



**EILEAN EISDEAL**  
**THE EASDALE ISLAND TRUST**  
a recognised Scottish Charity

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**EILEAN EISDEAL UPDATE NUMBER 7**

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

Well that's the festive season safely negotiated. This one had more than its fair share of highs and lows. The low spot was the death of Jack Buchanan, at 83 our oldest resident, on 27<sup>th</sup> December, just a few days after inaugurating the Christmas tree lights in his own inimitable way. Another traumatic time was the great storm of 3<sup>rd</sup> January, which severed our water supply pipe and moved great quantities of shingle into the harbour entrance and into the rush and gush. We made the national news with helicopter lifts of emergency water supplies. For many the high point was the pantomime, which exceeded all the theatre critics' expectations.

***The Drill Hall***

The place is gradually becoming more hospitable. Thanks to Ian for installing wind proof doors and Mike for supplying the materials. Thanks to Don for the calor gas heaters. Thanks to Leo for the lights. Thanks to Michael for the speakers.

***Report on Events***

- **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December *Vocal workshop*** by Lynne O'Neill loosened up our vocal chords for *Harvey's Dream*, the singing group from Seil making their follow-up appearance after the festival. It is worth remembering that this fluid and ever-changing line up of young people from across the water is good testimony to the desire of many young people today to do something useful and bring some pleasure to the society around them. Those of us who bemoan the irresponsible behaviour and attitudes of young folk of today would do well to support initiatives like this.
- **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December** kids *Xmas party* in the restaurant. Was preceded by the grand lighting-up of the *Xmas tree* with a speech by Jack Buchanan our most venerable resident reminding us of the pagan origins of Michaelmas and vowing to continue in the ancient tradition, with apt comments by Chloe, our youngest resident.
- ***N.E.W.T.S (New Easdale Wine Tasting Society)***. Seems to be an established event, with a high proportion of members reportedly now able to tell the difference between red and white.
- **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December *Carol Singing*** in the puffer restaurant attracted a few enthusiasts and an impromptu performance by the wee ones of some up-beat versions of well-known Christmas songs.
- **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January, The *Pantomime***. Jack and the beanstalk, by the Easdale Island Players. It turned out to be a hilarious expose of cod farming, VAT inspectors, shady salesmen, dubious princesses, cows and ferrymen, and the fish hall was packed out. It was good to see three boatloads of people from across the water. Donations afterward raised £112 toward the hall roof, which dripped steadily throughout the performance.

- **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.** Thanks to the storm we had to postpone the samba and ceilidh experience. The chance will come again.

### **Forthcoming events**

- **Saturday 31st January.** *Burns Night*, continuing in our uniquely offbeat style which the bard himself would doubtless be proud of.
- sometime in **February.** Storyteller *Paraig MacNeill*. Watch this space.
- sometime in **March or April.** *Rhona Mackay*, our very own world-famous clarsach player, will give her first-ever recital in the drill hall. Watch this space.
- sometime in **May or June.** *Jazz on a summers day*. Watch this space.
- **August 15<sup>th</sup>.** *Coal Weekend*. Order your firewood and coal for the winter, and help to bring it over.
- **September 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>.** The *festival of traditional music, and the World Stone Skimming Championships*.

### **The Drill Hall Questionnaire**

Here are the findings from the questionnaire. So far we have received 48 replies. All but one was in favour of renovating the hall. 85% were willing to join the trust. 65% were willing to assist in management or running events from time to time.

Concerning uses of the hall, 76% were in favour of music concerts, although several qualified this by saying it depended on the type of music. 80% were in favour of ceilidhs, 78% in favour of celebrations, wakes and weddings. Talks and lectures appealed to 72%, art shows to 65%, craft fairs to 67% and adult education classes 63%. Banquets and drama both appealed to 52%, although judging from the success of the pantomime the drama popularity should by now be well above this. Table tennis scored 50% and everything else less than that. 14 additional uses were suggested, ranging from chess to boat repairs to volleyball. (Sorry, volleyball and badminton just won't fit, but everything else will).

It is clear from all this that there is overwhelming support for renovating the hall and using it for a wide variety of things.

**The position of the Trust** is that anyone can use the hall for anything, provided they contribute to the upkeep of the hall, and provided the use falls within the broad objectives of the Trust which are stated again below. The Trust **will not organise** events or functions except where to do so would enable it to attract external funding by virtue of its charitable status. The Trust **will not organise** any societies or clubs devoted to the sports or recreations listed in the questionnaire. The function of the Trust in the context of the Drill Hall is to oversee its upkeep and to make it available to as many people as possible.

### **CADISPA**

CADISPA is a project based at the University of Strathclyde which examines communities and projects such as ours from an academic and sociological viewpoint, and can also assist us in directing future strategy for the Drill Hall funding and any other projects that the Trust may take up in the future. Geoff Fagan the project manager and his assistant Ina Hampson visited us on 7<sup>th</sup> December. Their next visit will be on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February**, so be there if you want to find out more.

### ***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. Give me your fiver now! Paid-up members to date are 45 .

### ***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. Paid up friends to date are 13.

### ***Honorary Friends***

We have conferred the title of *Honorary Friend* on one or 2 stalwarts who often seem to be on hand with the right kind of help just when it's needed. Hon. Friends for their efforts over the past year are Leo Faccenda (electrics, discos, and anything resembling a washing machine), Ro Ashcroft (the fish hall students, the pantomime cow), and Tim Veigh (live music and pantomime lighting).

ADRIAN LAYCOCK

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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.