

# Atlantic Islands Centre

Ionad Dualchais nan Eileanan A-Staigh

## WHEN WILL THE NEW BUILDING BE READY?

If you've been following progress on the Atlantic Islands Centre site you will have seen that the roof slating is very nearly complete. The January storms delayed this work quite a bit, but the calmer weather recently has allowed better progress. At the same time, work has started on the external works around the building and once all the scaffolding comes down the contractors will be able to push ahead more rapidly with this. Internally, the power supply and heating system are switched on and finishing work such as floor tiling and decoration has commenced. All the wiring circuits are in place and the electrician has started fitting lights and power sockets. Installation of the interpretive exhibition material is scheduled to take place during week commencing 9 March and contracts for the supply of kitchen equipment and other fit-out items such as furniture, display shelving, etc are all currently being finalised.

*February 2015*



As with any new building, there are various official inspections that need to take place to allow completion certificates to be issued and these, along with other arrangements such as insurance, need to be in place before the building can be opened for public use. This means we're unable to commit to a firm date just yet, but we do hope to have everything up and running by the end of April. Watch out for more regular updates as we move closer towards completion.

## MANAGING THE OPERATION OF THE CENTRE

With the building nearing completion the focus now moves to the operation of the Atlantic Islands Centre and there have been a number of recent developments that will be of interest.

### ISLE of LUING TRADING Co.

The Isle of Luing Trading Co. Ltd has now been formally established as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Isle of Luing Community Trust, and as such it will be the commercial entity responsible for running the Atlantic Islands Centre. This form of operating structure is used extensively in similar community developments throughout Scotland. It is supported by the Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) and was also recommended by legal and financial advisers. There are three main reasons for adopting this model:

It preserves the charitable status of the Trust and allows the Trust to pursue its charitable objectives independently of the commercial operation of the Centre; it is a transparent and tax efficient way of separately managing the finances and liabilities of the Trust as a charitable operation and the Centre as a commercial operation; and it allows the Trading Co to bring in management expertise not necessarily available to the Trust. The Trust Board have appointed Pete Hooper, Martin Whitmore, Birgit Whitmore and Andrew Pinkerton as Directors of the Isle of Luing Trading Co. Ltd.



### CENTRE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Trust is delighted to welcome Laura McIntyre as the Centre Development Manager. Laura started in her new role at the beginning of February and was appointed following interviews with six high quality candidates. Previously she was Marketing Manager at Glasgow Merchant City Tourism & Marketing Cooperative and Glasgay! Festival and also served as a volunteer Board Member of Toonspeak Young Persons Theatre. Laura is quickly adjusting to island life and is going through a rapid learning curve on the many aspects of the Centre Development Manager role. Speaking about it, she says ‘the Atlantic Islands Centre appeals to my love of the arts, history, museums and community and has provided a perfect opportunity to relocate out of the city.’ Laura and her partner, Roger (...and their puppy, Oscar) have set up home in Toberonochy.

Laura can be contacted by E-mail at [laura@atlanticislandscentre.com](mailto:laura@atlanticislandscentre.com)

### CATERING STAFF

A much anticipated aspect of the operation of the Atlantic Islands Centre will be the availability of meals and refreshments. As well as providing a welcome facility for both island residents and visitors, the café / restaurant and the well equipped kitchen that serves them will be important in generating revenue to support the running of the Centre. Both paid and volunteer staff will be required to ensure that a high quality service can be delivered and recruitment of a Catering Manager is now underway. (See the advert on island noticeboards or online.) If you are interested in working in the catering side of the Atlantic Islands Centre, either as a volunteer or paid member of staff, please let Laura know.

### COASTAL PROTECTION AT CULLIPOOL

Some years ago, the Community Trust co-ordinated a project to install a rock embankment at Cullipool to protect the village and its beach from erosion and storm damage. While it has generally been effective, this winter’s storms have taken their toll and there are now at least two places where the large stones have either been washed away completely or have been seriously undermined by the effect of the waves. Subsequent storms will only make the situation worse so discussions are taking place with MacLeod Construction to organise remedial work while heavy equipment is currently available on the island. The Trust is also investigating sources of funds to assist in paying for the remedial work.



*One of the areas of damage*

### CULLIPOOL MOORINGS

Marine Scotland and Crown Estates have now approved the Trust’s application to increase the number of moorings at Cullipool. The necessary chains and equipment have been ordered and should arrive on the island very soon allowing the new moorings to be laid before Easter. It is hoped that the availability of safe moorings will encourage visiting yachts to stop-over at Cullipool and that their crews will visit and use the facilities at the Atlantic Islands Centre. The moorings project is being part funded by Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund 2007-2013 Programme.

Want to see a unique aerial tour of the new building?  
– have a look on the Atlantic Islands Centre Facebook page.



For more information contact:  
Andrew Pinkerton  
Project Development Manager  
07899 798556  
[andrew@atlanticislandscentre.com](mailto:andrew@atlanticislandscentre.com)

The Atlantic Islands Centre is funded by

