

USCA Update

Ulva School Community Association

March/April 2012 - Issue: 7

www.uscamull.org.uk

This Issue

Due to the preparation for the Stakeholders' meeting, and in particular the editing of the **USCA** voices film, it was decided to have a joint newsletter for March and April.

If there is anything you'd like to see in the newsletter do let us know by email on secretary@uscamull.org.uk or by ringing 01688500158.

Welcome



USCA is very pleased to offer an extremely warm welcome to the new Local Development Officers. Cally Fleming and Alasdair Satchel started work at the beginning of April. There is a short introduction from each of them elsewhere in the newsletter.



Local Development Officer Steering Group

A steering group is required to assist with, and oversee the work of, the LDOs and it is open to anyone from the Community, not just from **USCA**. So if you would like to be on the steering group just contact Carolyne Charrington.

USCA - Community Events at Ulva School in May

Behind the Scenes at Springwatch

Fri 11 May, 7.30 pm

Dave Sexton, Mull Officer RSPB



a million
voices for
nature

Drystone Walling

Sat 12 May, 9.30 am - 4 pm

Ian Elwis - £12

Ages 15 upwards

To Book Call: 01688 500 257 or email: lipnacloiche@btinternet.com

USCA Committee

Carolyne Charrington, Beccy Roth, Iain Thomson, Lucy Mackenzie, Gremlin Napier, Chris Leitch, Heather Waller, Stuart McKie, Emma McKie, Eilidh Munro, Jeannie MacColl, Mike Hogan, Rebecca Munro, David Woodhouse, Don Lambert.

Alasdair Satchel

`S mise Alasdair Satchel. Tha mise is Cally Fleming nar oifigearan leasachaidh ionadail Ulbha Ferry ur.

Tha sin an dòchas a bhruidhinn ri a choimhearsnachd airson coimhead de an seòrsa iomairt a tha sibh ag iarraidh a dèanamh.

Glusad mi a Muile còig bliadhna air-ais, agus a-nis tha mac agam, Colla, còmhla ri mo leannan Georgia, thall ann an Dearbhaig.

Tha mi nam stiùiriche dealbhan cluiche cuideachd, agus tha mi ag obair ri foghlam air an eilean agus air an tìr mhòr.

Tha mi air a bhith Gàidhlig ionnsachadh o-chionn da bhliadhna, agus tha tòrr obair fhathast a dèanamh, mar a chì sibh, ach tha mi an dòchas gu bheil an obair seo mo chuideachadh a lorg cothroman a thoir taic dha ar canan bhrèagha, seo air an eilean.

My name is Alasdair Satchel, and, along with Cally Fleming, I'm one of the new Local Development Officers [LDOs] for Ulva Ferry. In our work we hope to consult the community on what developments you would like to see in the area, and to find means to allow them to happen to the benefit of all concerned.

I moved to Mull 5 years ago, and now have a son, Coll, with my partner Georgia, over in Dervaig. I've got a background in the theatre and education and have been working of late with film through the medium of Gaelic. I'm a keen Gaelic learner and I hope that this job will allow me to find ways to support Gaelic on the island.

Cally Fleming

I was born in Dunblane, but have lived in small West Coast communities most of my life.

For the past 15 years, I have lived on Mull, for the past 10 years at Croig and have a family background from North West Mull, descended from Macleans of Torloisk, Gometra and Dervaig areas and have traced the family tree back to the 1600's on Mull.

I have been working for the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, the Mull-based charity. Prior to this I have been involved in tourism development in the Highlands when I was marketing manager at Scotland's gondola and ski area in Fort William. Previously I ran an Oyster Hatchery on Loch Sween and lived in Norway for a number of years as a biologist and was also involved in tourism.

I have admired the work of the Ulva community via [USCA](#) to date to save the Ulva School from closure and look forward to working with [USCA](#) and the wider community to look at opportunities locally and help address issues.

In my job share position with Alasdair, we will support the community to help create a more sustainable future and encourage everyone to contribute to a vision of what they want the Ulva Ferry area to be, our aim being to retain - and enhance - the area's unique character, whilst working on issues such as affordable housing.

I am looking forward to meeting everyone so we can start getting ideas for a Community Development Plan for the area and subsequently help to deliver identified projects.

Report on the Meeting on 30th March

An important Stakeholders' meeting was hosted on Friday the 30th of March 2012 at Ulva Ferry by Ulva School Community Association [USCA]. The aim of the meeting was to look at how to mobilise support for the community in creating a more sustainable future.

The main business of the day was the Stakeholders' meeting held at the school, but after a brief tour of the area, a lunch was first held at Torloisk House. About 40 stakeholders attended including Michael Russell MSP, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning; Alan Reid MP, Mike MacKenzie MSP, Mary-Jean Devon, Gordon Chalmers and local landowners as well as West Highland Housing Association, Rural Housing Service, Scottish Natural Heritage, Argyll and Bute Planning Dept., and representatives from other bodies such as NFUS and Mull Community Council.

At Torloisk House guests enjoyed a delicious variety of local produce prepared by caterers from the area. After lunch Richard Compton Maclean, of Torloisk Estate, identified some of the issues which might need addressing within the area and voiced both his and the estate's commitment to supporting future developments.

In the afternoon guests were shown a short film in which local residents talked about what they personally saw as the challenges and the advantages for the area. Whilst what people had said was their own individual opinions, rather than a full and agreed community view, it did make an excellent basis when former MSP Jim Mather, chairing the meeting, invited those present to speculate on what the USCA area might look like in the year 2020.

These points were then put into context within the current aims of USCA and the attendees were asked what steps the community could realistically take to allow this vision of the future. In this process some potential challenges and problems that the area may face were flagged up, and possible solutions suggested.

What emerged was a very appealing vision of a community, with affordable, ecologically sound housing, a school bustling with pupils from that housing and other homes, and new local businesses offering diverse services to nourish the area for both local and visitor alike.

Having so many stakeholders and people whose opinion can affect funding and financial decisions in on this process was invaluable. When USCA comes to implementing the suggestions from the forthcoming Local Development Plan many of the agencies and people who will need to be approached were in the room on Friday the 30th, and actively contributing strategies that could be employed to help realise the hopes that were raised on that day.

USCA Film

The film shown at the meeting on the 30th March is available on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TxaCh8WQ-mM>.

If anyone would like a copy of the film just contact Mike Hogan on 01688 500 158 or email: secretary@uscamull.org.uk.

USCA Website Business Page

At the last committee meeting it was decided that there should be a page on the **USCA** website which is devoted to businesses from the area. The aim is to promote and support the varied local businesses which residents of this area are involved in. There will be no fixed charge, initially at least, for a business entry on the page but we would gratefully receive donations.

The format that will be followed is to have the business name in bold, a website link if there is one, and then a short paragraph about the business along with email/phone contact details. The businesses will be listed by type and alphabetically by name.

If you'd like to be included or would like some further information about it just ring Mike on 01688 500 158 or email: secretary@uscamull.org.uk.

Local Development Plan

Alasdair and Cally, who job share the role of Local Development Officer, are planning to call on *every* household here over the next few weeks. They will be delivering a survey from HIE (Highlands and Islands Enterprise) about the nature of The Ulva Ferry community.

This is a survey that is going out across all the areas with Local Development Officers and will help in the understanding of this area and its needs. The overall results will be available at a later date.

The Local Development Officer post is funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Argyll and the Islands LEADER with additional support provided for management and administration by Mull & Iona Community Trust.



Lip na Cloiche Charity Opening 3rd, 4th & 5th June

Over the extended bank holiday weekend Lucy will be charging for entry to her magnificent garden with **60%** of the proceeds being donated to **Macmillan Cancer Care** and the remaining **40%** being donated to **USCA**.

Last year when the garden was opened as part of the Scotland's Gardens Scheme a total of £731 was raised over two days. This year Lucy has decided to do all the organising and publicity herself so she can choose exactly where all the money raised will be donated.

So, on the Sunday, Monday & Tuesday between 11am and 5pm visitors can have the privilege of paying (Adults £3 Children Free) to visit a garden where normally no entrance fee is charged. However, only over those three days will the Homemade Teas be available in addition to Lucy's extensive plant sales area.

What could be a better use of the 'extra' bank holiday time than visiting Lucy's individual and inspirational garden and by doing so raising money for some really worthy causes.

Update on Achleck Housing Project

Useful discussion took place at the stakeholder meeting on the 30th March between the Comptons, **USCA** and West Highland Housing Association. Whilst it is all taking a lot longer than we had originally expected to get the detail of the project agreed, we are confident following these discussions that there is a firm commitment from all partners to work together to make sure we can meet the requirements of the funding bid. We should have further detail in the next newsletter.

Officers' Contact Details

Officers of **USCA**: Convenor - Carolyne Charrington 01688 400 425, Vice-Convenor - Iain Thomson 01688 500 295, Treasurer - Beccy Roth 01688 500 259 and Secretary - Mike Hogan 01688 500 158.

USCA Committee Draft Minutes 12/04/2012

- Apologies:** D. Woodhouse, E. Munro, J. MacColl, H. Waller.
Present: C. Charrington, I. Thomson, L. Mackenzie, C. Leitch, D. Lambert, M. Hogan, S. McKie, E. McKie, R. Munro, B. Roth, G. Napier,
In Attendance: C. Fleming, A. Satchel.
- Minutes of previous meeting:** The last meeting was primarily about the JM meeting so the various lists produced will be the record. The only other decision was to allow a sub-group to decide on the polytunnel.
- Matters Arising:**
Jim Mather meeting - Thanks to: Emma, Eilidh, Rebecca & Jeanette for their wonderful catering; to all in the community who contributed their baking; Elaine for all her organisational skills; Mary-Jean Devon and Helen Mackay for guiding; Colin Morrison & Somerset Charrington for driving; Lucy for all her help on the day and before; Roger, Mark and Iain for help parking cars. Also thanks to Anna Hogan and Mary Munoz-Ramos for doing all the filming and to all who were or were willing to be interviewed. Thanks also to MICT and the NWMWC for the loan of their projectors and to The Western Isles for the loan of their screen. We also want to register our appreciation to Turus Mara and the Ross of Mull for the loan of their minibuses, to Dervaig Village Hall for the loan of the chairs and to Craignure Village Hall for the crockery. Last but not least, thank you to the Compton Macleans for hosting the lunch at Torloisk House.
AS/CF producing report on the meeting for the newsletter. Need to think of follow up re stakeholder 'pledges' at Mather Meeting **CC & MH to action.**
Distribution of film - to be sent to those who were unable to attend - **CC & MH to action.**
Polytunnel Update - One has been purchased. The need now is to get the set-up correct. Person/People needed to prepare the groundwork. To be done in partnership with Parent Council who have shared the cost of the tunnel.
Volunteers? **DL** offered to help with his digger, **IT** willing to help with brushcutter. **CC to contact Heather.**
- Finance:**
Current position reasonably healthy now claims are being paid - Expenses cheques to be signed at end of meeting - Systematic approach to invoices/payments etc has been adopted and is being implemented. The need for removing previous office holders /committee members as signatories from the bank account was explained.

Agreed that Iain Thomson, Maureen Merrit and Helen Mackay be removed as signatories and Beccy Roth added as she is now Treasurer. Possible Unity Bank Trust funding - **AS & CF** to give Committee guide to main points.
Community Gathering Paperwork **BR & MH & CC to action.**

5. Organisation and Workload

Charity Status application - a breakdown for next meeting and approach MICT to do training session. **MH** to produce breakdown, **CC** to approach MICT.

Need agreed system for membership recording - decision taken to explore database use (perhaps Open Office or Libre Office) and use Dropbox to share files. **MH & LM to action.**

6. Community issues:

Office site preparation/water and electricity connection/workparty to paint portacabin inside and out. Electricity- **BR, CL & AS** to liaise.

Formation of Steering Group for LDOs - Decision to have some members from the USCA committee but also to approach the wider community. **CC to follow up in Newsletter.**

Summer Picnic/Barbecue agreed should investigate holding a Beach Sports & Barbecue on the Black Beach. Possible dates of end of July either on the 22nd or 29th July. Boathouse may consider closing on that day. **All to consider & CC to co-ordinate.**

The LDOs will need to be starting on the Community Consultation exercise.

Everyone in the community will be consulted but would also be helpful to share committee's and LDOs' emails. This was agreed. **MH to action.**

7. Housing Issues:

Achleck: JM meeting useful in allowing informal contacts. Torloisk estate factor to be in touch when back from holiday. We will keep pressing partners for decision. Offer from Mike Russell MSP to help if needed. Discussion of possible options for use of local houses to support families. **CC to action**

8. Publicity Issues:

Newsletter - Next newsletter to be issued with date of March/April. Contributions welcomed, preferably by 20th April. **MH to produce.**

Website - Local businesses to be represented on page of USCA site. Offer to be carried in the newsletter so anyone can be put on the page. Suggested donations of £10. **MH to action.**

9. School Issues: Discussion of school roll and future. CC to talk to possible landlords.

10. Any other business: Discussion of suitable acknowledgement for efforts in organising JM meeting. BR to action

Discussion of stall at Salen Show **AS to action.**

Volunteers needed for preparing for Dyking on 5:30pm Tuesday at Lagganulva.

Lucy to open gardens for charity over double bank holiday: June 3rd, 4th, 5th. Any help appreciated.

Meeting on Monday 7pm Craignure Hall about the PCC.

Thank you very much for Donation to USCA Of £100 from the Disc Golf championship.

11. Date of next meeting: Thursday 10th May, 7:30pm at Ulva School