

Visits Programme

Thursday 6th November

There are full and half-day visits taking place to a wide range of places and projects in and around Oban. From a cooperatively-owned abattoir to an outdoor nursery, an historic castle to the forefront of modern technology there is something for everyone.

Full Day Visits

Isle of Mull

Visiting the stunning Isle of Mull with its iconic seafront in Tobermory and wild coastline. The



©Photo by Dr Sam Jones/Islandscape Photography

inspirational community-led projects to be visited include An Roth Community Enterprise Centre, the cooperatively-owned Mull Abattoir, North West Mull Community Woodlands, Mull & Iona Swimming Pool, Comar Mull Theatre and Tobermory Harbour.

There are two visits to the Isle of Mull these are hosted by Mull and Iona Community Trust which is a dedicated and passionate locally based organisation focussed on improving the quality of life for the residents of Mull and Iona. With a long track record of delivering successful community development projects addressing problems of geographic isolation and economic and social exclusion in remote and rural communities MICT takes pride in working with many external organisations and crucially with their own community.

Both groups will visit An Roth Community Enterprise Centre which is home to the Community Trust and Mull Abattoir which provides a crucial service to the farmers on Mull and also to those in the surrounding areas, with animals coming from Coll, Muck, Morvern and many other mainland farms. The service allows locally produced

food to be eaten locally with the benefits of local food to the wider, local economy being well documented.

The groups will have a short stop at North West Mull Community Woodlands who aim to manage the community land and associated assets for the benefit of the community and the public as an important part of the protection and sustainable development of Scotland's natural environment. These woodlands were purchased in 2006 and initial forest management activities focussed on

developing a 20-year Forest Design Plan, obtaining UKWAS certification and the construction of a 16.5 kilometre haul route. This allows harvested timber to be transported to Fishnish for export to the processing plant at Killmallie. Timber harvesting commenced in March 2012. The Company has planned or developed a range of other activities in and around the community woodlands, including a Forest School, 9 newly created Forest Crofts, a micro hydro scheme, and provision of affordable housing. The Company is committed to improving access and amenity within the woodlands and to conservation and enhancement of biodiversity when replanting takes place.

The groups will also have a chance to see Mull and Iona's swimming pool which cost 1.8 million pounds and has received financial support from the Argyll and Bute council, Argyll and the Islands Enterprise and SportScotland, as well as many contributions from trusts and individuals through fundraising activities and Garmony Hydro Electric Site whose aim is to produce a sustainable form of electricity that can be sold into the national grid. The surpluses will then be made available as grants for good causes within the islands of Mull and Iona.

One group will visit the Comar Mull Theatre which is based at Druimfin, just outside Tobermory and is one of Scotland's leading touring theatre companies. They were established in 2013 and with their new Production Centre at Druimfin they aim to be a leader amongst rural arts organisations, drawing together artists and audiences in meaningful ways that inspire, inform and shape communities, resonating way beyond their island home.

The other group will visit Tobermory Harbour Association which was founded in 1983. They are a community owned company who owns, manages, and maintains on behalf of the community many of the facilities within Tobermory Harbour. They are committed to local Enterprise and the devolution of responsibility back to the Community. The THA has embarked on a long term programme to build, purchase, lease, and acquire by donation assets to provide 'Facilities for All'.

Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre

Lismore is an unspoilt island with a vibrant community of just 180 people. Its landscape with views up Loch Linnhe to Ben Nevis in the north and to the Isle of Mull in the south are spectacular.

The visit includes a tour of the award-winning Gaelic heritage centre and reconstructed croft, a visit to the local primary



school, a tour of the island and a workshop in the Public Hall with other island groups. The focus is on themes of heritage, sustainability, transport and infrastructure – not to mention Gaelic language.

Lismore Historical Society (Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr) was established in 1997 and has been at the present purpose-built centre since 2007. Members record, study and archive the heritage of the Isle of Lismore through an accredited museum, 'cottar's house' and study room. The Centre is a social enterprise, centred on the heritage and language of the Isle of Lismore and provide services for the community including a meeting place, café, craft shop, lending library and public internet access. It also provides a genealogical service, with worldwide usage.

Half-day Visits

Repeated morning & afternoon

Ballet West

Ballet West demonstrates that excellent educational facilities can exist and thrive in rural locations.

Ballet West was established in 1991 and aims to deliver excellent training in dance, in particular classical ballet, in a rural location but to an international standard for all ages and abilities.



They offer a degree course through Northumbria University bringing students from over Scotland, the rest of the UK, Cyprus, Estonia, USA, Canada, Japan, France, Indonesia and Australia. Ballet West also has an extensive outreach programme, teaching dance classes to children and adults in Oban, Fort William, Taynuilt, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The visit will include a tour of the facilities, a dance demonstration and then a presentation on Ballet West regarding their past, present and future.

Stramash Social Enterprise

Stramash was established in September 2009 and have a team of 26. They use the outdoor environment to provide high quality, enjoyable and learning experiences for people of all ages. They deliver a wide range of quality outdoor learning programmes and activities for children, young people and adults.

This includes two Outdoor Nurseries for 3-5 year olds, outdoor learning programmes and residential experiences for schools, an apprenticeship scheme for young people and paddlesport and sailing development programmes.



The visit will include a presentation at the office base highlighting the different areas of their work plus a visit to their Outdoor Nursery in Oban to see outdoor learning in action.

Dunollie Project Ltd

For more than 1000 years Clan Chiefs and Lords of Lorn ruled large areas of Argyll and the Isles from Dunollie. Today Dunollie Castle remains the seat and ancestral home of Clan MacDougall and stands as an iconic monument to the history of the area.

The visit will include a workshop on Social History, looking at how Dunollie has influenced Oban and the surrounding area as it is today, and a tour of the castle.

It has beautiful grounds which include woodland walks and gardens, an enchanting Dunollie Woodland Trail and mysterious hidden willow garden plus homemade refreshments and locally made gifts.

The Dunollie Project Trust are currently working towards restoration of Dunollie Castle, which is scheduled to begin phase two of consolidation work in September 2015 through various castle fundraising opportunities.



Scottish Association of Marine Science

The leading marine science centre in Scotland, SAMS is at the forefront of developing ideas and technology to improve and protect our marine environment. The visit includes their touch-table, an innovative and tested way of enabling a community to collectively envisage and manage their coast and surrounding area, as well as their seaweed farming project which seeks ways of cultivating seaweed for the many uses it has – from food to medicinal. There will be a full tour of the laboratory with a chance to hear about new animal and plant species being investigated for aquaculture and the impacts of the various renewables initiatives on the environment.



The SAMS mission is to deliver world-class marine science that supports society with innovative solutions to developing a sustainable relationship with the marine environment. They deliver this mission through research, education, services to business, learned society activities and public engagement initiatives. It employs 160 staff at its Scottish Marine Institute by Oban, and has two subsidiaries: the European Centre for Marine Biotechnology and SRSL (SAMS Research Services Limited).

Atlantis Leisure Centre

The community-led Atlantis Leisure Centre was established in 1992 and demonstrates a highly successful asset transfer from local authority to community, providing a wide-range of activities, tourist attraction and hub for the community.



It is a multifunction Leisure facility providing sporting and non-sporting activity for the local community and tourists alike. The facility has become the community hub for community activity and meeting place. They work to improve opportunities and facilities for people of all ages to find an activity which motivates them to live a positive and active life. Their facilities include; swimming pools, squash courts, 40 station gym, 5 tennis courts, 5 a side outdoor training facility, Play Park, Sensory garden, grass pitch, Dance Studios, Climbing Cube, Beauty Therapy room, meeting rooms, 6 court sports hall, café and large multi-level soft play facility.

The visit will include a tour of the facilities plus a workshop and question and answer session. Find out how this award winning and innovative social enterprise works – how it delivers its mission and the positive impact it has had on individuals, organisations and the community.

Oban Phoenix Cinema

The award-winning Oban Phoenix Cinema was bought by the community in 2011 and reopened in 2012.

A small group of volunteers got together to bring the venue up to date and it now offers a first-class auditorium with superb sound, lighting and digital projection in 2 and 3D.



Oban Phoenix Cinema is a cinema and events venue open seven days and offers a full programme of films and much more. They play top quality

modern films alongside older classics. In 2013, Oban Phoenix Cinema was awarded the SURF (Scottish Urban Regeneration Foundation) for community-led generation.

END