

EILEAN EISDEAL UPDATE NUMBER 13 - SPRING 2000

To all Easdale Islanders, members and friends

Originally published in Spring 2000 issue of 'Easdale People'

Welcome to the Eilean Eisdeal Trust page. Many thanks to the editors of the magazine for inviting us to contribute information on trust activities. There's a lot going on! For anyone not familiar with The Eilean Eisdeal Trust, it was formed in 1997 to undertake projects which will enhance the island i.e. the renovation of the hall for use as a much needed community space, provision of an adequate refuse system and harbour restoration. There are currently five directors and two co-opted directors. The trust is a recognised Scottish charity and a registered limited company.

Directors

We would like to extend our thanks to retiring director Paul Obernay for all his work and support during the last year. We are pleased to welcome Henry Tarbatt as a new director and already Henry has made a great contribution and given many hours of time to trust activities.

Recent News

The 2nd AGM was held in October. Unfortunately the timing of the AGM cannot be earlier in the year because we must present the annual accounts to members at the AGM. We now plan to put back the date of the next AGM until December next year. We hope that, as many members visit the island for New Year, late December will be a better date for all concerned. The trust has become one of two hundred rural bodies to receive a computer with internet facilities free of charge through a scheme called com.com/holyrood. The computer will be available for all islanders and visitors to use during designated Open Times, with a series of tutorial sessions for beginners, both children and adults, being run by Philippa Bull. Central to the children's sessions will be the creation of an Easdale Children's website, designed and maintained entirely by the children themselves. The computer will also be a means by which we can communicate with other communities throughout Scotland, and directly with our local MSPs. It will initially be located in The Puffer Restaurant until the hall is renovated. Please contact Philippa for further details.

We have also recently purchased chairs and a heater for the hall, as well as PA equipment for events.

Projects

Our solicitor is currently working on formalising the agreements for purchase of the Hall, the adjacent cottage and the plots for the refuse and sewage facilities, as well as the harbour lease. We are working closely with the Council's Environmental officers on the refuse facility and have opened dialogues with other recycling groups in Argyll with a view to obtaining

advice on recycling equipment. West of Scotland Water are keen to help us with the sewage facility and have recently confirmed that there is no possibility of their emptying our septic tanks and transporting sewage to the mainland. They are sympathetic and have recently forwarded design information for small scale biological treatment facilities which should prove very useful.

Fund-Raising

This year our fund-raising efforts are to be concentrated on four specific events. A gala dinner in June, a sale of original art and designer-made items in July, the regatta in July and the World Stone Skimming Championships in September. The regatta last year was a resounding success despite the organisation being a bit chaotic. We achieved our fund-raising target and everyone enjoyed the various activities. It was particularly amazing to have had fifteen sponsored swimmers brave the cold Atlantic for the swim to the island. The day was rounded off with a ceilidh dance. Already we have had ideas pouring in for this summer and any useful suggestions would be hugely welcomed. On-going fund-raising will also be taking place through the sale of branded Easdale Island products the first of which is.....

Eilean Eisdeal Whisky!

This rare and collectable 8 year old single malt is for sale through The Puffer Bar and all profits go to the Trust. Please contact Fiona 01852 300 579 for more information. A unique present to give and a worthy tittle for a worthy cause!

Entertainments

Following the success of the first year of the trust's Arts/Entertainment programme, there were so many requests for more events of a high quality that we have put together a similar programme for 2000. Attendances last year totalled 300, and performers ranged from Mull and Stray Theatre Companies, Lorne Cowieson Jazz Quartet, Amalfi String Duo, Catriona MacDonald, Wanderlust, Robert Fish Ceilidh Band and Clamjamfrie. There was also a highly popular children's pottery day run by Collaig pottery. Thanks to all who took part for their top class performances. Please [click here](#) for this year's diary of events.

Thanks

We would like to extend our thanks to all the many people who have supported the trust and particularly the local businesses who have given sponsorship. It has been gratifying to see how many of our friends and neighbours from Seil and further afield have attended the various events and helped to make each one a success. In particular : Highland Arts Studios, Inshaig Park Hotel, Balvicar Stores, The Oyster Bar, Tigh an Truish , The Puffer Bar, Builders Mate, Seafari, M. MacKenzie Builders, and Dan McPherson for their generous donations for the regatta and also to all those who donated home baking or other goods or helped with the organisation of the various events. The Scottish Arts Council, Argyll & the Islands Enterprise and Argyll & Bute Council for their invaluable support towards our entertainment programme, and Argyll & the Islands Enterprise for help with the purchase of chairs, a heater and PA

equipment. Fiona for allowing us the use of the restaurant as a venue when bad weather has prevented the use of the hall and, with help from Tennants Brewery and Coasters Bar, a donation towards a printer for the computer.

Join the Trust

If you want to join the trust as a friend or member please phone 01852 300197 or [click here](#) for details.

Eilean Eisdeal