

USCA Update

Ulva School Community Association

January 2012 - Issue: 5

www.uscamull.org.uk

A New Year

Welcome to the first 2012 issue of the **USCA** Newsletter. The aim is to have an issue of USCA Update every month this year.

Local Development Officer Closing Date Extended

As was mentioned in the last issue, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and LEADER are funding a full-time Local Development Officer (LDO) for the **USCA** area. The LDO post will be funded until December 2013 but HIE & LEADER encourage the LDOs to work on finding funding to make it a more long term position.

The original closing date for applications was 20th January but to allow for the post to be advertised as widely as possible the **closing date** is now **3rd February**. So, if you know anyone who might be interested, please let them know about it. Further details can be obtained on the Mull and Iona Community Trust website (www.mict.co.uk) or by contacting MICT on 01680 812900 .



USCA Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 8th February 7:30pm at Ulva School

All members, or potential members, are invited to attend the first **USCA Annual General Meeting**.

The **AGM** is your chance to elect the new committee, hear what has been achieved over **USCA's** first year, and vote on some changes to the Constitution. Please do come along.

If you'd like to know more, please contact Carlyne Charrington 01688 400 425.

Teas/coffees and baking

USCA Contact & Committee Details

Carolyne Charrington - Acting Convenor - 01688400425

Email: convenor@uscamull.org.uk or vconvenor@uscamull.org.uk.

Iain Thomson - Treasurer - 01688500295 Email: treasurer@uscamull.org.uk.

Mike Hogan - Secretary - 01688500158 Email: secretary@uscamull.org.uk.

The following people are the other **USCA** committee members: Gary Cutlack, Beccy Roth, Jim Halbert & Lucy Mackenzie

Update on Achleck Housing Project

There was a meeting in Oban earlier this month of all the different parties to the bid which was very positive. There were a couple of issues raised that needed exploring. One which **USCA** needs to be aware of is that since part of the Council finance is a relatively short-term loan there will be a requirement for some further finance once the project is up and running - Derek Logie from Rural Housing Service is advising us on this. Plans and budget costings are being drawn up at the moment and hopefully we will have more news soon.

USCA - Community Gatherings at Ulva School in February

Saturday 18th February - 11am - 1pm

Bird Box Making with Jan Dunlop - Prepare for Spring!

Both adults and children welcome but children must be accompanied by adult.

No entrance charge - but donations gratefully received.

Call 01688 500257 or 01688 500259 to book

Friday 24th February - 7 pm

Film Night - Groundhog Day - Lighthearted entertainment for all the family!

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

In association with Mull Film Club.

No entrance charge - but donations gratefully received.

USCA gratefully acknowledges the support of Argyll & Bute Council.



Consultation and Information Events

Draft Scottish Ferries Plan Consultation - this consultation may well be the last chance that people have to comment on this plan. The plan can be accessed at: www.transportscotland.gov.uk/strategy-and-research/publications-and-consultations/j205024-00.htm and the comments survey is at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/QZ25CFT

The **Scottish Fish Farm Company** have proposed a new facility near Gometra. Their information events are on Wednesday 1st February and will be at The Western Isles Hotel from 10am - 2pm and at the MICT building (An Roth) in Craignure from 4 - 8pm.

USCA Committee Needs...You

The Constitution we adopted last year when **USCA** was formed dictates that all Committee members are chosen for one year and a new committee is elected at the AGM. The focus 12 months ago, when **USCA** began, was fighting for the school and so most of the initial Committee were school parents, but any full member can put themselves forward for election, and if **USCA** is to truly represent the community we need some new faces! We meet once a month on average. Please give me a ring if you would like to talk about it. Carolyne - 01688 400425.

Apology

I would like to apologise on behalf of the USCA Committee that we had to cancel the Hogmanay Gathering at such short notice, and especially to those who we failed to contact in time - we regret any inconvenience caused.

Several of the Committee were either not well or not here for Hogmanay, and it sounded as if, due to various illnesses going round, that there were not many people known to be able to come. Regretfully, we have since found out that not everyone had heard that the party had been cancelled (due to gaps in our email/contact lists) and we sincerely apologise to anyone who didn't hear beforehand that it had been cancelled.

We realise the importance of coming up with a more reliable system of communicating short notice changes like this.

Carolyne Charrington

An Evening with Chrissie MacDonald

Chrissie gave a fascinating talk on our area during her childhood years, telling us how the speaking of Gaelic was discouraged outside the home, as something to be almost ashamed of, and how their lives were so insular that Bunessan seemed as far away as New Zealand!

Almost all shopping was done from the various tradesmen's vans that did rounds most days of the week, and entertainment revolved around the Torloisk Hall and the school. We were shocked by tales of a particularly strict teacher, who even beat a child on his very first day of school for failing to pronounce his name correctly.

She was full of amusing and interesting stories of old times and old folk, and kept us all enthralled. Thank you very much Chrissie for sharing your stories with us - it was a wonderful evening and much enjoyed by everyone who came along.

Thank you very much also to Moray Finch from MICT who spoke about the proposed Garmony Hydro Project. Moray gave a clear explanation of the proposed project, of the possible benefits for Mull and Iona, and of the need for a good response to the ballot from island residents. We will all receive ballot papers by post mid February.

USCA Committee Meeting Draft Minutes - 19/01/2012

1. **Apologies:** None

Present: Carolyne Charrington, Iain Thomson, Michael Hogan, David Clowes, Beccy Roth, Gary Cutlack, Lucy Mackenzie.

Gremlin Napier was introduced to the committee and was Co-opted unanimously.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Proposed BR Seconded IT Accepted Unanimously

3. **Matters Arising:**

Community Gatherings: - Application conditions discussed and options on a possible polytunnel were explored. The conditions that accompany the award will need to be checked carefully.

Unfortunately, due to the illness of a number of people, the Hogmanay Gathering had to be cancelled at short notice. USCA will try to apologise personally to anyone who was inconvenienced.

Chrissie's evening was riveting and a great success.

The Burns Supper is organised and just the numbers are needed for catering. Flyer to be produced by Sunday **MH to action**.

Innovation Fund Bid: - A meeting was held in Oban with all interested parties. CC and IT attended for USCA. The meeting was generally positive and the Torloisk Estate seemed very willing to work with USCA. There was a possible issue regarding the taxation of property which has been leased and then renovated at little or no cost to the owners. This will need clarification and also other options looked at.

USCA also needs to be aware of the need for external financing once the project is up and running.

Jim Mather meeting : - Elaine Crane attended for this part of the meeting. The invitations have just been sent out and there are two acceptances so far. The idea of a film/presentation was discussed and it was thought to be ideal, especially as a 'looping' presentation over lunch. The view was that the presentation should last 5-10 minutes and as well as general footage of the area and some USCA events should contain short clips of residents and prospective residents talking. Clips should be 20 - 30 seconds long. **CC, MH & GC to action.** Details of the film should be put in the newsletter. There should also be some 'static' presentations around the room as well - eg: the fete enlargements, maps etc. The message we should try to communicate is that this is a community wanting to be given the tools to ensure their sustainable future. The Comptons have very kindly offered Torloisk House as a lunch venue. USCA will be arranging catering. **BR to action. DC to check on Bus availability, LM to check on chairs.** Discussion on how the meeting is going to work. Suggested that **IT and CC to be spokespeople** at the meeting.

AGM: - Date agreed as the 8th February 2012. The format of the meeting was discussed. MH distributed a briefing on possible changes to the Constitution and highlighted a conflict within the constitution itself that will need to be resolved. There was a discussion about the possibility of changing to become a Charity. Since there might be advantages to this it was decided to ask permission at the AGM to apply to be a charity if it would be of benefit.

Scotlands Islands Funding: This was discussed and a number of items will need to be resolved. Finance issues - **IT to action**, feedback etc - **CC & BR to action.**

Newsletter: - Contents for January - Minutes, AGM, Achleck Update, Filming and meeting. Need to double check who receives them via email and who is on a manual distribution list. MH left the meeting.

HIE/LEADER LDO Post: CC updated the committee on the LDO recruitment including that the closing date had been put back to allow wider advertising. MH returned to the meeting.

4. **Finance:**
Update on finances provided by IT.
5. **Organisation and Workload**
Checking on numbers and revenues for the summer family workshops. **MH to action.**
6. **Community issues:** The following consultations are taking place and should be brought to the attention of members via the newsletter: Salmon Farm Consultation, Ferry Consultation.
Community Gathering: Options for February explained. To advertise them 100 flyers to be produced - **MH to action.** Options for March were discussed. **BR, LM CC & MH to action.**
7. **Housing Issues:**
8. **Publicity Issues:** Both websites updated.
9. **School Issues:**
10. **Any other business:** Donation to USCA of £295 from LM of Lipnacloiche.
11. **Date of next meeting:** Thursday 9/02/12 at Old Mill solely to discuss JM meeting and any urgent business. 7pm.