



An Roth Notice Board



Room Bookings at An Roth Community Enterprise Centre



Alice Lambert



Gometra



Eorsa



Calve

All room hire includes

- Fast and secure wireless
- Digital projector & screen
- Flip chart & pens
- Direct dial telephones
- Whiteboard & pens
- Quality video conferencing
- Teleconferencing

We can also offer affordable print, copy & scanning services

When one Door Closes another Opens and in our case Opens Wide!



We had a recent Meeting of volunteers to look at ways to raise money to cover travel expenses to keep this important facility going. So, collecting buckets at the ready for the Bunnessan and Salen Shows. Determined they were too and a grand total of £735 was taken. Dervaig Luncheon Club gave us a cheque for £100 in memory of the ladies from the village who were part of our Group. We were also humbled to be given church collections from two funerals of two very dear local people totalling £1000 plus. As usual Vanessa, in her quiet way, was also seeking funding for us and applied to Santander Foundation resulting in a large cheque for £3040.00. This has given a boost to all of us in the knowledge that we can keep going for the foreseeable future. Thank you all!

Maureen Dehany

Upcoming Courses at An Roth...

An Introduction to Mindfulness - 22nd September

1 Day Emergency First Aid at Work - 9th November

Pesticide Spraying - PA1, PA2 & PA6 - 2nd, 3rd & 4th November

To book onto any of these courses or suggest a course you would like us to run, please call Laura Percy on 01680 812907 or email lpercy@mict.co.uk

Members are invited to attend our monthly board meetings and take part in the Member's Forum. The next meetings are on Monday 14th September and Monday 12th October, at An Roth Community Enterprise Centre, Craignure.



The Community Trust Newsletter August 2015



Message from Moray

We said goodbye to Bert Leitch, a former director of MICT who, after valiantly battling cancer for several years, sadly passed away recently. Bert has been a very staunch supporter of the Ulva School Community Association (USCA) and latterly of the Ulva Ferry LDO project. This loss has made us all the more determined to bring the housing and other projects to a successful conclusion....

Garmony Hydro is working – there really is a silver lining to the clouds that have been raining heavily on Mull since we successfully commissioned the hydro at the beginning of June. The turbine has generated well above the expected amount in June and July, helping to recover the income we lost from the fault on the sub-sea cable from Oban which delayed us by nearly two months. Not so good is the news that the revenues will be reduced slightly, thanks to a change of policy by the UK Government and the withdrawal of the Levy Exemption Certificate., more details about that inside...

The Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) 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.



Green Energy Mull



I'm really pleased to tell you that on June 4th with the final tests all passed, the big red switch was thrown and Garmony Hydro came to life. It wasn't quite like a scene from a Frankenstein film where the mad professor all wild eyed shouted from the roof of the turbine house, but from here within Green Energy Mull HQ that's what it felt like.

As many of you will have noticed, it's been just a tad wet this summer. Although in most respects this is not a good thing, from a hydro scheme operator's point of view this has been really quite good. At the start of this project we had monthly generation estimates produced as part of the business plan, and although we knew these were on the conservative side Garmony has out gunned these estimates by quite some margin. However, before we start telling everyone that it's bonanza time it's way too early to tell what will happen over the whole of a generation year. We are hopeful though.

So far the scheme has run very well and apart from a few minor adjustments has bedded in very nicely. We now look forward to many years of income and renewable energy generation.

If you would like to invest in the scheme, or even increase your current investment you will be more than welcome. Please contact thorne@mict.co.uk and I'll be very happy to send you the relevant details. We would far rather pay interest to local investors rather than to the Bank!

Levy Exemption Certificate

The UK Government has announced the withdrawal of a number of renewable energy incentives recently, one which will adversely affect Garmony Hydro Scheme. The Levy Exemption Certificate is worth around £6,000 per year to Garmony and will impact directly on the profits which are available for distribution via the Waterfall Fund. We have been working with other community organisations to lobby the UK Government seeking a reversal of the decision and we await further news on this. In the meantime, Garmony is running very well and thanks to the inclement weather has been producing more electricity than we had predicted in our financial modelling.

Moray



Ross of Mull Path Project

Following a successful funding bid to Sustrans, matched by Argyll and Bute Council, detailed design work has now started on the first section of the multi-use, off-road path between Fionnphort and Creich Hall. This work includes the detailed engineering plans required for a planning application plus landowner access permissions. In the coming weeks the Trust will be speaking to the landowners, neighbouring residents and the wider community to agree the location and design of the final route. Sadly not all the monies needed to actually construct the path are yet in place but along -side this essential planning work, the Trust will be applying for further grants with the aim of making up the shortfall so it can be built next year. For further information please contact Sian on 01680 812904 or



New Project Opportunity- Mull: Our Islands, Past, Present & Future: A Living History and Intergenerational Project

The Isle of Mull Hotel and the Mull community have the opportunity to bid for The Crerar Hotels Community Prize of £25k to develop an intergenerational project for islanders and one which leaves a legacy for future generations.

A detailed proposal is being worked up by a small group of interested local people with help and advice from Age Scotland and other community organisations who have run similar projects across Scotland. The possible project themes include: local living history and reminiscence; skills exchange and sharing experiences, issues and attitudes.

The full proposal and application form has to be submitted to the Crerar Hotels Trust by 15th Sept 15. Finalists will then be invited to present their proposals to Crerar on 12th November 15 in Glasgow and a decision on the winning bid is expected in December 15.

If the bid is successful the Community Trust will be recruiting more volunteers of all ages to get involved and so we would love to hear now from anyone interested. For further information please contact Sian on 01680 812904 or sscott@mict.co.uk.



Community Development Plan Help Shape Our Islands Futures

The Mull Community Development Plan work is now in full swing and we're looking for your thoughts on why you enjoy living here and what would make Mull an even better place to live and work! Our community consultation events will be taking place this Autumn in Salen, Craignure, Dervaig and Tobermory in October- please look out for full details nearer the time on MICT's Facebook page and www.mict.co.uk/mcdp as well as in local press. The Community Plan will focus on the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of Mull residents', concentrating on why people enjoy living here now and what would make Mull a better place to live, going into the future. When the Community Plan is finished, its recommendations will be used by the Waterfall Fund (the charity which will distribute the monies generated by the Garmony Hydro Electric scheme) to assist the Board in deciding which local projects will receive grants- those which fit with the community development plan will be given priority. For more information please contact Steve Willis hansel@homeinthewoods.co.uk or Sian Scott sscott@mict.co.uk

The Community and Renewable Energy Scheme is delivered on behalf of the Scottish Government by the CARES Consortium



Tobermory Light Industrial

Community Land Purchase Approved!

Our recent application to the Forestry Commission Scotland's National Forest Land Scheme to purchase an area of land at Ardmore Forest (between the Glengorm Civic Amenity Site entrance and the Ardmore forest entrance) was approved! We now have until January 2017 to source the funding for the land and complete the purchase before we can develop the planned light industrial park. An application has already been submitted to the Scottish Land Fund to cover the majority of the land purchase costs and by the time this newsletter is circulated the panel will have met on 20th August and we will patiently be waiting to hear the outcome...

Thorne Wyness are currently working on plans for the site and we will be holding meetings in Tobermory in the near future to allow all interested parties to view the prospective plans and have a say in the site layout and facilities inclusions. Plans currently include storage containers, freezer storage, lock up units, business starter units, large workshop units and space for boat and caravan storage.

To find out more about the project, contact Mairi Greig, tel. 01680 812 918 or email mgreig@mict.co.uk



Mull & Iona Sustainable Transport

MIST is MICT's second project funded by the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund, following on from the work of the Energy Advisors. MIST will help develop a long term plan for more sustainable transport on Mull and Iona to help limit our CO2 emissions and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. A team of 3 MIST Project Officers has been appointed to promote environmentally friendly island travel options: Terry Hegarty, Rebecca Lewis and Nancy Winfield will each work part time through to March 2016, on the following themes:

Electric Vehicles (EVs): With several EVs already being driven routinely here on the islands, 5 public charging points for EVs already operational and plans for more soon (including rapid chargers in Tobermory and Fionnphort) Mull is already well ahead of most other island communities.

Recognising Mull as a 'Hot Spot' for EVs, the Energy Savings Trust is collaborating with MIST to present some special local events to bring all interested islanders up to speed with electric cars and incentives to switch. Check our website for more details <http://www.mict.co.uk/electric-cars/>

The MIST Project will soon be acquiring our own EV so that more islanders can try a test drive. This car will also be available for use by island residents, community transport schemes and businesses through an EV Car Club which MIST will establish for the Islands.

Island businesses: Switching to EVs can save money and enhance green credentials. Scottish businesses keen to reduce their emissions will now be able to apply for up to £100,000 to switch their transport fleet to electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles, under a new Scottish government scheme recently announced. Contact the MIST team to find out more.

Liftsharing already happens informally on the islands, but MIST is developing new ways for everyone who is willing to offer or accept a lift to participate easily. 'Mull and Iona Lift-share' operates as a 'closed group' on Facebook to help match local people up to share car journeys, either regularly or occasionally, on or off the islands. Just send MIST a request to join the group. With over 160 members soon after launching the initiative, there has been quite a lot of activity already. A calendar presenting details of lifts offered is easily checked for available opportunities.

Efficient driving: MIST will be arranging free training opportunities to improve the efficiency of drivers keen to save money by reducing their fuel consumption in conventional vehicles. The higher your mileage, the more you could save! Please get in touch with MIST for details.

Coordination: MIST is also working on a more comprehensive a guide to island travel for residents and visitors, with or without a car, in collaboration with Argyll and Bute Council.

MIST welcomes your views and involvement in our activities. Please contact us! Email mist@mict.co.uk or telephone 01680 812900.



Since Spring, progress has continued to be steady and significant. At the end of June the contract was signed and I can now announce the company that we will be working with to bring next generation broadband to Mull, Iona and the wider Argyll islands community. The company is AB Internet who are a Lincoln based specialist company who have a track record of delivering broadband in urban and also very remote areas. This is a major step forward and now the real work begins.

Representatives from AB Internet have visited Mull to meet the full GPA team and to commence the task of surveying the islands and to become more acquainted with the ways of the Scottish West Coast. The first installations on Mull will be Lochbuie and Croggan and the hope is that these will be going live during the Spring of 2016.

My visits to the other areas covered by the scheme are going well and proving quite popular. So far I've been to Mull, Iona, Colonsay, Lismore, Craignish, and Islay and I hope to visit Jura and Luing during September. If you are interested in becoming a GigaPlus Argyll customer please register on the web site and we will keep you updated and informed.

If you would like more information please contact rthorne@gigaplusargyll.co.uk or call 01680 812906

Ulva Ferry Housing Project

As many of you will be aware, 2 x three bedroom community owned homes for rental are scheduled to be built at Ulva Ferry later this year by the Ulva Ferry Housing Partnership. Now that this exciting project is underway, Our Island Home has been asked to undertake a housing needs survey to gauge any future demand for additional rental housing in the area. It is important the local residents are consulted for their opinion on this and anyone who wishes to live in the area, and if you feel that this is important to you, please make sure that you complete a survey. Postal surveys will be sent out on 31 August to homes in the catchment area. Anyone who does not receive one or anyone who lives outside the area but wishes to move or return, can request one by emailing jodi@ruralhousingscotland.org, tel 01680 812 903 or pop into the Portacabin at Torloisk crossroads or An Roth, Craignure. The survey can also be completed online; www.surveymonkey.com/r/ulvaferryhousing - and we ask that surveys are completed by Monday 21 September. The survey is anonymous, confidential and quick. If anyone has any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I will be available at the Portacabin on Wednesday 16 September between 10am and 4pm so do feel free to drop in. Your input is vitally important and we thank you in advance for taking part. - Jodi MacLeod.



Lift Share on Mull & Iona



Sharing a journey in your car on Mull and Iona now has more legs than before, literally. With the launch of the Mull and Iona Lift-Share Facebook page last week we now have over 160 members who are willing to work with their fellow islanders sharing vehicle journeys together. When you look at the benefits of lift-share it becomes clear why this is a trend growing fast. If you share a 20 mile return journey once a week with 1 passenger(s), you could save...Daily: £5.31 and 6.8 kg CO2 equating to an annual saving of £247 and 316.8 kg CO2 (driving alone will cost you...Daily: £10.63 and 13.7 kg CO2, Annually: £493 and 633.5 kg CO2). The benefits don't just stop there; lift-share will help to reduce the number of vehicles on the road and increase the number of parking spaces available! This is rather timely considering the predicted increase in the number of vehicles on the roads following the introduction of RET in October. On the social side, it's a great opportunity to get to know each other just a little better! What's different about this site is the introduction of a calendar which makes planning ahead easier for regular journeys, simply click on the calendar to look at all the available lift-shares available or post an enquiry to see if anyone would like to share a lift! If you are a resident of Mull and Iona and would like more information about this or any of our sustainable transport options please get in touch with a member of the MIST team here on Mull at mist@mict.co.uk or 01680 812900.

Childcare on Mull

We are aware of ongoing lack of child care provision on the island meaning that families are unable to access the various tax credits and free childcare provision available from UK and Scottish governments.

Having met with the council to discuss this concern it is apparent that the only solution on offer is to use a childminder service. The council can provide a start-up grant of up to £600 to help with the cost of any modifications required for houses to comply with the requirements for childminding. Currently there are insufficient registered childminders to meet demand so there are opportunities for anyone wishing to become a childminder.

We are looking into the feasibility of setting up a new nursery on the island to help fill the gap and allow mothers get back to work in their chosen careers. It is early days, but if we succeed it will be another step towards making living on the island sustainable for young families.

Moray

More Swimming Coaches Needed!

Would you be interested in being a swimming coach at our community pool in Craignure for our school children? Learning to swim is one of the greatest opportunities a parent can offer their child and we are looking to offer an accredited Scottish Swimming Coach Course in the near future to help get more people swimming for leisure, health and fun.

The Isle of Mull Community Swimming Pool was opened in 2008 and in the seven years since the opening, hundreds of our youngsters have attended swimming lessons through our Learn to Swim Programme offered at the Isle of Mull Hotel based facility and through our schools swimming lessons. We are now looking to extend the range of courses and the number of times they are running, and to do that, we need to increase the number of coaches available. The course fee would be subsidised by the 500 club which has been running for many years.

Our pool represents over a quarter of a century of persistent fundraising by the Community of Mull and Iona. Following this great historical effort of our islanders in raising a vast amount of money through voluntary fundraising activities, MICE (Mull and Iona Community Enterprise) was formed, headed by Duncan Swinbanks, to facilitate the development of our now wonderful pool facility which was opened on 1st March 2008. After their herculean efforts over so many years, Duncan and most existing directors and trustees of MICE have now stood down and should be congratulated for their supreme efforts. However, MICE needs to continue as the legal body, to look after the assets of the pool for the benefit of our community. After appeals for new directors failed to encourage anyone else to become involved, Duncan suggested that Mull & Iona Community Trust (MICT) take responsibility for the administration and running of MICE as it perfectly matched their objectives. After an extensive period of investigation, this was agreed, and three Directors/Trustees from MICT have become Directors/Trustees of MICE.

The continuing development of our pool and what it is able to offer is really important to our aims of getting more children and adults swimming. We therefore urge anyone interested in becoming a member and/or director to join the group. We also need to continue to fundraise, and the 500 Club which has been running for many years, continues to help support our school children to learn to swim. If you have a coaching certificate, want more information, can offer any help, want to join our 500 club, or sign up for our Coaching Course, please get in touch with any one of the new local directors/trustees:

Babs Whyte: email babs.whyte@argyll-bute.gov.uk tel. 07917073419,

Sandy Brunton: email bruntonmull@gmail.com tel. 07810 881388,



Ulva Ferry Pontoon

The Ulva Ferry pontoon is moving forward after some delays regarding fine tuning of the location. Various stakeholder meetings have been held. SSE have approved the current proposed location pending a number of conditions being met and local marine users are now largely satisfied with the location, after revisions have been made.

Our engineers, Arch Henderson undertook a revised tender assessment and recommended that the contract for design, fabrication and installation of the pontoon be awarded to Gael Force Engineering. The planning application has been submitted and verified and we are hopeful that the consent will be awarded by the end of September. As part of a Marine Scotland pre consultation process, a stakeholder meeting to discuss all final plans is being held on Thursday 27th August at Ulva School at 7.30pm, to which all are invited. The plans for the pontoon can be viewed on the USCA website <http://www.uscamull.org.uk>

It is planned to install the pontoon over the autumn/winter months ready for the 2016 season. As work continues on phase one, discussions are also at an early stage as to what should be included within phase two of the development. This consists mainly of a shore facilities building and perhaps added services and facilities.

If you have any ideas as to what could be included in phase two, and queries or comments on the pontoon project in general please contact Cally at cflaming@mict.co.uk or telephone 01688 500 056 or 07795 177 571.



Island Castaway's

Free Jute Bags for all those who are eligible to sign up for gift aid (UK taxpayers) are arriving soon to Island Castaway's. When you sign up you will receive a credit card style donor card with your unique donor number along with your very own Castaway's Jute Bag.



We have lots of new volunteers in the Buinessan shop who are using their skills to make improvements to the shop. Call in today to see all the hard work that has been done.

Where would we be without all our hardworking volunteers who dedicate so much time between Tobermory, Craignure & Buinessan. If you can spare a couple of hours a week and would like to get involved please phone 01680 812902 and ask for Hazel.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

At the Mull & Iona Duke of Edinburgh Award we have 30 active participants and another 5 who are aiming to enrol on to their Bronze Award soon. 8 participants have recently completed their Bronze certificate, 4 are aiming to take this to Silver level and 1 aiming to achieve her Gold Award over this coming year. The award looks at achieving 4 sections of Volunteering, Skill, Physical, and Expedition at each level of Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Participants are involved throughout the community at achieving their sections which they record online. The Award is about showing that you can get involved and be self-motivated to achieve and to contribute. Our Award Group is open to anyone aged 14 to 25. The MESS support is very much appreciated were it will primarily allow us to pay for the assessors we had for our June expedition and also for a stove or two.
John Coyle

Bumps & Babies, Tobermory

Home-Start Mull has recently established a weekly 'Bumps & Babies' group for pregnant women and parents of young babies to meet, socialise, have a coffee (and cake!) and access support from various different agencies each week, e.g. from the Health Visitor, Family Support Worker, Midwife, Child-Smile and Breastfeeding Peer Supporter (amongst others) on a regular basis. Pregnancy and Early Years parenthood can be an anxious time. Families on The Isle of Mull can be geographically fragmented which can lead to feelings of isolation and reduced opportunity for socialising with others in a similar situation. The Home-Start Bumps & Babies Group provides an opportunity to meet others in a similar situation, to potentially develop new friendships and support networks and to provide regular access to relevant Health Professionals in an informal setting. We have been very fortunate to secure funding from MICT and The Health & Wellbeing Fund to enable Home-Start to establish and continue to run the group until June 2016 when we will seek further funding – Thankyou to MICT on behalf of Home-Start Mull and on behalf of the Mums and Mums-To-Be who currently are making use of the Bumps & Babies Group. *Sarah Stanley-Wright*

Tobermory Playpark Appeal

The Tobermory Playpark Appeal were grateful to receive a grant of £200 from MESS recently. This grant will be used towards fencing for the new Playpark, to ensure the safety of younger children and deter dog fouling in the area. The Tobermory Playpark Appeal Committee are working in partnership with Argyll & Bute Council to create an exciting new play area in the heart of the town. The total cost is in the region of £50,000, and over £27,000 has been raised so far, thanks to generous donations from local families and organisations, grants from MESS, Argyll & Bute Council, Argyll & Bute Health and Wellbeing Network and the Kenny MacIntyre Memorial Fund, and through the Committee's fundraising events throughout the year. The Playpark Appeal is a real community project which will offer a fantastic, modern play area for local and visiting children. Thanks to grants from the Mull Sea Eagle Fund and others, we have already been able to install toadstool seats, a see-saw, new swing seats and several benches to give an idea of what is to come www.tobermoryplaypark.co.uk

Helen MacDonald

Murmurs from the Ranger Service

Late July and August proved busier than expected with plenty of events and attempting to fit in the remaining wildlife survey work any time it wasn't pouring with rain! Our new shelter building is taking shape on Iona and we're busy working on the interior information panels at the moment.

Almost 100 people took part in the Practical Plants Day held at Creich Hall and it was great to see everyone cooking, weaving, dyeing, foraging and trying out new skills based on old traditions and new ways of using and appreciating our local natural resources. By popular request it is hoped to repeat this venture next year, so any suggestions for workshops or demonstrations are welcome. Many thanks to everyone who helped make it such a success!

During September we will be repeating the Iona: Changing Landscapes project this time with the theme Working the Land and Sea. Pupils from Oban High School's music, English and Gaelic departments will spend a few days on Iona accompanied by professional tutors to produce some original material. Come and join us at the performance in Iona Abbey on Friday 25th September at 3pm to hear the results of their creativity. Last year's music and poetry can still be viewed here: www.nts.org.uk/Site/Iona-changing-landscapes/Changing-Landscapes

Emily Wilkins, Ranger for the Ross of Mull, Iona, Burg and Staffa

Autumn is definitely in the air, the sea eagle chicks have fledged and are now making their way in the world beyond their nests, leaves on the sycamore and horse chestnut are starting to change colour and fall and Rachel French our Seasonal Sea Eagle and Event Ranger has finished for the season. The Ranger Service, and all those whom attended the hide and her events would, am sure, like to thank her for her energy and enthusiasm and huge knowledge base in all things wildlife. The Sea Eagle Viewing hide at Tioran is still open and will be so till October time, under the leadership of John Clare.

The last couple of weeks seem to have been very busy attending the local agricultural shows and Uisken games lifeboat day. It is great to see how much the Ranger Service is appreciated from feedback received at these events and others, so thank you. For those that have been in Aros Park lately you will have noticed all the Rhododendron clearance down towards the old saw mill and pier. This has made a huge difference opening up views towards Tobermory. This is all part of a programme to reduce the amount of Rhododendron Ponticum in the park and to give other plants a chance to get established. As of September our events programme quiets down a bit but hopefully next month we will be able to report on the events that have been on going in September.

Jan Dunlop, Ranger Countryside Ranger Manager

