

EILEAN EISDEAL UPDATE NUMBER 10 - AUTUMN 1998

To all Easdale Islanders, members and friends

The good news for most people was our victory in the cod farm battle, although it is probably not the end of the war. The rain gods were on our side too and the only decent weather of the summer amazingly coincided with the fund raising event on the 1st August. As a result of this the Resident's Association cleared well over £800 and was able to pay off the costs of the inquiry with quite a bit to spare. And it was some ceilidh in the hall that night... The Coal Weekend went well too, with 27 tonnes of coal and more wood than ever being horsed over the water by the fit and faithful.

The Drill Hall

The less good news is that the National Lottery Charities Board rejected our application for a hall renovation grant. The reasons they gave were somewhat mystifying in that they were concerned that:-

1. because the Directors are resigning there may be no responsible management. In fact company law covers this eventuality by making directors responsible until such time as they are suitably replaced.
2. They required more evidence that the renovated Hall will be run with maximum participation of the community. We are not sure how to provide evidence for something that hasn't happened yet.
3. They required more detailed plans and costings of the proposed works. This is understandable although the catch-22 here is that we can't afford the expense of an architect without having some funds available first. However, David Jarvie is an accommodating fellow and I know he will be happy to churn out a few drawings before we've secured the funding.

The upside of all this is that we were told that our Project fits in well with the aims and objectives of this lottery fund, they were impressed by the progress made in our first year, and we are not precluded from re-applying. We intend to do so as soon as drawings are ready, and meanwhile have applied to SCVO which is the Scottish Halls Improvement Fund.

Forthcoming events

- **September 19th. *Presence and Absence*.** A photographic exhibition with a difference, courtesy of Dundee College of Art and a Russian group of photographers, supported by guitar virtuoso **Alexandre de Guise**. Full details are posted separately, and economic conditions in Russia permitting, this promises to be a unique experience.
- **September 26th - 27th.** The ***Music Weekend***. A quality selection of music is in store, with wild cajun dancing from ***the Boat Band***, taiko drumming from ***Mucho Basho***, the ***Robert Fish Ceilidh Band*** from Edinburgh, and on Sunday the ***Lorn Jazz Band***, plus ***workshops*** for bodhran and penny whistle.

- **September 27th. *The World Stone Skimming Championships*.** Now's our chance to win the trophy back from the Antipodes.....

Become a Director

All the directors will be resigning this year and members will be electing five new ones at the AGM in October. Some of the existing directors will be standing for re-election and there are already one or two new candidates. Details and nomination forms are attached to this newsletter. 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. In case you can't make it to the AGM you will be able to vote by post.

The Constitution

The constitution detailing the working procedures of the Trust has been issued to members.

Co-opted Directors

We have recently co-opted (or should that read coerced??) Dan McPherson to assist with the legalities and paperwork. We are extremely grateful that he has been able to bring his considerable experience as a company accountant to bear in what is for most of us a rather baffling field.

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 **59** .

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 **28**.

Adrian Laycock

