

Press Release 22.08.22

Immediate Release

The official opening of phase 1 of Cnoc Soilleir will take place on 1 September, attended by Deputy First Minister, John Swinney.

Cnoc Soilleir is a focal building which launches a new chapter in the Gàidhlig heartland of South Uist. Its facilities are designed to provide a home for the joint venture partners, UHI Outer Hebrides and Ceòlas Uibhist Ltd.

Cnoc Soilleir is a bespoke setting for Gàidhlig language learning, heritage, culture, music and dance, and archaeology. The building sprang to life in July with the vibrant Ceòlas summer school where a hundred participants delighted in rich cultural experiences. Enrolment for UHI Outer Hebrides classes will commence over the next few weeks and students will be warmly welcomed.

Visitors from near and far dropping in have commented on the high quality finish and the stunning beauty of the location. A donated piano has already been put to good use by young musicians keen to practice during the holidays. A range of children's cultural activities have also been popular over the summer and there is clearly an appetite in the community for cultural activities for all ages.

Seonaidh MacDonald, the latest and independent Director of Cnoc Soilleir said that “The key focus of Cnoc Soilleir will be to enable the growth of Ceolas and UHI Outer Hebrides and how jointly the organisations will make Uist a desirable place to live within a strong economy.”

Cnoc Soilleir Phase 1 has been funded by Scottish Government, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and donations from individuals. The design team, implementation team and contractors worked tirelessly during lockdown to ensure the progress and successful completion of this state of the art energy efficient building that stands as a bright beacon.

The Cnoc Soilleir project would not be at this stage without the significant voluntary input and support from members of the community of Uist and everyone is welcome to the official opening event. If you wish to attend, please be on site by 10am.

End.

For further information contact [catherine@cnocsoilleir.org](mailto:catherine@cnocsoilleir.org)