

EILEAN EISDEAL NEWSLETTER No.23 - JULY 2003

To all Easdale islanders, members and friends

Hall

Welcome to the first newsletter since the opening of the hall !

Hopefully most of you will have had the chance to enjoy some of the events that have been organised so far, but don't forget - it's your hall, and the more it's used the better.

If you have any ideas, anything you'd like to see/do/organise please feel free to pop along and discuss things with Geoff, our hall manager. He's usually in the hall from 4-6pm on weekdays and is only too happy to get your input.

Many thanks to the Residents' Association for their kind donation of the New Age Kurling equipment. For those who haven't tried it why not come along to one of the open nights, arranged for the last Thursday of every month, or at any time? There's also table-tennis available and we hope to get a pool table soon, courtesy of Elizabeth Rhodes and the Residents' Association.

Thanks also to Henry Tarbatt for making the superb donations box, which is a work of art in itself, and to the Residents' Association for funding the materials for this and for organising a rota of Hall Stewards to extend the time which the hall is open to the public.

The children have certainly endorsed the new play-park - good to see it being so well used - and Alice Clayton has agreed to use the money from her stall at last year's stone-skimming to help buy the swing attachments for it. Thanks Alice.

And as for The Waterboys.....

What can I say ? For those lucky enough to get a ticket, no words are needed. To the army of volunteers who worked endlessly to make the event run smoothly, a huge thank you ! It was a fantastic night and encouraging to see that our hall was able to host a band of that calibre with no problems at all. Indeed, they were so impressed with Easdale that they would like to come back ! Watch this space.....

Harbour

We now have a holding mooring in Easdale Sound registered and in place. This is to ease the restriction that tides place on entry/exit to and from the harbour, particularly for larger/keeled boats. Please note that it's the one just north-west of the wooden pier. There is no charge for this facility (the cost of this is included in boatowners' harbour fees) but please remember that it is intended as a holding mooring only. We hope to implement further short-term improvements soon, in line with suggestions from members and our marine consultant, to ease the use of the harbour for islanders and as a step towards the overall restoration. These should include some dredging and a pontoon to help with the berthing of smaller boats, as well as measures to halt the decline of our precious harbour walls and a specialist report regarding further restoration work. We are hoping to secure funding for this by the end of the year and have the work carried out in the spring.

Refuse/Recycling and Sewage Treatment

We are continuing to research this area, and investigations to date have been extremely useful and confirm that a zero-waste facility is a realistic goal. We will keep you informed of progress.

Regatta - Saturday 9th August

The regatta remains one of our main fund-raising events, and this year Jan Fraser and Lynn Mackenzie have kindly agreed to organise it. They have the unenviable task of rallying volunteers and I'm sure they would appreciate any forthcoming offers of help.

If anyone is interested in taking part in the sponsored swim, please get in touch with Sandra for a sponsor form.

Open Meetings

We are always interested to hear your views and to keep you up-to-date with where we are regarding the projects we have undertaken to carry out on your behalf. In recognition that people are not always keen to come forward, and that the AGM is not conducive to this, we have decided to hold a series of "open meetings" to keep the communications flowing. The format will be informal, with refreshments available, and it will be a chance to ask questions and get involved in areas of particular interest, should you so wish.

The first of these will be on Sunday 24th August at 11.30am - hope to see you there.

Thanks to everyone for your help and support.

Sandra Melville : Chair