



Joint press release

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23 Sept 2021

A New Partnership for Canna

A new Partnership for Canna was launched today. The Canna Partnership, which brings together the island owners the National Trust for Scotland and the island community, aims to use the skills and experience of both to develop a positive future for Canna. A formal agreement between the two will see islanders become more deeply involved in the formal operational and strategic management of the island. They will work with the Trust to employ staff, develop island properties, deliver better services for visitors and look after Canna's unique cultural and natural heritage.

Geraldine MacKinnon, Chair of the Isle of Canna Community Development Trust said: "This is a real step forward for Canna. The National Trust for Scotland have owned Canna since 1981 and, as a community, we have benefited from their ownership. However, the time has come to work even more closely together to build a thriving and sustainable community here. We all work and have very busy lives, but have found time to come together as a community to open and run a community shop, develop our own award-winning renewable energy system for the island and instal and manage community moorings. We are currently raising money to build three new houses on the island to help grow our population and looking at plans for new tourism accommodation and community and visitor facilities. We may be small in number, but we are very resourceful and resilient and we will be bringing that, together with our passion for this beautiful place, to the Partnership."

Phil Long, Chief Executive of the National Trust for Scotland commented: "The National Trust for Scotland have been the proud custodians of Canna since it was gifted to them by the renowned Gaelic scholar John Lorne Campbell and his wife, Margaret Fay Shaw in 1981. As well as the island, they also gifted to the Trust an exceptionally important archive of Gaelic song, stories and poetry, a vital part of Scotland's heritage. Campbell's legacy was clear in that the island was gifted to the Trust to ensure the preservation of the unique Hebridean way of life and culture of Canna. In our forty years of ownership, we have invested significantly to protect this legacy and ensure the special natural and cultural heritage of Canna is preserved for future generations. The people who live on Canna are central to that legacy and we could not fulfil our obligations to John Lorne Campbell without them. The Partnership will ensure we can harness the Trust's long experience of caring for such special places to the community's drive and passion to build a successful future for the island. Our joint work on housing development and improving the visitor experience are examples of where

we can work better together. Like the community, we are ambitious for Canna and excited to see how the Partnership can develop.”

Ends

For more information contact: theisleofcanna@gmail.com

Editors' notes:

The Isle of Canna Community Development Trust was set up to stimulate sustainable demographic growth supported by good employment opportunities, good services, facilities and affordable housing. It provides a focus for the administration of community projects and a vehicle to manage assets on behalf of the community. All Canna residents are encouraged to get involved and to share in the work of being a director.

Click here to view our latest projects and director's minutes -

<https://www.theisleofcanna.com/ioccdt>

The Isle of Canna is the westernmost of the Small Isles archipelago, in the Scottish Inner Hebrides. It is owned by the National Trust for Scotland and is a two hour ferry journey from Mallaig.

The current number of permanent residents on Canna is 15. This housing project is a major step toward our eventual aim of having 30 people on Canna.

Canna is home to the award winning Cafe Canna, is renowned for its safe harbour, a wealth of wildlife and a vibrant community. The Isle of Canna Community Development Trust (IoCCDT) was set up in 2013 to enable sustainable development and manage community assets. Since 2013, IoCCDT has successfully set up a community shop, community moorings, an all tides road to enable Sanday residents vehicular access at all times and an integrated renewable energy project.

the IoCCDT has worked with the Community Housing Trust to develop the current housing project and funding is available from the Scottish Government's Rural Housing Fund and a range of trusts and foundations. Building on islands increases costs by an estimated 30-40% and the tiny population of Canna needs to raise enough money to fill the funding gap for houses that are essential to its sustainable future.

The IoCCDT's development plan for the island's future include the renovation and development of Coroghon Barn and the creation of a Visitor Hub to provide for the over 10 – 15,000 visitors every year. With these ambitious plans there is a need for more people on Canna to help make this future a reality.

There are several other employment and self-employment opportunities on the island including staff for existing businesses and new business start-ups.

The National Trust for Scotland is the conservation charity that over 90 years has saved, maintained and shared many of the country's most loved places, rich with history, heritage, nature and culture. The charity celebrates Scotland's heritage and with almost 100 places in its care, there's a place for everyone to love.

The National Trust for Scotland relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage that people from Scotland and across the world all love, ensuring its future for everyone to enjoy.

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