

# eilean eisdale

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## Newsletter No. 43 November 2009 To all islanders, members and friends

The year has passed at an alarming rate here on Easdale and it's certainly been a very busy time for all of us. Drawing breath before the mayhem that is the festive period approaches we reflect on another successful season and keep you up to speed with all the goings on. There are a few new faces that have joined us on the island this year and we would like to offer a warm welcome to you all.

### Atlantic Adventure Day

A decision was taken this year to rename the regatta and fun day with a title that would capture the spirit of the event. Atlantic Adventure Day was born! The sponsored swim enticed 14 very brave souls to undertake some very challenging conditions all for a cup of soup, photo opportunity and a slate medal!! However their madness and efforts also raised a terrific sum of money! The raft race was hilarious with several ingenious rafts!!! There was also a wheel barrow race, May's duck race, BBQ and a variety of stalls. "The Occasionalists" entertained us in the hall at the evening dance. Another fantastic community event raising just over £1400!!

### Museum

The season came to a close on Saturday 31st Oct and the performance over the period was the best we have had in many a long day. Attendances up, revenue up, sales up and donations up, couldn't wish for more. We have installed a telephone, broadband, all in one printer/scanner/copier with an automatic document feeder and are in a position to offer a copier service to all islanders. The charges will be 5p per black and white copy and 10p per coloured copy. A photographic copy service will be implemented in the New Year. We are currently in the process of securing the services of a student to assist us with setting up an acquisition documentation system that will meet the current accreditation standards. The directors would like to thank Lynn and Annabel for their contributions this year and also to the many volunteers. Your dedication to ensuring the museums continued success is very much appreciated by us all.

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## **Harbour**

The new mooring system in the harbour appeared to work well this summer and allowed us to accommodate a larger number of boats comfortably. Many thanks to Tony and the Sea.fari crew who spent a lot of time and effort laying chain for additional mooring and winter berths at the top of the harbour and also to Mike and Iain for providing the plant needed to dig in the chains. We had a rather hurried changeover from summer to winter berths due to a very poor forecast which fortunately did not live up to expectations. All of the fore-and-aft moorings have now been dropped and swinging moorings installed for boat owners who want to stay in the water all winter. Apologies for any confusion over the mooring application forms which now run from April/October and November/March. Most people have now paid their mooring fees but can we remind you if this has slipped your mind.

## **Hall Events and Arts Programme**

The arts program continued into late summer and autumn with more great events in the hall. Throughout July we were lucky to have an exhibition of photographs by Marc Marnie featuring jazz musicians. An interesting talk and slideshow called “This is who we are-The Scots in Canada” made a last minute appearance in late July and then we flew into August. Karine Polwart performed a fantastic gig and we were all delighted to welcome back, former islander, the young Caitlin McNeill as she opened for Karine. Friend and neighbour Ghalia opened her exhibition “Transformation” to much acclaim. Working with plastics Ghalia really showed us how to recycle in the most amazing fashion! A double bill of “Lyon and Campbell” and “Wingin it” really got those toes tapping! Another big name made a welcome return to Easdale in the form of Dick Gaughan. This was one of Adrian’s sponsored gigs and it brought many people over from the mainland for another busy evening. The pre-skim dance saw another welcome return to Easdale for William Douglas who entertained us previously at the New Years Day ceilidh 2 years ago. Along with his band “The Wheel” everyone enjoyed some great tunes to dance to. And finally, on Saturday 7th November just after the fireworks another of those pesky time rifts opened below Easdale and we were transported back to sometime in the 1980’s. Big hair, wacky clothes and dubious make up were the order of the night for an 80’s disco to say a final goodbye to the last of the Sea.fari crew. Good luck guys – we’ll miss you, and haste ye back!

Huge thanks must go to Wee for all his time and effort in organizing what must be the biggest programme to date and also to the hall committee for creating another extremely successful year of events.

## **The World Stone Skimming Championships 2009**

Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2009 saw the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive annual World Stone Skimming Championships take place on the island. The event was of course preceded by the usual Pre-Skim dance and party the night before in the Hall. The night was danced away to “William Douglas and The Wheel” and during the band’s break, the raffle was drawn and the auction held. In what must be a world record (at least on Easdale) the usual suspect of a wheelbarrow fetched £103 in the auction. Many thanks to all who donated and especially all the bidders!! A fantastic sum of £496 was raised in the auction and £172 in the raffle.

The next day dawned and weather wise it could not have been much worse. As the merry helpers descended on the hall to organise the last minute setting up the advertising flags for ice-creams outside were nearly horizontal it was so windy. However as the morning progressed the rain eased (ever so slightly) and there was nothing else for it than for Jan to don her North Sea gear and head to the quarry with Mellon. Competitors were turning up thick and fast and having remembered to put up the new “REGISTER HERE” banner this year they piled into the welcome dry haven of the hall. Tea and coffee was the order of the day and when finally the wind eased (ever so slightly) the BBQ was lit and Dave was able to start cooking. The staff from main sponsors Forteiths had meanwhile taken cover in the tearoom which very handily coincided with The Scotsman newspaper phoning up to do some interviews. The full page spread the next day gave great coverage to both the event and Forteiths. Throughout the day “The Dangle Berets” piped and drummed their way through the pub and tearoom, round the island and into the hall entertaining us all along with a juggling stilt walker.

High noon came and proceedings kicked off with the Under 10 Girls, as is customary. Next the Under 10 Boys then the Girls and Boys 10-15 year olds, followed by the Adult Ladies finishing off with the Adult Men. Conditions were extremely challenging and this year probably saw the most no throws ever. The wind was so strong that a lot of the stones flew out with the marker buoys. All last year’s winner needed was the “Rocky” sound track as he stepped up for his turn in his towelling bath robe with World Champion on the front along with his supporters. Unfortunately he had to peel off the bit of sticky tape to reveal “former” as his throws failed miserably!

With all the tossing over and a check of all the winners of each section it was time for the big announcements. Medals were worn with pride, prizes were grasped and T-shirts donned for photos to be taken. All in all another successful event with over 100 more competitors than last year which considering the weather was amazing. The directors are indebted to Mellon for all his hard work before, during and after the event. Special thanks to Jess and Michelle for joining the Stone Skimming Committee, all their help beforehand and on the day. Also a special thank you to Tony and his crew for assisting with the set up and safe passage of all the sponsored goods over to the island. Forteith Foodservice were our key Sponsor and we are eternally grateful to John Forteith, who once again came up trumps with goods from suppliers as well as donations in cash. Our thanks also go to John’s staff that came to help and take part on the day itself. Another tremendous effort from everyone involved helping us to raise just over £6,500!!! We look forward to thanking as many of you in person on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November in the hall when we will be having a small celebration.

## **Visitor Lodge**

The directors appointed Argyle Architecture Ltd to design a smaller visitor lodge after responding to feedback from the community. At an open meeting in September architect Waseem Hussain presented the community with a slideshow that offered three new proposals. He talked at length with the community, offering advice and answering questions related to the proposals. By the end of the meeting the general consensus was for option C. The slideshow has been available to view at [www.argylearchitecture.co.uk](http://www.argylearchitecture.co.uk). An online questionnaire regarding the proposals received an excellent and positive response from islanders.

## **British Gas Green Streets**

Following Eilean Eisdeal being shortlisted amongst five final applicants for British Gas Green Streets programme we're sure that you will be as delighted as we were that the Easdale community was selected to receive funding of £130,000 to implement a range of measures to tackle community and household energy efficiency and to lower our carbon footprint.

The directors look forward to discussions with the community about this very positive project in the near future.

## **AGM**

This year's AGM will be held on Wednesday 30th December at 2.30pm, in the hall. We hope to see you all there.

Sandra resigned as director from Eilean Eisdeal in October due to personal reasons. The current directors would like to thank her for her hard work, dedication and initiative as a member, director and chair.

## **Current Directors**

Keren Cafferty.....Chair  
Jan Fraser.....Secretary  
Stephen Carr.....Treasurer  
Iain McDougall