Island Pier To Bring Good Business to Struay

There was great excitement last Wednesday on the Isle of Struay as the Islanders celebrated the long-awaited opening of the new pier amidst rumor that it may not have been ready in time due to the effects of the great storm back in February. The Island of Struay is situated just off the west coast of Scotland, in the North Atlantic ocean and is an hour’s ferry ride from the mainland city of Oban.

Building of the pier began last summer and has continued throughout the Struay winter against all odds. The pier foreman told us ‘ We have been very fortunate to have had the support of the islanders during the winter.’ The pier has taken 6 months to construct and the Island has suffered some of the worst storms seen for the last 50 years. At one point, the workmen’s huts were swept out to see and were heroically rescued by Islanders - The Ferryman, Grannie Island and 10 year old Katie Morag! Many of the islanders opened up their homes to the homeless workmen so that the pier could be completed.

There have been mixed feelings amongst the Islanders of Struay over the building of a new pier. Workmen have spent the last six months away from their families on the mainland to ensure that this new feature of the Island is completed on time.

Our reporter, Frank McAdams asked some of the locals how they felt about the building of such a grand pier on the island. Many were available for comment. Some of the older members of the community were concerned that the traditions of the Island would be lost. The Ferryman told us ‘I am concerned that I will be out of a job. I have driven the ferry to the mainland weekly for the last 40 years. Now, they have a new boat coming out here 3 times a week. Where does that leave me?’ Grannie Island was in agreement but was not available to comment.

Mr and Mrs McColl who run the local post office and shop on Struay were excited about the new pier and the opportunities that it will offer their business. Mr McColl told us ‘I will be able to stock a wider variety of items in the shop now that the boat will be visiting Stray three times a week’. Mr McMaster the local farmer agreed and explained that his business will thrive with the exporting of milk, eggs and cheese to the mainland.

The grand opening of the new cafe rounded off the event nicely and the Islanders were able to welcome visitors from the mainland. Ferry Boats run Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from the marina at Oban. For more details contact the Oban Tourist information board on struayferrycrossing@obantouristboard.co.uk .