



March 2017 **Update to Members and Friends from the Directors of the Trust and the Trading Company**

The start of 2017 brings the Atlantic Islands Centre into the third year of the accounts. This means that some of our start-up funding comes to an end this spring; and we are working towards becoming sustainable as far as money is concerned. Further funds for particular purposes are being bid for. The Directors of both boards are working hard behind the scenes to prepare for the Spring season at the Atlantic Islands Centre. They are being helped considerably by several part-time team members with specific roles.

The Trust board comprises John Robertson, Pete Hooper, Alastair Fleming, Eoghann MacLachlan and Nigel Dyckhoff. Any enquiries about the strategic functions of the Trust, the Events programme and the funding bids should be addressed to them.

The Trading Company board is made up of Alison Robertson and Mandy MacLachlan, to whom queries about the Café and retail area should be addressed.



Book-keeping for the AIC & Trust - Lasta King
Training and Development officer - Jonathan Robertson.
Consultant for the Lorn Island Partnership - Jane Churchill.
Project Officer for the Lorn Island Partnership - Gill Law.
Advisors (voluntary) to the boards - Annie Tunnicliffe & Gill Law.

The AIC Café staff: Chef Archie Frost leads the team of Venue Assistants who are part-timers: Rhona MacKenzie, Kirsty Gommersall, Gen Thomas, Rachel Cruickshanks and Ashleigh Ord. On occasion and at some events casual staff and volunteers are involved. Food and drink queries should be made to the chef and staff on duty at the time. A new Springtime Menu is being planned for April, with a taster event offered before that for comments to be considered.

Other Volunteers work for the AIC regularly at a variety of tasks including maintenance and DIY, the fresh flowers on tables and the floor-cleaning. The large team of Luing Bakers produce the cakes, biscuits and artisanal bread for the Café customers; the History Group produce a rolling theme of exhibitions upstairs and the Events committee help with the planning and the practicalities of drama and music on the day of the event.

The Atlantic Islands Centre has been open 7 days per week throughout the winter again, like last year to provide a hub for the community, as well as the visitors to Luing. The 'Luing Lunch' on Mondays has run through the winter and enables islanders to meet up and socialise. It is an important part of the diary, well attended on many days. The Centre relies on the input and commitment of so many people from this community and from outside the island. We are very grateful for their support of this intricate young business and social enterprise.

THE SLATE BOGIE a.k.a. WAGON

Over the winter David Ritchie was commissioned to build a replica of the vehicle, which used to carry slates along two rails from the quarry to the banks and then to the pier. It has



yet to be completely filled with slates and accompanied by a small interpretation board but it has already been much admired. It is located near the centre, by kind permission of the landowners. This project was possible with the Creative Scotland funds; and we congratulate Dave on his research and craftsmanship.

EVENTS PROGRAMME

The current annual round of the 'Creative Scotland' funding award is nearing completion with just a few more events to run. It has allowed us to pay proper rates for the music and drama performances, which have been much enjoyed by the audiences. We are delighted that it has enabled the purchase of a lighting and sound system and a digital projector which are being fitted in the near future. Next year's bid for 'Creative Scotland' funding has been submitted but we will not hear for a few months.



In mid-February Pauline Justin was the Artist in Residence for a week at the Centre. She ran several workshops and began some pieces of art work herself. We hope to involve Pauline again in another project, the 'Luig Arts Trail' for which we have received an award from the Tesco 'Bags of Help' – from those blue plastic tokens at the checkout.

One afternoon 5 Luig children and Helen T. joined her to draw people and paint bright pictures which were displayed in the Centre.



FRIDAY 10 MARCH: MAIRI CAMPBELL "Pulse"

The posters are up to advertise this dramatic event.

It is a return visit by the very talented Mairi who is giving a performance at 7.45 pm. Tickets are available from the AIC. £8 adult; under 16 free. Tel: 01852-314096

"a mesmerising performer.....an exhilarating blend of music, movement, and animationHer voice can stop the clock...." **The Scotsman.**

SATURDAY 18 MARCH – 25 MARCH

Dugald MacInnes (a.k.a. the 'slate-mosaic pictures man') will be visiting Luig for one week bringing a group of 15 field-archaeologists (members of ACFA) to start a walk-over survey of Luig. They will be carefully recording all they see on the ground, beginning in the north. Members of Luig History Group have been invited to work with them during the week. They will have a study-base upstairs in the Centre and everyone is welcome to come and see what they are doing.

TUESDAY 21 MARCH "AURORAS- Science Myth and Magic"

7.45 PM – Kenny Taylor is returning to Luig to illuminate us with a Multi-Media show. Further details later but please keep the date free!

COMMENTS FROM THE SUGGESTION BOX OF THE CAFÉ IN 2017:

"Friendly service, good food & selection of drinks." England 24 Feb..

"Quality freshly prepared food, great choice of drinks and home baking. We will be back." Dumfries 7 Feb

"Excellent café, bright, airy, fascinating." Surrey 6 Feb

"I liked everything about the centre. It is spotlessly clean, bright and interesting." Oban. 3 Feb.

"Loved the menu special – salmon!" Cullipool 2 Feb. "Excellent food" Kilmartin 30 Jan.

"Salmon special was exceptional. Best meal ever! Highly recommended." Cockermouth 29 Jan. "Warm, friendly, good food and good views." Oban 31 Jan.

LORN ISLAND PARTNERSHIP – LIP

The community trusts of Easdale, Kerrera, Lismore and Luing are collaborating as a formal organisation, a company limited by guarantee. The first such partnership in Scotland for these islands which have many similar challenges. Last Saturday there was a gathering at the Rockfield Centre, Oban to discuss progress on the islands during the first 8 months of LIP and look forward to the next year. One early project has been the design of a 'Lorn Islands Trail' leaflet, to encourage day visitors to visit them all. Other cross-island projects include: Partnership Recycling and Waste Reduction Programme – Climate Challenge Fund; Exchange Scotland European Placements; Promotion of social enterprise opportunities; Marketing Plan/ enhanced Visitor Offer; Cross-island Youth Officer.

Some of the individual island ongoing projects are:

Easdale: World Stone Skimming Quarry Purchase – Scottish Land Fund; Creation of Quarry as a “living exhibit” as add-on to the museum – Heritage Lottery Fund; Museum Refurbishment – Heritage Lottery Fund; New heating system for the hall- Awards for All; Staff support for community asset management – Robertson Trust; Enhanced Hall Arts and Entertainments Programme – Creative Scotland.

Kerrera: Community Pontoons – Coastal Communities Fund; Acquisition of old school as a community hub – A&BC &/or Scottish Land Fund; New Enterprise using slurry equipment - Comic Relief; Development of school to community hub – Awards for All; Creation of a North/ South road.

Lismore: Use and refurbishment of school house as a community base – A&BC or Trusthouse Charitable Trust; Creation of a Playpark – Awards for All or Tesco bags of help; Creation of island information points for visitors in redundant telephone kiosks; Creation of an island administrator post to assist local groups and facilitate inter-group working – Robertson Trust; Island Arts and Entertainment Programme – Creative Scotland.

Luing: Enhanced Arts and Entertainment Programme – Creative Scotland; Staff development at AIC; Community Development Project – Big Lottery Fund. Luing Art Trail.

VALETE - Thank you

Helen Thomson helped both the boards for some months during the winter and we would like to thank her for her time and energy on several fronts.

In February Norrie Bissell resigned from his place on the Trust board after many years of service and we thank him for all his work. His experience and creative talents, especially with the Creative Arts programme, will be sadly missed.

Birgit Whitmore has resigned from her place on the Trading Company board where she worked voluntarily as Treasurer. She has decided not to renew her contract with the Trust for her time working at Front of House, Marketing and the Events Programme. The boards are grateful for her work in both roles, as well as her culinary skills in the Café on several important occasions.



Autumn view



Hail cover in winter



Hail covers the shore

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