



Update for Members and Friends – End of November 2017

The year is rushing to a close, the days are definitely shorter, the temperatures outside are lower, but we are not downhearted. The Centre is still open all seven days of the week, but the opening hours are shorter during the winter:

Monday to Friday 11 am to 4pm
Saturday 11 am to late (actual time will depend on booked meals and demand)
Sunday 12 noon to 4 pm

The Café Loyalty Cards are being distributed to all Members and Adult Friends who have paid their subscription for this year. The card must be swiped at the till on each occasion by the named person to gain the points and then to spend the points. Please remember to renew your membership. If you have not yet received a card please ask at the till, (or check with the Membership Secretary whether you have renewed your subscription).

Save the Dates for Forthcoming Events:



Saturday 2 Dec at 11 am:
“Cakes and Stories with Sue Lawrence” as part of Book Week Scotland. See posters and Facebook for more details.

Thursday 7 Dec at 7.45 pm in Cullipool Hall:
“New Discoveries on Luing” find out about the walkover surveys by the ACFA archaeology volunteer groups during 2017.

Keep watching for further events during December especially some festive menus!

Funding Results:

Big Lottery and Robertson Trust funding for a Trust post: the online advertisements (Goodmoves, S1Jobs, HIJobs) for a Development Manager for the Trust close today (27th Nov); interviews are planned in December.

An Art Trail project began in the summer, with funding from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme and Argyll & Bute Council’s Supporting Communities Fund. Further funding is being sought to complete this project and your help has been requested to vote through the Aviva Community Fund scheme. If you have not voted yet, please do so – it is very competitive!

Recent Events at the Atlantic Islands Centre:

Registered Office: Atlantic Islands Centre, Cullipool, Isle of Luing, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4TX

As part of the Celebrate funded events in September a china mug was provided for the Luings volunteers who make all the organisations and community activities of Luings work so well. The spare mugs left over after that day have been passed along to some more volunteers including some of the First Responders, Fire Service, the hall and social committees and Luings Community Council. About 10 mugs are still available so please ask Zoë Fleming for one if you have missed out.



Slate Festival One day event in October:

The Trust is very grateful to Dugie MacInnes who ran a popular all-day workshop on Slate Mosaics in Cullipool Hall. There were 15 participants, some novices, some more experienced at the art. He hopes to return again next summer.



In the afternoon two valiant families faced the wind and rain to build slate sculptures near the flagpole at Cullipool. A pirate ship with gangplanks and a motor-boat were constructed!



The Lorn Islands Partnership:

This partnership between the community trusts of Easdale, Kerrera, Lismore and Luings, now a not-for-profit company owned by the four island Trusts, continues to benefit all four islands. The next major task under the aegis of LIP is the Housing Needs Survey, led by Rural Housing Scotland, more about this for Luings below.

One purpose of the second year of funding, postponed from the first year for lack of time, is to investigate the potential of augmented reality (AR) for interpretation of local history and archaeology. AR is a less well-known cousin of virtual reality (VR). VR requires that strange headset, but AR is used on your smart phone or tablet to bring to life the historical or archaeological situation being visited. An open LIP meeting on a Saturday in March is being planned at which a Glasgow company which delivers AR for clients will demonstrate its potential for the LIP islands to those interested.

LIP is now looking to the purposes of a potential third year of SCP funding, likely to be the final year. The present investigation of providing some kind of business 'hub' for new or expanding small enterprises on the islands is likely to be a major purpose, and the search

for a possible site will be an early task. The Trust is already aware of two or three new small enterprises who are interested in such a facility, which could produce an income to help to sustain the Trust.

Affordable Housing on Luing:

After the A.G.M., Cameron Anson, of Rural Housing Scotland discussed issues to do with 'Affordable housing' demand on Luing. He returned to talk to the October Luing Community Council meeting. Currently he has produced a Housing Needs Survey which is being distributed to the homes of residents on Luing at the request of both organisations. Please put your envelope in the box at the Centre or at Luing Stores as a good return is needed. Similar surveys are being done on Easdale Island, Kerrera and Lismore.

Trading Company:

The Trust board is planning an important restructuring of the board and management of the Trading Company to strengthen the business side of the Atlantic Islands Centre. There will be two separate teams (called Working Groups for now) for the café operation and for the retail operation, both reporting to a smaller board of directors. In the medium term, it is hoped to have a full re-assessment of the structure by an external organisation funded by the Scottish Government to deliver such support to Third Sector organisations.

Development Trusts Association Scotland:

Two employees of DTAS, Wendy Reid and Ian Leaver visited Luing in October to see the Atlantic Islands Centre. DTAS supported the early development of the Trust, and have continued to do so since that time, but this was the first time they have been back to see the outcome for themselves. They enjoyed meeting people in the Centre over lunch before going on to attend a LIP board meeting in Oban.

Future Events and activities on Luing:

We would like to know what types of events and activities you would like the Trust to take forward in 2018 and a questionnaire is currently being designed which will be on your doorstep soon. There will also be an option to fill this in online so do let us know so we can ensure any events planning is based on what the Luing Community and friends would like to see and hear.

The directors of the Trust wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.