



## FULL PARTICIPANT INFO

*Fiosrachadh Slàn do Luchd-pàirteachaidh*

### **Community Land Scotland - [www.communitylandscotland.org.uk](http://www.communitylandscotland.org.uk)**

Community Land Scotland is the representative body for Scotland's aspiring and post-purchase community landowners. They promote the sustainable development benefits of community landownership and work with communities to support and encourage community ownership of land and buildings throughout Scotland.

Their VISION is of more communities reaping the benefits of community landownership and promoting a socially just Scotland through community landownership. Together their members are own some 560,000 acres of land, home to some 25,000 people.

*"Raising awareness of the inspiring work of community landowners across Scotland is at the heart of our work. This project is a new way for us to explore and share the stories of two established community land trusts as well as the overall community land movement. It is also a way to highlight the cultural value of community owned land in Scotland."*

- Kristina Nitsolova, Community Land Scotland

## The Stove Network

The Stove is an arts and community organisation based in the centre of Dumfries in South West Scotland. It is a successful social enterprise, and the first artist-led Development Trust in Scotland, providing regular employment for 25 people with a turnover of £500 000+<sup>1</sup>.

Our kitchen-table style of practice and developing work is one based on the values of risk-taking, collaboration, emotional openness, empowerment, positive disruptive change, innovation and inclusion. We are committed to finding locally-led solutions as part of our place and community.

Our practice is one that engages artists and creative people to co-develop work from regular conversational activity into large-scale strategic projects. It is a process-led practice that uses creative activity to facilitate community-led development, projects and decision-making grown from a foundation in community engagement. It is a multi-disciplinary practice working with artists and other creative practitioners, individuals and groups, organisational partners, third sector organisations, local authorities and governing bodies to deliver a program of regular activity alongside large-scale participatory arts projects.

*"The Stove's practice is built on local problem solving through community-led work and activity for our particular place. We are curious and excited about what we can bring and learn from this project, working nationally with these inspiring communities in a way that stays true to our local place-based values to help share some of Scotland's transformational stories of community-led action and ownership."*

- Katharine Wheeler, project lead for The Stove

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<sup>1</sup> <https://thestove.org/key-facts/>

## **PARTNERS**

*Com-pàirtichean*

### **Artists Commissions with Community Landowners**

*Coimiseanan Luchd-ealain le Luchd-seilbh Fearann Coimhearsnachd*

#### **Abriachan Forest Trust - [www.abriachan.org.uk](http://www.abriachan.org.uk)**

Abriachan is a scattered rural community of about 130 people set high above the shores of Loch Ness in the Highlands of Scotland about 10 miles from Inverness. There are still some active crofts but the majority of inhabitants are employed in Inverness and beyond. The local school closed in 1958 so Abriachan's children now attend Dochgarroch Primary, Charleston Academy and Glenurquhart High School.

In 1998 the community purchased 540 hectares of forest and open hill ground from Forest Enterprise. Since then, as a social enterprise, the Abriachan Forest Trust has managed this land to create local employment, improve the environment and encourage its enjoyment by the public through a network of spectacular paths, family suited mountain bike trails, innovative outdoor learning as well as health and well-being opportunities.

They run a series of forest school and outdoor educational and support activities in partnership with local groups and organisation and have worked regularly with different artists (photographers, creative writers, textile artists, felters, spinners, weavers) on a variety of projects.

*"It's been a while since we had a project with an external artist so we are really keen to be inspired and then inspire others with our story."*

- Suzann Barr, Abriachan Forest Trust

#### **Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn - [www.galsontrust.com](http://www.galsontrust.com)**

Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (Galson Estate Trust) is the charity established to manage the community-owned Galson estate; 56,000 acres of coast, crofted agriculture and moorland in the North West of the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. The estate passed into community ownership on 12 January 2007 and comprises 22 villages running from Upper Barvas to Port of Ness with a population of nearly 2,000 people.

Galson estate is one of the largest buyouts in Scotland with the “Urras” working with tenants and local people to manage all estate business and develop a large range of projects on behalf of the community. Current projects range from renewables and energy efficiency projects to tourism and youth projects. From the income generated by their wind turbines development at Ballantrushal they are able to provide funding for the community through a Community Investment Fund.

The Urras strives to involve the whole community in its decision-making process through ongoing consultations and communication. The overarching vision is to build a sustainable future for the communities of the Galson Estate.

*“We are pleased to be involved in this exciting project and to be working with the Stove Network. We look forward to a collaborative project which we hope will support the community to share their story in a unique and interesting way. Community ownership is radical and special, it is plac- based and people focused. We want to share our story for those who need to know more about the journey the community have taken, but also to encourage other communities to consider the opportunities and positive legacy that can arise from ownership.”* - Lisa Maclean, Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn

## **'Stories of Radical Community Landownership'**

*‘Sgeulachdan mu Shealbhadaireachd Radaigeach air Fearann Coimhearsnachd’*

### **Collaborating Community Landowners**

*Luchd-seilbh Fearann Coimhearsnachd a tha an sàs ann an*

## **North Harris Trust - [www.north-harris.org](http://www.north-harris.org)**

North Harris is a spectacular place. A rugged landscape bounded by the sea, it supports a unique natural heritage and rich culture.

Buinidh mi do Cheann a Tuath na Hearadh literally meaning I belong to North Harris shows how the North Harris community has traditionally interpreted their relationship with the land i.e. that the people belong to the land, rather than the land belonging to people.

In that spirit The North Harris Trust manage the northern half of Harris, on behalf of the

community. Their aim is focused on the regeneration and development of the North Harris community through local participation and working with other partners for the benefit of local people, community and the wider public.

North Harris lies 17 miles off the North-Western coast of mainland Scotland.

*"We look forward to elaborating on this story of radical land ownership with our partners."*

- Michael Hunter, NHT

## **Bridgend Farmhouse – [www.bridgendfarmhouse.org.uk](http://www.bridgendfarmhouse.org.uk)**

Setup by a group of local volunteers in 2011, many years of community development and local campaigning led to the successful asset transfer of Bridgend Farmhouse, barns and garden, to the community from City of Edinburgh Council in 2015 for £1. This was one of the first examples of asset transfer in an urban context in Scotland.

Since then the local community has renovated the site into a thriving community hub and social enterprise where everyone can learn, work and grow together to create a flourishing community and place, which is now owned and run by its 404 members co-operatively. Hundreds of volunteers were involved in the design and the practical renovation process itself.

Bridgend Farmhouse has a community café; training kitchen, Wood workshop, Bike Hub and workshop, Arts/Crafts workshop, kitchen garden, events space and stage, mindfulness garden. They address social isolation, strengthen communities, and support local action and growth, through community education, practical skills development, environmental education and many cultural projects.

*"I'm inspired every day by the care, commitment and creativity people bring to the place, and the constant willingness to try new things out. Being community owned has meant we can be quickly responsive to ideas and issues as they arise, and that we have the means to ensure our community can directly influence what happens at the Farmhouse."*

- Will Golding, Bridgend Farm

## **South West Mull and Iona Development – [www.swmid.co.uk](http://www.swmid.co.uk)**

South West Mull and the Isle of Iona are known for their dramatic coastal landscapes, iconic wildlife, and rich heritage of Gaelic language and Celtic art. Hundreds of thousands of visitors flock to this part of the world every summer, but there is a small, close knit community of about 675 people that lives here all year round.

Their area is one of the most deprived in Scotland in terms of geographic access to health services and other amenities, and there is not enough affordable housing or year round employment. South West Mull and Iona Development (SWMID) is a community-led organisation that was set up to tackle local issues and help make their community a more resilient and sustainable place to live for local people.

Their projects range from small scale activities, providing space for a community gym to much larger, owning and managing a 789-hectare commercial forest to generate local income.

## **Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust – [www.isleofeigg.org](http://www.isleofeigg.org)**

The Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust is the community organisation which owns the Isle of Eigg. The Trust manages and stewards the island's development for current and future residents. After years of instability, neglect and lack of secure tenure, the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust was able to purchase the island on 12th June 1997, largely due to the generosity of around ten thousand members of the general public.

The Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust was established to provide and create opportunity for economic development, housing and infrastructure, whilst conserving our natural and cultural heritage to ensure that development takes place in a sustainable way. The Trust has been successful in these aims, with Eigg now a vibrant and attractive place to live and work, having a growing and forward-thinking population, always with an eye on the past and one to the future, recognising the importance of Eigg's unique identity to its continuing growth and success.

The Isle of Eigg Hertiage Trust are advocates for local decision-making with local people. Eigg is well known for its creative and cultural activity.