

Internal Modification Works Completed at Comunn Eachdraidh Nis

Comunn Eachdraidh Nis is delighted to announce the completion of internal modification works to the heritage centre in North Dell, Ness. The modifications have improved accessibility throughout the building, steps at the café entrance have been removed and replaced with a solid ramp entrance. The gift shop has relocated, increasing the sales area and a storage facility has been provided for shop stock.



A new welcome desk has been installed, where volunteers and staff can greet visitors, and a section of the café has been re-designed to allow more flexibility with bookings. The project was funded by The Scottish Government Islands Programme awarded by the Scottish Government Islands Team, the Scottish Government Gaelic and Scots Division, the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. BARD Ailteir Ltd were architects and lead consultants on the £337,763 project carried out by main contractors O'Mac Construction Ltd.



Ruairidh Moir of BARD:

"It is a pleasure to have returned to Comunn Eachdraidh Nis and successfully complete this latest transformational project. Now the anticipated positive effects can be felt by the community, and visitors alike, serving as a stepping stone for an organisation that does so much good for so many. We would like to thank our clients for their trust and positive collaboration throughout, the design team, O'Mac Construction, the project funders and the community at large.

Architecturally, the project marks an ambitious evolution, creating a renewed identity for the former Sgoil Chrois building. We are immensely proud of what has been achieved.”

Cllr. Donald Crichton Chair of the Comhairle’s Sustainable Development Committee:

“Comunn Eachdraidh Nis is at the heart of the local community and has a long track record of celebrating and promoting the rich heritage of Ness. The improvements will enhance the visitor experience, create new opportunities for community engagement and ensure the organisation can continue to thrive for years to come. The Comhairle have been pleased to support them through the redevelopment phase, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact the project will bring”

Kathleen Stewart, Area Team Leader – HIE Innse Gall:

“We’re really pleased to support Comunn Eachdraidh Nis as they make changes to the internal layout to meet high demand from both visitors and local people. CEN plays a vital role in the cultural and social life of north Lewis, providing important services that support Gaelic, celebrate local heritage, and help sustain population and jobs in the community. The project will increase capacity, improve accessibility, and strengthen CEN’s role as a community hub for people of all ages. These improvements will help reduce social isolation, increase income opportunities, and ensure facilities meet the needs of the community long into the future.”

Running in tandem with the modification works was another £126,908 project funded by Museums Galleries Scotland’s Innovation Fund. The fund supports museums to develop, trial, and implement activities that directly improve the museum’s financial position. This funding enabled Comunn Eachdraidh Nis to focus on its retail offering and secure a Retail Manager post. Digital marketing training was provided for all CEN staff by Orbit Agency and Stephen Spencer & Associates Retail Consultancy were appointed to guide us through the move to a bigger shop, advise us on a new range of products, the shop layout, and source a new EPOS system with capability for detailed reporting.

Local Graphic Designer, Karen Mackay, worked closely with the CEN team, on a package of heritage focussed designs for a new range of bespoke products, promoting the Gaelic language and heritage of north Lewis.

Gillian Simison, Head of Museum Development at Museums Galleries Scotland:

“We have been delighted to support Comunn Eachdraidh Nis through the Innovation Fund to grow and expand its retail offering. The shop plays an important role in welcoming both visitors to Ness and serving the local community, while also providing a vital source of income for CEN. This income will help support the valuable work that they do in the community and its ongoing efforts to preserve the unique heritage of Ness.”

Roddy John Campbell, Chairperson of Comunn Eachdraidh Nis:

“On behalf of everyone at Comunn Eachdraidh Nis, I would like to thank our funders, design team and contractors for supporting and delivering this project. Thanks also to our loyal customers for their patience over the past few months and their continued support. Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of Comunn Eachdraidh Nis. Many people have contributed to the success of the organisation over the years, and each one should be very proud to have been part of the journey that led to this first-class community and visitor facility.”

For more info contact Anne Macleod, Operations Manager, Comunn Eachdraidh Nis office@cenonline



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