

## EILEAN EISDEAL UPDATE NUMBER 11 - WINTER 1998

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

It was one of the wettest summers in history, but at least the first AGM was successfully negotiated, and we welcome 2 new directors. The music weekend went off well and we've had welcome news from several funding sources.

### ***The Drill Hall***

Applications for funding are in place with two of the lottery funds and several other charities. We have just been rejected by the Scottish Co-op. More detailed plans of the Drill Hall are being drawn up by David Jarvie and should be ready for inspection and comment by the middle of November. We shall be re-applying to the National Lotteries Community Involvement Fund when firmer plans are in place.

We have received a generous donation of £300 from John Campbell QC, £500 from the Bank of Scotland, and a pledge of £3,500 from Lloyds TSB foundation for Scotland, which is open for 2 years and dependent on our securing the major part of funding from other sources.

### **AGM**

The first AGM was held on 24th October in the Drill Hall with 17 members attending. Principle figures in the accounts were the first year turnover of £7,211, and the net profit of £1,093. The first accounting year covered 13 months from September 1997 to September 1998 inclusive, and hence included two music festivals. Over £1,200 had been spent in establishment costs, - mainly one-off legal fees which would not be repeated in subsequent years. These figures were encouraging and well in line with projected cash flows which had been submitted to various funding agencies. The accounts exclude £4,300 in donations which have recently been received or pledged.

The accounts were approved and Jean Ainsley re-appointed as auditor. Resolutions to change the quorum at general meetings from 2 to 10 and to retire one fifth of the directors each year were unanimously approved.

In the elections for directors, a total of 43 valid voting papers were received. The elected directors are Paul Obernay, Sandra Melville, Mike MacKenzie, Adrian Laycock, and David Donnison. At the latest directors meeting, Dan McPherson was re-co-opted. David Donnison is now Chairman, Mike MacKenzie is Secretary, and Adrian Laycock is Treasurer.

### **Events**

- **September 19<sup>th</sup>. Presence and Absence.** This was a photographic exhibition with a difference, courtesy of Dundee College of Art and a Russian group of photographers, supported by guitar virtuoso **Alexandre de Guise**. Whatever you thought of the

music or the pictures, bringing the two together in the form of an accompanied slide show was a stunning one-off, never to be repeated happening. The music itself was, er... unusual, albeit a bit heavy on the special effects but memorable anyway and a good lead in to.....

- **September 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>.** The **Music Weekend**. We knew it would be good, but the standard of music even surpassed most peoples' expectations, with wild cajun stuff from **the Boat Band**, mind-blowing Japanese Taiko drumming from **Mucho Basho**, the **Robert Fish Ceilidh Band** from Edinburgh (en route for the Labour Party conference in Blackpool the following day), and on Sunday the **Lorn Cowson Jazz Band**, plus **workshops** for bodhran and penny whistle. Without doubt the **Lorn Cowson Band** delivered some of the finest jazz that has ever been heard this side of Glasgow. They said they were inspired by the place and the unique atmosphere, and they have promised to come back soon. The most surprising thing about them is their average age, which is about 20. So let's hope that they will be on the scene for a long long time yet.
- **September 27<sup>th</sup>.** **The World Stone Skimming Championships**. It was a close run thing, with **Ian Shelcock** winning with a throw of 53 metres. At any rate the trophy was wrested from the southern hemisphere and brought back to Argyll. There were 34 entrants this year. **Fiona Rowan** won the ladies section with a throw of well over 30 metres. **Ben Beach** won the juniors.

### ***Forthcoming events***

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Nov.** Guy Fawkes bonfire and party

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Nov.** NEWTS wine tasting

**Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Nov.** Curry night in the pub.

**Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Dec.** Music in the pub.

**Sat 12 Dec.** Art exhibition in the restaurant.

**Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Dec.** Kids Xmas party.

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec.** Carol singing.

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan.** Pantomime.

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan.** Burns supper.

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Feb.** Murder Mystery.

**Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Feb.** MacLays Darts Challenge.

### ***Thanks to...***

**John Campbell QC**, who donated £300.

**Suzi, Alison and Carmel** for their sterling work on the Barbeque which netted £100.

**Alma Wolfson** for donating a painting which was the first prize in the raffle.

**Maclays Breweries**, for sponsoring the music weekend to the tune of £240.

**Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland**, who have pledged £3,500 for the Drill Hall.

**Bank of Scotland**, who have donated £500 in Gift Aid.

**Stan the Man**, of the Robert Fish Band, who donated to the Hall Fund his share of the appearance fee.

**Philip Monteith** of Morham and Brotchie, who did some building survey work free of charge.

**John Hendry** for taking over the web site.

**Dan MacPherson** for keeping us straight on the administrative side of things.

**Bert Baker** for organising the stone skimming in his own inimitable way.

**Paul Stearne** for cutting the grass for the cod farm fund raising day, and **Leslie Wolfson** for letting him use the mower!

**John Tribe and Ken Lacey** for canoeing all the way to Colonsay and back to raise £30 for the roof.

Retiring directors **Fiona Blakey** and **Jean Adams**

### ***Be 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 have equal voting rights, i.e. one vote. Give me your fiver now! Paid-up members so far this year are **53**. Membership fees are due on the first of October which is the start of the Trust's financial year.

### ***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. Friends to date are **30**.

***Adrian Laycock***