

Mactaggart Leisure Centre



Newsletter
Spring 2026

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2026

We are delighted to re-launch our Newsletter which also attempts to track the history of the Mactaggart Leisure Centre.

The Mactaggart Leisure Centre on Islay was born from a dedicated local campaign on Islay & Jura which successfully raised the £1 million needed for its construction. The Mactaggart Leisure Centre officially opened its doors to the public on June 29, 1991. The centre was named after its major benefactor, Sir John Mactaggart.

MLC offers services & facilities to approximately 3638 People living on the islands of Islay & Jura.

Island communities lack the range & choice of facilities which are easily accessed by residents living on the mainland. It is therefore particularly Important to offer as many health & leisure amenities as we can on the islands.

We currently deliver services & facilities which have a positive impact on both islanders & visitors to our beautiful islands.

Our 25m x 8.5m, 4 lane swimming pool

Our 5-seater eco sauna

Our gym with stunning views over Lochindaal

Our affordable laundry facilities

Rooms to rent to local business & for functions

This all contributes to:

- Improving physical health & well-being
- Reducing health inequality
- Reducing social isolation & loneliness
- Supporting business start-ups
- Creating jobs & training opportunities
- Supporting community cohesion & engagement
- Reducing child & adult obesity
- Proactively reducing environmental impact by using waste heat water from Bowmore Distillery & our plans to install solar panels fitted to the roof of the leisure centre

Meet some of our dedicated staff...



Kaylynne Logan

Supervisor/Lifeguard/Swimming Teacher



Millie Holyoake

Lifeguard



Kaylagh Keogh

Lifeguard



Sam Woodrow

Supervisor/Lifeguard



Greig Barker

Lifeguard

Our Facilities & Services

SWIMMING POOL

Our 25m x 8.5m four lane pool has a tiled step entry to the shallow end. The water temperature of the pool ranges from 29.5°C for general swimming, 30.5°C for parent & toddler sessions and 31.5°C for Aquacare therapy sessions. We also have a waste heat recovery system which provides energy from neighbouring Bowmore Distillery to help heat the water.

SAUNA

We have a 5-seater eco sauna which boasts colour changing LED background lighting to provide you with the perfect relaxing environment. This sauna is a great way to relieve the stress of the week or simply wind down at the end of the day. Your swimming session is included in the price of admission.

GYM

Probably the best view from any gym in Europe! Our gym overlooks breathtaking Loch Indaal with magnificent views across the island. The gym is fully equipped with a range of both cardio vascular & fixed resistance machines. These include a treadmill, X trainer, Concept 2 rowing machine, recumbent cycle and two spin bikes.

HOWAT ACTIVITY ROOM

This large activity room is available to hire for meetings or functions with seating space for up to 35 people. Full audio and visual facilities are provided, including a wall mounted 50" TV with a high-quality surround sound system. Kitchen and toilet facilities available. This wonderful facility can be accessed via stairs or our new platform lift which provides very convenient disabled access.

NAIL TECHNICIAN

Amy Carmichael Beauty Salon can be found on the first floor. Contact Amy at:
amycarmichaelislay@gmail.com

LAUNDRY FACILITIES

Incorporates a front-loading industrial washing machine which can take all of your washing up to the size of a single size duvet. Also, a front-loading industrial tumble dryer which can take up to two standard sized washing loads. Both machines are token operated and bookable through our main reception.

Our Facilities & Services

(cont'd)



"I enjoy the company & the friendly atmosphere. It keeps you motivated & is a great start to the day!"

Jackie McNeil, pool & gym user

Our communities & visitors lead richer & more active lives

Customer Feedback

“Coming to the pool is the only time I get out & about. It’s so lovely to get into the water & stretch my body. I live on my own & come to the pool to socialise. It is good for my mental & physical health. The soup & sandwiches upstairs are delicious! I look forward to it every week.”

Nancy McTgggart

Customer Feedback

“I used the gym when I lived at home & use it regularly when I visit. It has everything I need to keep up my fitness & it’s always good to bump into old friends too.”

Andrew MacArthur

Customer Feedback

“I go swimming twice a week & it does me the world of good. I suffer from fibromyalgia, swimming takes the pain away. It is so relaxing. Afterwards, we go upstairs for soup & sandwiches which are just delicious! The staff are so kind & helpful.”

Netta MacDougall

We're planning on making big improvements at the Centre this year.

Did you know we're currently trialling later evening swimming on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays? The gym & sauna will also be open. Contact: 01496 810767 for more information.

Don't forget to check for regular updates on our website, our Facebook page, the Islay Notice Board & Community Page & look out for the occasional Heach article.

Thank you to all our funders



Including: Truemark Trust, Leach Family Trust, WG Forsyth Trust, Hugh Stenhouse Foundation & Sylvia Aitken Foundation