

## Recycling on the Up!

Mull and Iona residents increased their recycling and re-use by 33% last year, and helped MESS, the Community Trust's recycling project divert almost 72 tonnes of material from landfill. This is the total figure for all the plastic bottles, cans, and textiles deposited into the recycling banks around the island as well as the wide variety of items purchased from the projects *Island Castaways* shops in Bunessan and Craignure.

Mairi Greig, the MESS Development Manager said 'It's fantastic that there is so much support for recycling on the islands and with the introduction of the Council's new kerbside recycling scheme earlier this year, reducing the amount of waste in your bin has never been so convenient'.

As well as reducing the waste we landfill, the *Island Castaways* shops raised over £5000 which was distributed to local groups during June. To find out more about which groups were successful or about applying for funds next year, please visit the MESS website [www.itzamesse.uk.com](http://www.itzamesse.uk.com)

Mairi Greig



## £7,720 Sea Eagle Money to Local Groups

This year has seen the highest number of visitors with well over 5,000 people coming through the Sea Eagle Hide at Loch Frisa from April 6th to the end of September. The nominal entry fee, together with donations has raised in excess of £18,000 half of which goes back into Mull Eagle Watch with the remaining half being put into the Eagle Fund.

The groups which have benefited from the first round of funding are— Craignure Village Hall, Mull Harriers, Salen Primary Renewables, Lochdon Primary, Dervaig Hall, Iona Primary, Salen Christmas Tree Party, Bunessan Primary, Tobermory Primary, Mull Runners, Tai Jutsu Club, Mull Traditional Music Club, Mull Pony Club, Salen & Ulva Church, Salen Church Bench, WWI Memorial Salen, Salen Shinty, Lochdon Gymnastics and the Junior Tennis Club.

Thanks to the White Tailed Eagle Partnership on Mull, (comprising Forestry Commission Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Strathclyde Police & MICT). Any Community Group can apply for a grant of up to £500 from the fund, applications available at [www.mict.co.uk](http://www.mict.co.uk) or by phoning 01688 302851.

*Salen Primary with their new equipment for their Eco-School, proudly achieving their 1st Green Flag.*



## The Mull & Iona Community Trust *Urras Coimhearsnachd Mhuile & Idhe*

*Autumn Newsletter 09*

*The Mull & Iona Community Trust is a registered Charity founded in 1997 working to improve the quality of life for all residents on Mull & Iona; tackling economic, social and environmental issues, in an integrated and sustainable way. We are committed to being an open, democratic organisation working in partnership with other bodies.*



*"Open to anyone who lives or works in the West of Scotland"*

## Financial alternative for these troubled times

"We were asked by several Members - where's a safe place to put my money?" and "Where can I get a loan nowadays when I need it?" So, in this newsletter the Community Trust would like to encourage Members to take a second look at credit unions. The one available to Mull & Iona residents is Scotwest. Credit Unions are run by their members for their members, and are a safe and ethical place to save and access loans.....

As a member owned financial co-operative Scotwest is on your side as they exist to provide safe, competitive and fair financial services to their members. Scotwest offers a range of services including savings accounts, personal loans, current accounts and mortgages. Savings can be made by direct debit into a Scotwest account or alternatively if you work for one of their key employers such as Argyll & Bute Council, payments can be organised directly from your pay. All savings receive competitive returns and free life savings insurance.

Scotwest's loans are based on your income and expenditure and ability to repay, and come with competitive interest rates. You can apply to borrow as much or as little as you need and there are no set up charges or early repayment penalties.

What's more, if you are looking for a new current account, Scotwest's account has all the facilities expected of a current account but helps you to avoid the temptation to spend more than you have as the account comes with no overdraft. In addition, account charges are kept as low as possible.

For more information or to join, log on to [www.scotwest.co.uk](http://www.scotwest.co.uk) or call 0845 6347634

## Project to provide *new* locally based business resources finally goes ahead!

The provision of **new** business resources beside the ferry terminal at



Craignure moves closer to becoming a reality with the announcement that building works on the centre will begin in early 2010.

The Trust's Project Officer, Sian Scott said, "We are delighted to have received such generous support following our fundraising appeal last year. As a result we are now able to access grants promised by the BIG Lottery Fund, The European Regional Development Fund and Highlands & Islands Enterprise & progress with the construction."

This is a brilliant opportunity to increase island business activities, all users will be directly supporting a community charity with all surplus rental income being put back into the community. To discuss your requirements and reserve your space today please phone Sian Scott on 01688 302 851 or email [sscott@mict.co.uk](mailto:sscott@mict.co.uk). Alternatively visit the website [www.MICTcentre.co.uk](http://www.MICTcentre.co.uk)



## "Calling all Landowners...!"

There are many reasons why we may want to plant trees: for their ecological and habitat value, their timber value and firewood, their shelter for livestock and game, for their beauty and humble majesty, or for the simple pleasure that it gives us.

Recent increases in the payment rates under the Scottish Rural Development Program (SRDP) mean that economically, **NOW is the best time to consider planting trees**. The land also remains eligible for Single Farm Payments and the Farmland Premium Scheme can compensate for lost income for 15 years.

The Woodland Trust has also launched an initiative called "More Woods." They will take care of site assessments, grant application and organise contractors on sites over 1ha (2.5acres).

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/plant-your-own-wood/morewoods/Pages/scotland.aspx>

If you would like to discuss your tree planting ideas, get a free initial site appraisal, or some help with the grant application process, feel free to contact Adam Dawson at the Argyll Islands Native Woodland Partnership. [adam.dawson@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:adam.dawson@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) or telephone 01680 300 582

*Adam Dawson*

**MICT Annual General Meeting  
Monday 9th November at the  
Craignure Village Hall 7.30pm**

## Energy Advice Point Opens in Buessan

**How to reduce your energy bills?**

**Does my home have adequate insulation?**

**Are you entitled to Government Energy assistance?**

**Interested in efficient heating systems?**

**Considering installing Renewable Energy Systems?**

All of these questions can be answered for free at the Energy Information and Advice Point, next to Island Castaways in Buessan. The newly opened centre, sponsored by ALIENERGY with funding from the Climate Challenge fund, provides information, advice and assistance with seeking funding support for homes, businesses and Community groups.

The centre aims to be open at least one day a week and is seeking volunteers to extend the opening times. The centre can be contacted on 01681 700 043 to find out opening days and times.

*Tim Capper*



## Community Power Generation



As part of Community Powerdown we are looking to reduce the islands Carbon Footprint by generating Renewable Power from our local resources. The initial phase is to identify as many potential generation sites across Mull. All potential resources, wind, water and tide are being researched, subject to landowners permission.

Once sites have been identified a paper-based study will be conducted into feasibility and likely generation potential. These results will be presented to the Community and a mandate to continue investigating the top few sites will be sought.

Further funding will then be applied for to research the selected sites and develop the business cases. These will then be presented to the Community for permission to seek funding to develop one or more sites.

As part of the Community consultation the first public meeting will be part of the **MICT Annual General Meeting on Monday November 9th.**

*Tim Capper*



**Island Castaways  
Fashion Show**

**Saturday 21st November  
at 1.00pm  
in Buessan Hall**