would be complete without seeing the ornate and extravagant interior on a guided tour. The imposing red sandstone building was constructed around 1900 and was a private residence and retreat for the Bullough family until the island was designated a National Nature Reserve when sold in 1957.

The weekend on Isle of Rum was a resounding success for all the cbec staff (except for the cold showers!). With recharged batteries, we have all returned to the mainland set for a busy summer of projects, events and fieldwork.

