

EILEAN EISDEAL UPDATE NUMBER 9 - SUMMER 1998

To all Easdale islanders, members and friends

The last couple of months has seen our attention somewhat diverted away from things we'd like to be doing to things we haven't really got time for but nevertheless had to get involved with;- namely the cod farm. The 3-day inquiry went well for the 99% of us who were against it, but it will be the end of July before we hear the verdict. We were fortunate to have the legal services of John Campbell QC, who was able to organise us into a fairly formidable fighting force in a short time. Not only were his fees rather lower than you might expect, but he made great efforts to get to know us and the Island first, by spending a few nights here. For his pains, we have made him an honorary member of the trust, but hope we don't have to call on his professional services too often in the future!

The Resident's Association needs another £800 to pay off the costs of the inquiry, and propose to raise this on the 1st August by holding a sale/auction/pig roast/ceilidh in the Drill Hall.

The Drill Hall

So far about 30 copies of the Hall Proposal document have been sent out to various potential funding organisations and by all accounts was enthusiastically received almost wherever we sent it. As a result of it we have had long telephone interviews with Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, and the National Lottery Community Involvement Scheme. Both these avenues are promising, and we expect to get a final decision from both around the end of August. We have had a positive response also from the Pilgrim Trust, who might finance the roof, the Esmee Fairbairn Trust, and the Chase Charity. Cadispa are providing us with sterling support as ever, and some diplomatic letters and phone calls from Geoff Fagan to the people who matter have definitely helped us. The catch 22 is that most of these organisations will only give money if someone else has given money already, but we keep on trying.....

We have appointed David Jarvie as architect for the Hall renovations. He is young, up and coming, and has some imaginative visions for the Hall. Not least of these is his intention to get everybody to contribute something personal to the design, so watch out,- your handiwork may yet survive for posterity. David knows the Island well and has been coming here for a number of years. Like John Campbell, his interest is more than merely professional and the results of his artistic work will doubtless reflect plenty of the character of both the Island and its people.

Forthcoming events

The events calendar has been slightly disrupted by activity on the cod farm fighting front.

- **August 1st.**
The EIRA sale-auction-pig roast-ceilidh. Support this to contribute to the anti-cod farm fund.
- **August 15th.**
Coal Weekend. Order your firewood and coal for the winter, and help to bring it over.

- **September 25th - 27th.**
The festival of traditional music, and the World Stone Skimming Championships.
- **Sometime soon.**
Rhona Mackay, our very own world-famous clarsach player, will give her first-ever recital in the drill hall. Watch this space.

Become a Director

All the directors will be resigning this year and you will be electing new ones at the AGM in October. So if you want to stand or want to propose someone let me know by the end of September. Thereafter at least one director will be changed every year.

The Constitution

We have drawn up a draft constitution detailing the working procedures of the Trust. Copies have been circulated for your comments and will be confirmed or amended at the AGM.

Become a member

As an owner or resident you are invited to become a member of the company on payment of a £5 annual fee. Being a member entitles you to vote at meetings, stand for election as a director, have priority for functions and generally have a say in what goes on. All members including directors have equal voting rights, i.e. one vote. Give me your fiver now! Paid-up members to date are 54.

Be a friend of Eilean Eisdeal!

If you know someone who lives somewhere else but is interested in the Island, £5 a year will keep them up to date with news of the Island and its events. They will also be among the first to know about the next concert, art exhibition or ceilidh. Paid up friends to date are 25.

Adrian Laycock