

Embargoed until 00.01 hours 22 November 2012

## Telling Our Story: Ulva School Community Association celebrates £9,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant

Ulva School Community Association (USCA) is one of the first groups in the UK to receive a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) All Our Stories grant, it was announced today. This exciting project, **Caolas Ulbha**, in Ulva Ferry on the Isle of Mull and led by USCA has been given **£9,000** to collect, document and celebrate the ever changing story of the ordinary people who lived or live in this dispersed community on the North West coast of Mull. The Caolas Ulbha project will involve the whole community, from the children at Ulva School to the older residents of the area.

All Our Stories, a brand new small grant programme, launched earlier this year in support of BBC Two's *The Great British Story* - has been designed as an opportunity for everyone to get involved in their heritage. With HLF funding and support, community groups will carry out activities that help people explore, share and celebrate their local heritage.

The popular series presented by historian Michael Wood and supported by a programme of BBC Learning activities and events got thousands of us asking questions about our history and inspired us to look at our history in a different way through the eyes of ordinary people.

The programme and HLF All Our Stories has proved a real hit and now USCA's is one of hundreds of successful projects around the UK to receive a grant. USCA is a community association which was formed in 2011 to give a voice to the people of the area and one of their objectives is to advance the education of the community about its environment, culture, heritage and/or history.

TV presenter and historian Michael Wood, said: "We British love our history, and no wonder: few nations in the world, if any, have such riches on their doorstep, and so much of it accessible to all of us. It is really tremendous that the people of Ulva Ferry have been inspired to get involved to tell their own story and to dig deeper into their own past. It's brilliant that so many people are being given the chance to get involved through the All Our Stories grants. Having travelled the length and breadth of the British Isles this last year filming *The Great British Story*, I am certain that fascinating and moving stories will be uncovered which will not only bring to life the excitement of local history, but will illuminate and enrich every community's connection with the national narrative."

Commenting on the award, Rebecca Munro (Convenor of USCA) said: "It is so exciting that we have been awarded this grant and we are really looking forward to starting on the Caolas Ulbha project. This is a nationally designated scenic area but the landscape has been moulded by the work of ordinary people over hundreds of years and all of us are excited about being able to record and share the stories of the people who live and have lived here."

Colin McLean, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund Scotland, said: "Clearly the success of All Our Stories has reinforced the fact that we are indeed a nation of story tellers and that we want to explore and dig deeper into our past and discover more about what really matters to us. This is exactly what the grant will do for the Caolas Ulbha project as they embark on a real journey of discovery."

## **ENDS**

*Notes to editors*

### **About Ulva School Community Association (USCA)**

Ulva School Community Association was formed in 2011 to give the people in and around Ulva Primary School a say in the future plans for the area. USCA grew out of the successful fight to save our local primary school from closure. Our aims include: the advancement of community development, including rural regeneration within the community, the provision of affordable housing for the area and to give appropriate support to Ulva School. ([www.uscamull.org.uk](http://www.uscamull.org.uk))

**Caolas Ulbha** (pronounced Coolas Uluva) is Gaelic for 'Sound of Ulva'.

**All Our Stories** is a new, simple, funding programme for 2012 with grants available ranging from £3,000 - £10,000 developed so everyone can get involved in their heritage. From researching local historic landmarks, learning more about customs and traditions to delving into archives and finding out the origins of street and place names All Our Stories will give everyone the chance to explore their heritage and share what they learn with others. This programme is now closed to new applications and decisions were made in October 2012.

### **Heritage Lottery Fund**

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported 33,000 projects, allocating £4.9billion across the UK. Website: [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk).

### **BBC Learning**

BBC Learning plays a central part in meeting the BBC's purpose of promoting education and learning. Utilising the power of the BBC's big brands and key talent, the department puts learning right at the heart of the BBC and provides a variety of resources and learning opportunities for children, teachers, parents and adult learners. Working with partners and in local communities, BBC Learning aims to stimulate and encourage engagement through a variety of campaigns across all BBC genres and platforms.

For further information, images and interviews please contact:

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