

USCA Update

Ulva School Community Association

Autumn/Winter 2012 - Issue: 12

www.uscamull.org.uk

Achleck - Estate Withdraws

It is with great regret that USCA has to report that, despite being informed at the beginning of November that an outline agreement had been reached (see minutes at end of this newsletter) we have now been notified that the "Estate has to withdraw from the proposal ...due to cash flow difficulties...". This means that the huge amount of time and effort invested in the Achleck project has come to nothing so far.

The Estate has offered to discuss the refurbishment of the two existing cottages, which USCA is willing to explore further but this would not provide accommodation of a sufficient size to meet the requirements of the Scottish Government grant and so cannot be a 'replacement' for the plans for Achleck. USCA will need to establish as quickly as we can if the offer of grant monies can be moved to another location within the area.

In view of the above, certain decisions have become much more urgent and so it will be a priority that USCA becomes a legal entity in its own right and also becomes a charity to mitigate the tax implications for any donors of land.

Willow Xmas Crafts Workshop

The Willow Xmas Crafts workshops at Ulva School on 9 Dec were very well attended by both adults and children; even Dads were enthusiastically producing willow stars and wreaths. Alex James brought a huge selection of different willows and ideas of things to make with them, and everyone took home a selection of Christmas decorations.



Charities Fair

USCA took a table at the Charities Fair in Salen on the 3rd of November, showcasing the wide range of crafts and products made by members of our Community. We had a successful day with a pleasing number of sales.

Christmas Craft & Edible Treats Workshop

Sunday 16th December either from 10:30pm - 12:30pm or from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. Why not join Jane & Jeanette for a fun 2 hours of making decorations and delicious goodies for Christmas? All welcome! £5 per person. Tea & Baking. For information and booking call: 01688 500057 or email: janechauvet@btinternet.com

USCA - Caolas Ulbha Project



LOTTERY FUNDED
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A' CHRANNCHUR

We are very pleased to report that USCA has obtained funding under the All Our Stories stream of the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Caolas Ulbha project will receive £9,000 to research, record and celebrate the heritage of the area.

The project will be run in partnership with the school and the aim is to involve the children and as many local people as possible. One of the main aims of the All Our Stories stream is

to provide an **opportunity for everyone** to get involved in their heritage.

The project itself will involve: investigating paper records, recording individuals' own stories, recording family stories and welcoming contributions from people with family links to the area but who no longer live here.

It is a requirement of the funding stream that all the results of the project should be held in a digital archive and be available to as many people as possible. The plan is to have as much of the project results as possible in both Gaelic and English.

As part of the project we will be subscribing to the genealogy website Ancestry.co.uk. This membership will allow access not just to census and church records but also the manifests of emigrant ships. We plan to hold some drop-in sessions when people can come and use this resource to explore their own family stories, wherever they originate from. It is important to stress that whilst USCA has obtained the funding, the Caolas Ulbha project is open to everyone in the area, **whether they are USCA members or not.**

Hallowe'en Party



We would like to thank everyone who braved the storm and came to the **USCA** Hallowe'en party on the 3rd of November. There was a brilliant turnout, with witches, skeletons, fairies, bats, and spidermen coming from far and wide.

The kids enjoyed musical hallowe'en statues, doughnuts-on-string eating, pin the nose on the pumpkin, and build-a-Guy.

There was a fantastic spread of gruesome grub contributed by party goers, and everyone enjoyed the jelly worm juice fountain.

Unfortunately, due to the weather, the bonfire and fireworks had to be rescheduled for the 5th, but we would like to thank Donald Munro for his donation of fireworks for the evening.

USCA Film Nights

USCA are now the proud owners of a Public Video Screening Licence. This enables us to show rented DVDs at the school to a non-paying audience. Film Nights will be advertised on the website and to USCA members on the email list but anyone is welcome to come along to the screenings which will be fortnightly on Saturdays. Refreshments in the form of tea, cake and popcorn will be available. Film suggestions are welcome: just get in touch with Jeanette on film@uscamull.org.uk

Film Nights At Ulva School in December

Saturday 1st December: Brave at 4pm and Crazy, Stupid, Love at 7pm.

Saturday 15th December: The Lorax at 4 pm and Snow White and the Huntsman at 7pm.

Saturday 29th December: Gnomeo and Juliet at 4pm & Ted at 7pm.

No Admission Charge.

Refreshments will be available.

Birdtable Making Workshop

Following the successful Birdbox making workshop this spring, Jan Dunlop returned on Oct 27th to help a group of children and their parents to make birdtables. Here you can see some of the results produced by much noisy and enthusiastic hammering! We hope the birds will appreciate their efforts! Many thanks to Jan for coming along.



Ulva School Community Association Committee

Draft Minutes - 1/11/2012

1. **Apologies:** D. Woodhouse & J. MacColl. **Present:** Rebecca Munro, Don Lambert, Mike Hogan, Stuart McKie, Emma McKie, Lucy Mackenzie, Chris Leitch, Heather Waller, Iain Thomson, Jeanette Cutlack & Jane Chauvet.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Proposed SM & Seconded EM.
3. **Matters Arising** (not covered under individual Headings Below): None
4. **Finance:** The bank position is still healthy. Changing signatories is an urgent matter.
5. **Community issues:** Hallowe'en Party discussed, the successful bid for All Our Stories funding was outlined. Film Club licence is on the way and plan is to have 2 films on the same day.
6. **Housing Issues:** Achleck - An outline agreement has been reached and it is being passed to solicitors shortly. Other possibilities were discussed and the residents' concerns at Acharonich were noted. The committee agreed to obtain a hydrologist's report at all possible sites - the LDOs were obtaining other quotes. Rural Housing Body - following the Special General Meeting it was decided that a sub-committee should implement the decisions - **officers to action.**
7. **Publicity Issues:** Newsletter contributions were requested and printing & timing were discussed. The committee decided that the next newsletter should be produced towards the end of November. **MH** to action. The website business page was discussed and **LM** offered to recruit for the page and **MH** to action.
8. **School Issues:** HW outlined the Gaelic in Schools project which is being piloted in Ulva School and also how it could be run alongside the Caolas Ulbha project, which the school will also be involved in.
9. **Organisation and Workload:** The views expressed at the Special General Meeting were discussed and it was decided a sub-committee should prepare the documentation for becoming a company limited by guarantee and also the charity application - **Officers to action.** Rather than having another Special General Meeting it was decided that the Annual General Meeting should take place in the 3rd week of January and both of these issues would be voted on by the membership.
10. **Any other business:** None.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 6th December 7:30pm at Ulva School.