

Press Release
Monday 21 May 2007

Mull's eagle hide flying high

The world famous eagle hide at Loch Frisa on the Isle of Mull is proving to be as popular as ever, despite the set-back of the loss of the two sea eagle chicks last month. Both adult sea eagles (15 year old female Frisa and 13 year old male Skye) are still spending a lot of time in the area and continue to thrill visitors who book onto the twice daily trips to the hide.

There were fears that the loss of the chicks would cause people not to visit this ground-breaking project which channels all the revenue raised back into improving the facilities on site and to the Mull & Iona Community Trust which last year distributed £6000 to local good causes.

Although the sea eagle nesting attempt failed after the nest slipped and the chicks fell out, the adults continue to hunt and roost in the area. In addition, visitors are getting regular views of golden eagle, osprey, hen harrier, red throated diver and a pair of buzzards which are now feeding chicks at a nearby nest. A CCTV camera is also beaming back live pictures to the hide from a busy great-spotted woodpecker nest.

Mull & Iona Community Trust ranger Julie Paton said: "We are very pleased that people are still coming to the hide and that local accommodation providers are still recommending it to their guests as it is a fantastic experience. Where else do you get the chance to see both species of eagle, all the amazing supporting cast of birds and 2-3 hours of our local knowledge, guidance and company – and all for just £4! We look forward to welcoming many more people to the hide in the months ahead".

The Mull Eagle Watch project is a partnership between the Mull & Iona Community Trust, Forestry Commission Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and Strathclyde police with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Nadair Trust. Local volunteers, farmers and much of the rest of the community help protect the island's sea eagles and golden eagles from egg theft and disturbance. In 2000 the partnership opened the hide to the public for the first time. Last year 5500 visitors came to the hide to witness the unique experience of sea eagles at their nest. This year there are two trips a day at 1000 and 1300; it costs £4.00 for adults and £2.00 for children. To book onto a trip, telephone 01688 302 038.

Ends

For more information and photographs please contact:

David Sexton 07818 803 382, Julie Paton 07901 798 610