

## **EILEAN EISDEAL UPDATE NUMBER 20 - JANUARY 2003**

### ***To all Easdale islanders, members and friends***

#### **AGM**

For those of you who didn't manage to attend the AGM it was a very positive reflection of the work to-date, with emphasis placed on our ongoing responsibilities now that we have a contract with the Community Fund to honour and key financial targets to meet. We hope to achieve even more this year, with a little help from our friends - more of that later.

A sad farewell was said to Mike MacKenzie who was due to retire, having served the Trust for five years with unstinting dedication. During Mike's time as director, and latterly also as Secretary, the Trust has evolved into an organisation now managing a 2/3 million pound project and has reached a platform where taking on an even more ambitious one is achievable. The assembled gathering expressed their sincere thanks to Mike for the enormous amount of invaluable work that he has done for the Trust. We owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

Mike has played a pivotal role in the hall project and the new board of directors has subsequently asked if he would take on the role of specialist advisor to the Trust until the building phase of the hall is completed. Thankfully, Mike has agreed to do this - our thanks once more.

Thanks was also expressed to Henry Tarbatt and Jenny Smith, who stood down as directors earlier this year. Henry and Jenny both gave generously of their time (and energy!) to the Trust, as director and treasurer respectively, and their hard work is much appreciated.

The election results were announced and the following candidates were elected as directors : Philippa Bull, Annabel Gregory, Brenda Heslop, John Merrilees.

At the first meeting of the new board the Office Bearers were decided. Phil will take on the role as Secretary, Annabel will be the Treasurer and Sandra will remain Chairperson.

#### **Hall**

Following a progress report from our Quantity Surveyor the agreed completion date has been estimated as the middle of April at the very latest. As decorating and landscaping will still need to be done this makes an Easter opening look somewhat optimistic ! We have therefore set a new date and plan to have the opening celebrations over the holiday weekend at the end of May.

We are planning a weekend of musical and other events to entertain you and to celebrate this historic event and the beginning of a new chapter in the life of our hall. In order to give as much notice as possible of this change Fiona kindly offered to put this in the last Puffer mailshot, so some of you may have heard already.

There is a lot to be done before we will be ready to open the hall and this is your chance to get involved. I am sure that there is an abundance of untapped skills out there and we will be getting in touch soon and arranging volunteer activities. Please feel free to contact any of the directors if you would like to help, and watch this space - or your email !

#### **Harbour**

P. J. Korbell, our Marine Consultant, visited the island in December and assessed the harbour and the list of suggested improvements, which we had collated. He gave us some very useful advice and we are due to meet with the Community Project Officer from Argyll & the Islands Enterprise soon to discuss a funding application to implement short term plans to ease the current situation. This would also be a valuable first step towards the larger scheme.

Thanks to everyone for their help and support.

Sandra Melville : Chair