

**EILEAN EISDEAL**  
**THE EASDALE ISLAND TRUST**  
**A Recognised Scottish Charity**

We are now a Company limited by guarantee with charitable status. (Registered in Scotland No. 178838. Scottish Charity No SC027102).

The Objectives of the Company are stated in its Memorandum of Association as follows:-

- I. To conserve and preserve the character and natural beauty of Easdale Island for the benefit of the public so as to leave them unimpaired for future enjoyment and study in such a manner that the needs and aspirations of the local population are acknowledged and respected.
- II. For the purposes of achieving the above objects to foster and encourage appreciation and interest in the Island and to accommodate access and opportunities for those wishing to visit the Island for recreation or study all year round in such a manner as is consistent with the other objects of the Company but taking into account at all times the essential conservation protection and careful management which such areas deserve.
- III. To encourage and develop a spirit of voluntary commitment by individuals, corporate bodies and any other group of people willing to assist the Company to achieve its objectives.
- IV. To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Easdale Island without distinction of political, religious or other opinions by associating the local authority, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants.
- V. For the purpose of achieving the above objects to secure the establishment maintenance and management of the Drill Hall as a community centre for activities promoted by the Company in furtherance of the above objects or any of them.

There are initially five Directors, the positions of which will be periodically up for election. Islanders are invited to become members of the company and as such they will have equal voting rights to the Directors. People not resident or not owning property on the Island are invited to become Friends of Eilean Easdale, which will entitle them to receive newsletters, preferential concessions on functions, etc.

The initial Directors are:-

- Adrian Laycock
- Mike Mackenzie
- Fiona Blakey
- Jean Adams
- David Donnison

## ***The Drill Hall***

We reckon it will take about £100,000 to get the hall into good shape. We will be applying for millennium funding and elsewhere. We have asked Shauna Cameron, architect, to do some creative impressions. Adrian Laycock Ltd will do the engineering. We are compiling a presentation document to go in search of funds.

The Hall will be leased by Adrian and Ghalia Laycock for 25 years for £1 per year to EILEAN EISDEAL, which will pay running costs, maintenance and rates etc. Adrian Laycock has signed a legal undertaking to repay to Eilean Eisdeal the value of any capital expenditure incurred in reparation or refurbishment in the event that the lease is revoked or terminated.

## **Events**

### ***The Festival***

Eilean Eisdeal hosted its first event, a Festival of Traditional Music and Storytelling, on September 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> 1997. The festival was a great success, despite the unforeseen events of that week and some not too kind weather. The Drill Hall was pressed into service and proved itself as a unique venue for this kind of event. Over the weekend there were 60 performers, and some people were rather surprised at the high quality of the music, much of which was world class. The performers included:

- Callanish
- An Puca
- Colin Blakey
- The Nippy Sweeties
- John Brindley
- The Boys of the County Khyber
- Paraig MacNeill
- Bill McLaughlin
- The Argyll Samba Project
- Michael Mcquilkin
- Harveys Dream
- Seil Sound Ceilidh Band

Thanks to all the pickers & pluckers, blowers & whistlers, squeezers & sneezers, bonkers & beaters, singers & storytellers, poets & pundits, dancers & prancers, and everyone who just came to be a part of it all.

And thanks to everyone who helped, which was just about everyone, including....

- The marquee erectors
- the hall wall scrapers
- the stage makers
- the wall painter
- the roof mender
- the chair lifters
- the floor breakers
- the hole in the wall gang
- the sugar mouse maker
- the microphone men
- the cake bakers
- the painters, artists and decorators
- the torch bearers

- the boatman
- the shovellers
- the dumper man
- the man with the kango drill
- the bunting hunting party and flag baggers
- the erectors of luminence
- the booking office girls
- the cake stall girls
- the dancing girls
- the raffle baffler
- the sweepers

.....and then there was.....

### ***The world stone skimming championship !!***

Held on 9<sup>th</sup> September which lived up to its promise and drew entrants from the other side of the world. Will we ever live down the fact that we gave away the cup to a *New Zealander*???

The whole weekend was a lot of fun for everyone and its success could be judged on the warm and friendly ambience it generated amongst all who came, the spontaneous music that was to be heard seeping out of the marquee, the children in the front row and the reminiscences of the few who remembered how the hall was the last time it held such an event, half a century ago.

### ***The Pantomime***

*Jack and the Beanstalk* is planned by the Easdale Island Players, sometime around Xmas 1997.

### ***Future Events***

Eilean Eisdeal intend to let out the Hall for any events or purposes that may arise. We have recently been approached by a Wedding Arranging company for a wedding reception with a difference, a Jazz group for music workshops, and an Artist for teaching workshops. We expect to hold another music festival in 1998.

### ***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 will have equal voting rights, i.e. one vote.

### ***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.

## **Use the Drill Hall !**

This is as far as we know the only building of its type in the world, and certainly the only one which is completely surrounded by the sea and has no cars or roads within earshot. The Drill Hall has a useable floor area of 100 square metres and a capacity of 200 people. If you are involved in teaching outdoor pursuits (sailing, diving, canoeing) and need a big open space indoors to get out of the weather from time to time, this could be for you. If you are involved in music or art and derive inspiration from the wild beauty of the west coast of Scotland, this could be for you. If you want to hold a wedding reception or a really special party with a difference, this could be for you. Don't forget we have plenty more facilities on the Island to complement the Drill Hall.

If you would like to know more get in touch with us at [alaycock@sol.co.uk](mailto:alaycock@sol.co.uk) or [fi@sol.co.uk](mailto:fi@sol.co.uk).