

Let's connect!

This **vision document** provides you with information about the Iona Summer School 2017 in the great outdoors of Scotland exploring the history and vision of the Iona Impulse and the development of a natural science of love.

A group of people in outdoor gear are hiking on a rocky, grassy hillside. The terrain is rugged with large grey rocks and patches of green grass. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. In the background, a body of water and distant hills are visible. The people are dressed in various outdoor clothing, including jackets, hats, and boots, suggesting a cool or windy environment.

Summer School Iona
and Isle of Mull 2017



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We often forget that
WE ARE NATURE.

Nature is not something separate from us. So when we say that we have lost our connection to nature, we've lost our connection to ourselves.

Andy Goldsworthy

(Picture above by J. Sloendregt showing results of his Land Art workshop at the Summer School Iona and Isle of Mull 2016)

Executive Summary (English)

The elements on the Isle of Mull and Iona are impressive. Wind, light, water, colourful pebbles, air, moving cloud formations, green hills – together they build up an inspiring background for close up nature experiences.

In summer 2017 we want explore ourselves as part of this world in connection with the Iona-Impulse of a Christian science. Iona is the birthplace of Celtic Christianity, an ancient Christianity, originating in the Celtic Mysteries, that had a loving and healing approach towards nature and the living world. We want to bring that to our minds and discover how this can still be sensed in the elements of those special places today.

For the first time we successfully celebrated such an event in summer 2016 with 50 exited people from all over the world in mutual initiatory intimacy - taking up the thread of the “Summer Schools”, organized by N.D. Dunlop in 1923 and 1924. Steiner spoke about this new way of dealing with anthroposophy in special powerful places, „a new stream within anthroposophy“. A stream that takes up the task of our time, to reintegrate the Western Mystery stream, a deep, loving connection to the living as a new science.

The “Iona Summer School 2017” is meant to be an experience based nature encounter embracing arts and the social as well. We are looking for financial support to make this event happening. Thank you!

Executive Summary (Deutsch)

Iona ist ein Naturwunder. Wind, Wasser, Licht, Wolkenformationen, grüne Hügel und bunte Kiesel an den Stränden bilden zusammen einen kraftvollen Hintergrund für inspirierende Naturbegegnungen.

Wir wollen im Sommer 2017 dort Menschen zusammenbringen, um mit ihnen eine liebevolle und heilsame Beziehung zur Natur, unserer Erde und zu uns selbst zu entdecken, ja, zu erforschen, denn die Elemente auf Iona erzählen immer noch von der Geschichte, wo keltische Weisheit und Naturliebe sich mit dem Christentum verband. An diese Ursprünge wollen wir anknüpfen.

Im vergangen Sommer 2016 fand eine erste Iona Summer School mit 50 begeisterten Teilnehmenden aus der ganzen Welt statt. In gegenseitiger, initiatorischer Intimität war es ein großer Erfolg, der an die von D.N. Dunlop organisierten Summer School von 1923 und 1924 anknüpfte. Das waren Tagungen über die Steiner hochofrenut als von einer „Neue Bewegung innhelb der Anthroposophischen“ sprach. Die Natur-Örtlichkeiten werden als Krafftaktor um sich mit Anthroposophie zu beschäftige ernst genommen und damit wird an die Westliche Mysterienströmung, sie integrierend und neu belebend, angeschlossen.

Die “Iona Summer School 2017” soll ein Fest werden- Kunst und das Soziale einbeziehend. Wir sind auf finanzielle Unterstützung angewiesen und danken für Ihren etwaigen Beitrag.

Essential information on one page

Our three main aims are:

1. Building a sensitive connection to nature. The relationship between the individual and the surrounding nature is the foundation of a responsible handling with our planet.
2. International meeting. Global thinking is only possible if we personally know and learn to understand the other. Building new networks, sharing and talking about visions, plans, experiences support individual growth.
3. Social skills and artistic work meet an intensified, contemplative approach of research. In this case the Celtic-Christian background of Iona, the origin of a loving and caring handling with nature and people.

When: In mid-July for 1 week (7 days in total): Saturday 8th to Saturday 15th July 2017.

Who: around 50 people of any age.

Where: Base camp (camping with own tents or in holiday cottages) at Leob Croft meadows at Jonathan Knight's place. 8 miles from Iona, near a bus stop and next to the seashore. (see: <http://www.leobcroft.co.uk/>)

How: During the day we will divide into different courses and study groups. Groups will go to Iona and other near-by places and stay there during the day.

It will be very outdoor-based. Few lectures, the prime focus on studying, experiencing, observing, meditating, shared activities, social skills.

Das Wichtigste auf einen Blick

Unsere drei Hauptziele sind:

1. Erleben des Zusammenhanges mit der Natur. Die Natur-Beziehung ist Grundlage für einen verantwortungsvollen Umgang mit der Erde und steht thematisch im Vordergrund
2. Internationales Treffen. Globales Bewusstsein und Sozialkompetenz ist nur möglich wenn man sich selber, die Anderen und die Welt aus eigener Erfahrung kennt – in der realen, nicht der virtuellen Welt.
3. Sozialengagement und Kunst. Künstlerische Methodik der Natur- und Selbstwahrnehmung, Tanz, Musik und Theater werden die Arbeit in der Natur begleiten und ergänzen.

Wann: Eine Woche: Samstag 8. bis Samstag 15. Juli 2017.

Wer: Ca. 50 Menschen jeden Alters.

Wo: Auf dem Gelände der „Leob Croft“ von Jonathan Knight auf der Isle of Mull mit Zeltplatz, und angemieteten Holiday Cottages, Gruppenaktivitäten usw. Bis Iona sind es 8 Meilen (siehe: <http://www.leobcroft.co.uk/>)

Wie: Tagsüber geht es in kleinen Arbeits- und Kurs-Gruppen in die Natur. Abends trifft man sich zum Austausch (World-Café-Runden) und für Gemeinschaftsaktivitäten. Schwerpunkt ist „Draußen-Sein“ mit nur wenigen Vorträgen. Stattdessen: Eigene Erfahrungen und deren Vertiefung, Soziales und Kunst.

Our Vision

We want to foster a way of looking at the world that connects with both the past and future, including the very present and powerful elements around us in places – the Isle of Mull and Iona – where one can still sense and discover certain spiritual origins of mankind through active and practical study of nature, accompanied by observation, meditation and life-filled thinking.

In a ‚karma lecture‘ in London (27. 08. 1924), Rudolf Steiner describes the experiences he had in the summer of 1924, when gazing into the light at Tintagel, along with his reflections beside the ocean. He called this vision of esoteric Christianity the “advanced science”. We wish to become those new scientists of love.

Every phenomenon has its spiritual aspect leading us towards what it seeks to tell us – its sensory-supernatural state of being. We would like to learn to listen and to perceive nature’s whisperings by being present and by developing sensible organs of perception and social skills. We see this as a necessary ability, essential for the future, for creating a non-invasive, harmonious approach to the living worlds of mind and spirit, in nature, and in social interaction.



Quotes from participants of the Summer School Iona 2016

„I had a life changing understanding on the Iona trip“.

„I still feel blessed to have been on that journey with you“.

„I am still wondering about the real meaning of what took place - I think it was full of meaning“.

„Meeting Iona was one of the most powerful experiences of my life so far. Both awakening and full of love“.

„Iona is the island of peace. Full of mildness. Iona is gently carrying our future towards us“.

„Its like I know a deep secret now“.

„Peop successfully le and landscapes, stones and deep blue water, smiles and hugs, songs and wold cafe... are all in my heart!“

You leave your imprints in me
Because I choose them to belong
They do not leave me hollow
Or fill me to the brim.

My steps now bare your presence
Wherever I go,
You are from now on
You dance within the silence
Your breath's within the light
You are. I am. And we become again.

Who we are

The organising group consists of a Dornach team: Elizabeth (Scottish), Luna (German, now United States) Ioana and Alexandru (Romanian) Johannes (Swiss) and Renatus (German). The Scotland team members are Katherine, Roland and Jonathan.

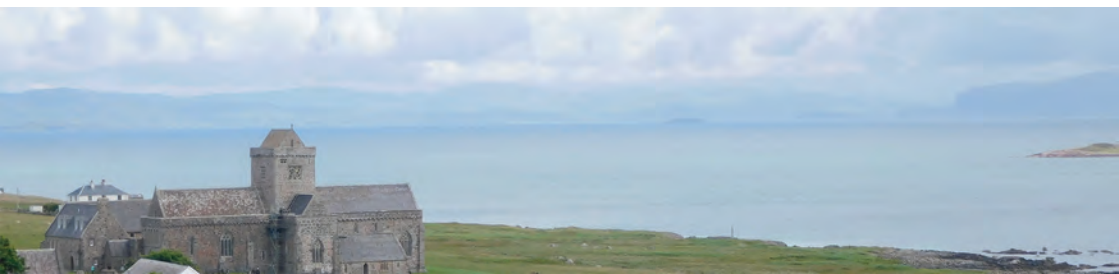


Top: Jonathan at the Leob Croft near the beach and below: Elizabeth, Ioana, Renatus, Alexandru at „Fesli“ in Dornach.

The story of Iona

Besides the natural beauty of Mull and Iona there are good reasons to turn our attention to this place on earth, especially for the younger generation.

Rudolf Steiner talks of two different “streams” of science. One came about with the modern age and Cartesian thinking, which led to empiricism and materialism, the life-denying science we have today. The other stream, says Steiner, is mainly hidden today. Its origin can be found in the Hibernian Mysteries, and its traces can still be felt on Iona. These mysteries were open for the Christ-Impulse, and embraced Christianity. A loving way of looking at nature has its origins in the far West of Europe. Caring about the earth and healing what we see and touch was integrated with an ancient spirituality, giving rise to what we can now call: “seeing and sensing the spiritual in nature through nature observation” (Rudolf Steiner on the 6th of December 1919, in: GA 194). A path to higher knowledge lies before us in which the spiritual beings of nature become accessible to us not in anonymous transcendence, but in very present, tangible ways: a monism of spirit and nature before our eyes. This is a distinctive path, very close to the Goethean approach and Steiner’s anthroposophy, where the latter is understood as a modern renewal of the “hidden stream”.



Course leaders and workshops:

Katherine Buchanan (Goethean Scientist, Edinburgh)

Healing plants and healing sites

Renatus Derbidge (Goethean Scientist, Dornach)

Nature observation with artistic and meditational aspects to experience the “genius loci”.

Luna Erdmann (Eurythmist, USA)

Movement discovery through body, soul and mind

Dirk Kruse (Clairvoyant Scientist, Bochum)

Nature spirits and experiencing the past of places in imagination, inspiration and intuition.

Roland Playle (Goethean Social Entrepreneur, Glasgow)

Coming-into-being

Johannes Sloendregt (Artist, Sculptor, Dornach)

Land Art

Elizabeth Davison, Luna Erdmann, Ioana Farcasanu, Alexandru Ceplinscii, Renatus Derbidge (Eurythmists and Spreachformation Artists, Aesch and Dornach)

Artistic work on „The Druid of Iona“ - a initiation story by Walter Weber

Budget

Position:	Amount (€):
Food and Material	5 000
Festival Site	1 000
Toilets	250
Showers	250
Marquees	800
Cook	1 000
Buying tableware	2 000
Travel Boat (Staffa)	2 000
Rent apartments	2 000
Travel expenses course leaders	3 100
Honourees	1 500
Organisation meetings	100
Organisation expenses	1 000
Expenses:	20 000
Travel subsidies participants	8 000
Expenses total:	28 000
Income:	
Conference fees	22 000
Funding:	
Anthropos. Society DE	1 000
Anthropos. Society UK	1 000
Foundations	4 000
Income:	28 000

Explanation about the budget

Our main focus is an outdoors festival in the summer for people who want to connect with the Iona Impulse. There are no hierarchies: everyone is a contributor. We will build a learning and living campus, a community for a week.

This means that costs should be low, so people can come. They will still have travel and accommodation expenses.

All course leaders, organizers, helpers, will not be paid. Simply parts of their travel costs will be covered.

We offer a reduced fee of €350 (unconditionally). There is great interest from youths from Eastern Europe, Asia and other financially not so strong countries or for instance from Eurhythmy students in Switzerland and Germany also with little income. This results in a financial deficit we would like to cover with donations from foundations.

Scotland is a comparatively expensive country, and being on an island can make things more so.

Even though Jonathan is offering the land rent free, there will be major costs involved in renting marquee (protection from rain, for gatherings and meals). Ecofriendly compost toilets and showers have been built for the 2016 conference but need to be maintained and improved. Compared to other one week intensive adventure-conferences this fee of € 550 (plus accommodation) is only possible because all the involved people are doing this out of love for the subject and without asking for a compensation or honouree.

All granted money will flow into subsidies of the reduced fee.



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