

EILEAN EISDEAL UPDATE NUMBER 12 - SPRING 1999

To all Easdale Islanders, members and friends

We seem to have survived another winter, one of the windiest and wettest in recent memory but the long winter nights have given Trust Directors an opportunity to do a lot of homework and hatch some new ideas.

The Drill Hall

David Jarvie, our architect has produced a draft floorplan for our consideration and this will be presented to members at the forthcoming meeting on 27th February at 2.30p.m in the Puffer tearoom. We hope that as many Islanders as possible will manage to attend the meeting but the drawings will be on display until after Easter weekend and we will be inviting comments during this period.

Unfortunately we were unable to meet the March 9th deadline for our SCVO funding application which required planning permission to be in place and this has now been dropped. In any case SCVO would only have provided 50% of the necessary funding with 10% required from the Scottish Office Capital grants scheme, 10% from Argyll and Bute Council and 20% from Argyll and the Islands Enterprise. Match funding like this is necessarily a complicated process and Argyll and Bute have funds to help only three of the eighteen Hall projects before them in this financial year. The effort involved in making the SCVO application has not been wasted and we have learned a lot about the grant process which will help us with other applications, with a visit in December from Jan Jessop, the SCVO project officer for our area, being particularly helpful.

Our intention is to make another application to NLCB and we have high hopes that this second application will meet with a favourable response. If successful this application will provide 100% of the funding for the Hall. We hope to make the application by June and there is normally a four month processing period. If all goes well we could be in a position to begin work in October.

Other Projects

Conversations with Islanders and members as well as opinion surveys taken last year have led us to investigate the possibility of the Trust undertaking some further projects. These are :

- 1/.Harbour dredging and restoration.
- 2/.Provision of small scale sewage treatment facility.
- 3/.Provision of new improved refuse facility.

Discussions with Mr Feigenbaum have got to the point where he has indicated that in principle he is prepared to Lease the harbour to the Trust for a fifty year period at £1 per annum and sell us small plots of land for each of the other facilities for £1 per plot. Preliminary

investigations have revealed that funding should be available for these projects although the harbour is obviously a larger more complex and longer term project.

The sewage treatment facility and the refuse facility have met with particularly favourable responses from funding agencies and inclusion of these projects within the Trust's agenda will help to strengthen our case for funding of the Drill Hall. It is our hope that we can implement at least one of these smaller projects as soon as possible

Ron Blakey has put a huge amount of work into preparing an axonometric or pictorial plan of the harbour showing possible improvements and locations for intended facilities and John Hendry has taken a series of photographs which show the deterioration of the harbour very clearly. These will be presented to Islanders and members at the public meeting on 27th February. It should be borne in mind that these are draft documents for discussion purposes and that we hope Islanders, Members and Friends will contribute to the discussion either verbally or in writing. The plans and photographs will all be left on display until Easter. Our thanks go to Ron and John for their sterling work.

Public Meeting

Following the Island Association meeting on Easter Sunday there will be an open meeting when plans for the Drill Hall and other Trust projects will be on display. Until then the plans will be on display in the Ferry Shed along with a suggestions box. We hope that everyone will attend the meeting and make their views known to us by one means or another and we would stress that this is a Public Meeting open to everyone.

Events

Guy Fawkes Nov 7th

Once again we managed to build a surprisingly large bonfire and the occasion presented an opportunity for clearing out the Drill Hall of burnable debris. Unfortunately strong winds prevented all but a few fireworks being lit although Adrian made a worthwhile contribution to the science of pyrotechnics in discovering that no matter the launching direction rockets will always fly into the wind. Fiona supplied large quantities of hot dogs and other refreshments in the Puffer Bar, fire building and watching having as always whipped up large appetites in all who attended.

Xmas Festivities

The kids Christmas party and the Carol service went well as usual although the Christmas tree having been erected three times and blown down three times will serve as a reminder of the windiest winter for years.

Pantomime 2nd January

This year's pantomime was if anything more successful than last year's although the usual chaos right up to the event helped to maintain the charm of a really amateur production. Outstanding performances were given by all the cast and Ro surpassed himself in creating a masterpiece of design and craftwork in producing the 'Crocodile from Dundee'. We have to thank our friends and neighbours on Seil for their support in attending this and other events. Several ferry loads came across in terrible weather resulting in the Hall being filled to capacity. It says a lot for the entertainment value of the panto that people crammed in to

watch, standing ankle deep in water and being dripped on from leaks in the roof. Donations collected during the pant resulted in a net contribution to Trust funds of £172.

Burns Supper Jan 23rd

Fiona took over the organisation of the Burns Supper this year and with the able assistance of Donald (Mellon) Melville as Chairman produced another wonderful evening's entertainment with outstanding performances from all the contributors.

Murder Mystery

Once again this was a stimulating and thought provoking evening with Elaine providing a cryptic mystery set in the 1890's atmosphere of Morris & Co. The evening was a great success with a good turnout and a large attendance from friends on Seil and further afeild. A collection was held to reimburse Elaine for out of pocket costs and the surplus of £70 has been donated to the Trust. Many thanks to Elaine.

Forthcoming Events

The entertainment sub committee have arranged a very full programme of events for the forthcoming year and have been able to take advantage of an initiative by the Scottish Arts Council, Argyll and Bute Council and Argyll and the Islands Enterprise to promote entertainment, arts and culture within Argyll. So far we have a commitment from Argyll and Bute Council for £1880 towards the entertainment programme and it looks as if we will receive similar contributions from the other two agencies. Our hope is to provide a wide range of entertainment with a broad appeal. The draft programme of events is as follows:

- End of May Jazz night with the Lorn Cowison Quartet
- End of August Seil Island's Harvey's Dream (popular music with a vocal emphasis)
- July Ceilidh with Robert Fish Ceilidh Band
- November Black Box Puppet Theatre
- Mid Summer Night Wanderlust (popular music)
- Music Weekend Catriona MacDonald (BBC Radio presenter) Traditional music evening
- Spring 2000 Stand-Up Comedian to be arranged in conjunction with Oban Comedy Club
- Summer 2000 Mull Little Theatre- Consider the lillies performance

Thanks

Thanks to the following people:

- Ron Blakey for producing the plan of the harbour in record time.
- John Hendry for taking a series of photographs of the harbour at short notice.
- Leslie Wolfson for attending our last Directors meeting and giving us the benefit of his legal expertise.
- Fiona and staff for all their hard work in the Puffer Bar, for her work with the entertainments sub committee and for her lottery fund raiser which has raised £66 for the Trust so far.
- Argyll & Bute Council for their generous donation to our entertainment budget.

- Islanders, Members and Friends who have supported our entertainment events and other activities.

Be 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 so far this year are 53. Membership fees are due on the first of October which is the start of the Trust's financial year.

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. Friends to date are 30.

Mike Mackenzie