

EILEAN EISDEAL UPDATE NUMBER 21 - APRIL 2003

To all Easdale islanders, members and friends

Members' Meeting - Easter Sunday

A Members' Meeting will be held in the Puffer Restaurant on Easter Sunday at 7.30 pm. One of the items on the agenda will be the approval by the members of the proposed updated constitution, a copy of which is enclosed with this letter ([current constitution](#) and [proposed constitution](#)). The constitution has been updated to reflect the fact that the hall is now owned by Eilean Eisdeal Trust, and also to include the suggested change to the dates of the membership year (to run from 1 January to 31 December, the AGM normally to be held in December).

The Members Meeting will be followed immediately by a Meeting for Boat Owners and Harbour Users - for more details, please see Harbour, below.

Hall

The hall is still on track for completion in April, leaving plenty of time for the army of willing volunteers to "get in about it." We have already had a great response to our appeal for help and will soon be organising working parties and dates for woodworking, painting and landscaping, to be discussed at the Easter members' meeting. It's not too late to join in. If you would like to help in any way, just get in touch with any of the directors (see web-site www.easdale.org for details).

The opening party will be over the weekend of 24th May and is definitely not one to be missed!

Hall Manager's Appointment

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Geoff Heslop as Hall Manager. Geoff will start work at the beginning of May, in time to help with the arrangements for the hall opening party. Geoff has had many years of valuable experience in the Arts and in community work, and we are very pleased to be able to welcome him to the post.

Multi-Media Projector

We are pleased to say that The Community Fund have granted an application to purchase a multi-media projector for the hall. In our original consultation with islanders, 70% said they would like to use the hall for "Talks & Lectures" and 64 % for "Adult Education." This equipment will not only facilitate this, but open up the hall as a venue for film shows and conferences.

Island Photo

Many of you may remember the old photo that was in the tea-room with all the islanders from yesteryear. We would like to try and reconstruct a similar one with as many of today's islanders as possible, to be shown as part of the hall opening exhibition. Colin McPherson has agreed to take the photo on Easter Sunday, possibly immediately following the children's Easter Egg hunt - more precise details will be advertised nearer the time. It would be great if as many islanders as possible would be willing to appear in this historic photo!

CADISPA Visit

On 1st March around 50 delegates attending a conference in Oban, held by CADISPA, visited our hall to see for themselves what communities can achieve when they work together. CADISPA (Conservation And Development In Sparsely Populated Areas) is based at Strathclyde University and the director, Geoff Fagan, has followed the Trust's progress with interest over the last few years and offered us useful advice and support, particularly when we were at the funding application stage for the hall. The delegates were extremely impressed by our hall and the presentation put on for them. They left the island charged up with enthusiasm, having experienced Easdale hospitality and sampled our community spirit. (They also purchased some of the bottled variety!) Most of all, they will forever remember Lynn's scones...

Harbour

We have had a meeting with Argyll & The islands Enterprise who have said that they are willing to help, not only with some of the short-term improvements, suggested by our members, but as a catalyst towards getting funding for the larger scheme, which is excellent news. We hope to implement some of the interim improvements to the harbour before this winter and are progressing plans towards funding for the larger scheme.

There will be a Meeting for Boat Owners and Harbour Users on Easter Sunday (immediately following the Members' Meeting) to update everyone and finalise summer berthing arrangements.

The St. Columba Voyage 2003

The curragh 'Colmcille' will be making a voyage with a crew of thirteen monks - rowing and sailing from Ireland to Iona - and stopping at various places on the way. They are staying in various village halls on the way and have asked if they can stay in ours on 14th or 15th June depending on weather and tides. Easdale Primary School will be taking part in an art and poetry competition related to this living history event and there will be various connected festivities. The event is likely to attract some media coverage and we will let you have more details when we have them.

Sandra Melville

Chair