

# USCA Update

Ulva School Community Association

August 2012 - Issue: 10

[www.uscamull.org.uk](http://www.uscamull.org.uk)

## USCA - Events at Ulva School in August

### Whales & Dolphins Around Mull

Tuesday 7 Aug - 7.30pm

with Cally Fleming, Project Director- Hebridean Whale & Dolphin Trust

### Wildlife - Why We're All Responsible

Friday 17 Aug - 7.30 pm

with Arthur Brown - Ex-Farmer & Wildlife Tour Operator

All Welcome

### Further Information

Tea & Baking

Free Admission - Donations to USCA welcome!

For information call: 01688 500257 or email [lipnacloiche@btinternet.com](mailto:lipnacloiche@btinternet.com)

## Update on Achleck Housing Project

Summer holidays have meant that we haven't any further news on the houses at Achleck at the moment, but we hope to have a meeting with WHHA et cetera within the next couple of weeks to introduce them to Cally and Alasdair. As you know they are working on the CAM community consultation just now, in which housing issues appear strongly as a concern of those who have been consulted thus far.

Their Steering Group, under guidance from HIE, have agreed and minuted their support for the LDOs to work on any existing USCA housing projects, and the USCA Committee have minuted that they are more than happy for the LDOs to do the same. This means they can take over working on the Achleck project - it will be a great help to the volunteer USCA Committee to have them working on this.

## Message From Carlyne Charrington

Now that Martha has left Ulva School, and as we live outwith the USCA area, I have decided that I should resign, and allow someone living in the area and with more connection to the area than I now have, to take over as Convenor.

I will stay on until the new Convenor has been chosen which will probably be at the next USCA Committee meeting in September, and help as much as I can with the handover. I have really enjoyed working with everyone on the Committee, and wish USCA well in the future.

## Black Beach Barbecue Bonanza

**USCA** held their inaugural Bonanza Barbecue and Beach Games at Kilninian, Torloisk on Sunday 29th July. Traigh na Cille was the perfect spot for the BBQ, plenty of space for families to picnic, and sit to watch the beach games arranged at low tide by Alasdair Satchel.

**USCA** Committee members Rebecca Munro and Emma McKie, of the Boathouse Restaurant, not only organised the event, but worked extremely hard on the day barbecuing over 200 delicious lunches!

Fancy Dress (Beach or Pirate theme) was encouraged but not compulsory! Other games and activities included a successful Raffle organised by Jeannie MacColl, 4



different classes of Tug of War, running races, wheelbarrow and sack races, Fishing for Ducks, Coconut Shy, the highly competitive Welly Wanging Competition ably

run by a pirate called Stuart and the first ever 'Cockadoodlepoo' Competition - clearly a crowd puller, as a lot of people just had to come along to find out what that was all about!

It was another fantastic **USCA** event, and wonderful to have so many families and children there - the atmosphere was terrific! We are extremely grateful to local businesses for

their sponsorship and support for the event including the Ulva Ferry and Boathouse Restaurant who both shut for the day, Gus Robertson Building Contractor, Turus Mara, Scottish Salmon Company, Lip na Cloiche and to all those who donated something to the raffle and baked for the **USCA** produce stall. Thanks also to Torloisk Estate, and to Iain MacKay who kindly allowed us to use the fields for parking and moved his Highland Cattle off the beach beforehand.

Over £2,000 was raised for **USCA** funds.



## Fish Farm

At the [USCA](#) Committee meeting on 19th July, we agreed to submit an Interim Response from the [USCA](#) Committee regarding the fish farm application. This we did, and it is now on the Council website: <http://tinyurl.com/bvrsds7>.

It was also agreed to hold a community meeting in August, inviting the Fish Farm and relevant agencies (such as Council, MAFA, SEPA, SNH etc) to attend. However, between 19th July and 2nd August, only the CEO of Scottish Salmon Company had confirmed that they were able to attend. It was also brought to our attention by Councillor Devon that it would be difficult for agencies such as SEPA, SNH etc to attend as they are Consultees. Finally, after a lot of discussion, it was decided by consensus, that in the light of only the Scottish Salmon Company attending, we should cancel the proposed meeting. Without the other agencies present, it would not be possible to offer a balanced picture.

On behalf of the [USCA](#) Committee, we sincerely apologise that we did not discuss the fish farm application sooner, regarding any other action [USCA](#) might have taken. We had hoped to have more information in this newsletter about the planning process with regard to the fish farm application but now this will have to follow in the next newsletter.

## Local Development Officer Report

The Ulva Ferry LDOs have been busy of late working on their community consultation. The community consultation identifies the priority areas in which those who take part would like to see development. The top priorities emerging from the consultation so far are affordable housing and community transport. Among other issues of importance are a play park, broadband improvement and water's edge developments. We're still taking suggestions if you feel that there's something that we've missed.

In the coming months we'll be putting the results into the community plan, much like Morven Gibson did for the Ross of Mull & Iona. We'll then use the community plan as a basis from which to seek funding to address and realise the initiatives identified.

The LDO portacabin site at the Torloisk Cross Roads is slowly taking shape. The ground has recently been cleared and levelled, and now all we need is our portacabin siting and we'll be right there in the midst of it all. We intend to offer a fine cup of coffee and a comfy couch to sit and natter on, so do come and drop in when we're up and running. Needless to say if you ever need us we can be sought out on [cflaming@mict.co.uk](mailto:cflaming@mict.co.uk) & [asatchel@mict.co.uk](mailto:asatchel@mict.co.uk).

## [USCA](#) Committee Draft Minutes 20/07/2012

1. **Apologies:** Heather Waller, Mike Hogan, Cally Fleming (LDO).
2. **Present:** Carlyne Charrington, David Woodhouse, Beccy Roth, Lucy Mackenzie, Emma McKie, Jeannie MacColl, Rebecca Munro, Don Lambert, Stuart McKie, Chris Leitch. In attendance: Alasdair Satchel (LDO).
3. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Already supplied. Proposed: Emma McKie Seconded: Rebecca Munro.
4. **Finance:** Beccy Roth confirmed that there was nearly £8,000.00 in the account, but cheques to go out amounted to about £900.00 for Insurance Premium, Round & About invoices, and payment for toilets.
5. **Community Issues:** Discussion re recent controversy over plans for new fish Farm in the Gometra vicinity. It was agreed that the [USCA](#) COMMITTEE would make an INTERIM response to the Council re the proposed fish farm plans, and also to host an open meeting. The wording of the Interim Response was agreed and is attached to these Minutes. Representatives from the Fish farm, SNH, SEPA, Richard Kerr, the Case Officer, HWDT, and a representative from the boat tours, eg. Turus Mara

would be invited to attend. Local residents would be able to come and air their views and ask questions. It was agreed that this meeting should take place as soon as possible. A Confidential Ballot would be held during the meeting. The meeting would be minuted and results of the ballot submitted.

6. **The Black Beach Bonanza BBQ** was discussed. Committee are very grateful to Emma and Rebecca for all their hard work on this. Using the Treshnish Marquee and Tipi. Emma was given a cheque for £228 for the payment of the toilets. The Dervaig Hall BBQ is £25 but we can pay for this afterwards. Rebecca will pick it up on Friday. The sponsorship money offered so far is around £500 which should cover all expenses. Jeannie suggested asking Sheena to help with the parking like she did last year. Jeannie also said she would be happy to organise a raffle. Don asked for a generator so he could make candy floss. Alasdair is helping with the children's games. Jeanette is being asked to help with the cake stand. Alasdair suggested Lee to judge the sand sculpture competition. The tent is going up on Friday night with Somerset, Stuart, Rhuri, Iain T and Donald Munro to help. Iain also said he will play some music. Emma will get a first aid accident book as well as take fire extinguishers, a no smoking sign and a children must be supervised sign. Carlyne will take bins and the coconut shy equipment. Lucy said she would go around with donation buckets and the LDOs want a place where they can have some info. We agreed to arrive around 10.30 on Sunday. Stuart McKie will ferry people to and from the beach who have limited mobility. Lots of discussion re parking, and it was decided that as long as the weather stays fine, there will be sufficient. Should the weather be poor, and due to stay poor before the BBQ, those who were free will help clean up the barn at Achleck as an alternative venue. Alasdair reminded us that we will need a 1st Aider (Medical cover), some form of communication incase of accident (Carlyne offered her walkie Talkies) a runner, fire extinguisher. The Assembly Point at the Achleck Farm Building (which Iain MacKay has kindly agreed to us using in case of bad weather) in case of an accident should be in front of the house being built for Beccy's mum. Good signage was discussed, and the use of balloons was a possibility to alert tourists that something was going on. Somerset doing Coconut Shy - Rebecca and Emma have ordered coconuts.
7. Lucy Mackenzie asked if we could get the poly tunnel up and running. Chris Leitch is going to ask James MacPhail for a quote to prepare the foundations, for which USCA will pay up to £700.00 for the work. The aggregate previously offered to USCA proved to be too big. It was agreed that no money would be asked from the school to help pay for the foundations, as they had already paid for half of the poly tunnel.
8. **Achleck:** Carlyne has been in regular contact with Gregor Cameron, and had reassurance from Lesley MacInnes at West Highland Housing Association that although progress is slow, things are moving in the right direction. We have to have built 2 houses by 2014.
9. **Publicity Issues:** There were no publicity issues, other than posters for the Beach Bonanza and balloon signage on the day.
10. **School Issues:** There were no school issues.
11. **Any other business:** Lucy brought us up to date on the recent courses, all of which seemed to have been appreciated and successful. She also let us know what else was planned and gave the treasurer the cash from these events to bank. £100.00 Drama & Games £35.00 Breadsticks £70.00 Woodworking, and £20.00 Donations. The Committee agreed that it would be good for Alasdair and Cally to work on anything to do with Housing in the area, as this has already been identified as important within the draft Consultation plan, and so according to HIE, and agreed by the LDO steering group, it would be appropriate for them to do this.
12. **Date of next meeting:** 2nd August 2012.