

## EILEAN EISDEAL NEWSLETTER No.29 - NOVEMBER 2004

*To all Easdale islanders, members and friends*

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### **Harbour**

As anyone who has been on the island recently will have seen, the long awaited work has now started in the harbour on the Interim Improvements and is almost complete. The Trust secured funding from various sources including A&BC, AIE, CED Programme and CERS as well as various local businesses' contributions.

The old slate waste 'road' at the south east edge of the harbour has been removed which has increased its useable size and made room for the pontoon. The pontoon will allow increased and safer access to the smaller more commonly used boats in the harbour and is shortly to be installed. We will be using volunteer labour from the community for this, we will be asking for assistance in the near future!

The dredging of the harbour is only one part of the Interim Improvements with other work including the pontoon, temporary propping of a collapsed wall, installation of timber fenders, a mooring trot and a digital survey of the harbour. The spoil from the dredging of the harbour has been used to create a large level area in the Rush and Gush and includes a ramp to the water. It is hoped that harbour users will make best use of these improvements and benefit from their implementation.

### **Hall Events**

There have been several events in the hall since the last issue of the magazine including The Stone-skimming Pre-Skim Dance on Saturday 25th September with the ever-popular 'Framed'. Framed of course has in it's members 3 Seil islanders in the shape of Dougie Robertson, vocals/congas, Jack MacGregor, vocals/mandolin and Donnie Campbell, drums. On Sunday 3rd October the kids and teddy bears among us were entertained at the Teddy Bears' Picnic in the Hall. Jean's expertly decorated stage set was the perfect backdrop to Petre, Anna, Brenda and Sarah who told stories and sang songs whilst the food was prepared by Beth and Jill. Saturday 23rd October saw a Ceilidh with the Belle Stars band. The band, made up entirely of ladies, entertained the small but enthusiastic audience. On Saturday 30th October around 40 people gathered in the Hall and were enthralled and held in awe as Magician and Physical Comic Malcolm Russell presented us with his magic show. He was ably assisted by young Ewan, Kern and Eathan from the crowd. Malcolm is doing his Scottish Islands Tour entitled 'Inhabited Plus One' where he is doing his show on every year-round inhabited island of Scotland, plus one uninhabited one, totaling 102 in all! We were his 70th island. Wee's film show nights continue on the first Friday of every month and have shown a variety of films to delight both adults and kids alike. Forthcoming events are as follows; Saturday 20th November, Mull Theatre present 'Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde', Saturday 27th November, Traditional music from Scotland, Ireland and Asturias with Simon Bradley (Ilan de cubel) on fiddle and Luke Plumb (Shooglenifty) on bazouki. For any further details – contact Geoff

### **Craft Fair**

The second Annual Craft Fair will take place in the Hall on Saturday 11th December. There will also be a cake stall with soup available. We look forward to seeing you there.

## **RYA Yachtmaster's Theory Course and Examination (Shorebased yacht or powerboat)**

Sea.fari Adventures are organising the above course and examination based at the Hall. Dates include 19 & 20 Feb, 26 & 27 Feb. The final course and examination dates in March to be confirmed. Open to all.

## **Ellenabeich Wedding Bar**

On Saturday 9th October the Trust ran the bar at a local wedding dance in the Hall in Ellenabeich. We were approached by the wedding couple and asked if we could do the bar at their event as no-one on Seil was able to cover it. We were happy to do so and were able to use this as a fund-raiser. The night went very well.

## **Heat Pump**

In a bid to keep our Hall running costs down, we had approached and entered into discussions with ALIEnergy {Argyll, Lomond and Islands Energy} about the funding and installation of a Heat Pump. This would mean installing a system, which would take heat from the ground and link it into our existing under-floor heating and thus reducing heating costs hugely. They have indicated to us that 100% funding is available. Unfortunately ALIEnergy have had some serious staffing issues and things on this front have slowed down. We have made contact with their {at present} only member of staff who is going to be coming down to visit us soon and get up to speed with our case.

## **Birthday Celebrations**

We were involved in the Lottery's 10th Birthday celebrations on the night of Saturday 6th November along with the fireworks and Guy Fawkes celebrations. It was the Lottery who gave us the money for the Hall and we were more than delighted to help them celebrate their birthday! There was an Oatmeal Recipe Making Competition, judged by Bert Baker. The winner was Sarah Fairbairn with oatmeal biscuits, second place Rosie Collinge with oatmeal/peanut butter cookies and third place Alice Clayton who made cherry oat slice.

## **Director News**

It is with great regret that, due to work pressures, Denise has decided to step down as a Director and concentrate on her new business venture which we wish her every success with. Denise has done a huge amount of work for us in her time serving as a Trust Director and I know you will all want to join me in thanking her for all her hard work and enthusiasm that she brought to the Trust. As previously intimated, the Directors invited a Community Consultant down to the island recently to provide us with some Directors' Training. Argyll and the Islands Enterprise funded the visit. The consultant covered various areas of our roles and responsibilities as Directors and of the Trust as a Company Limited by Guarantee. Whilst the consultant was with us he made mention of the fact that the Trust has an enviable reputation throughout the 'Communities' world in Argyll and further afield.

## **AGM**

This year's Trust AGM will be held on 30th December 2004. At the end of this year there will one vacancy for a new director. Any member of the Trust can stand for election. If you would like to put your name forward for election please contact the secretary, Jess Hill, for a nomination form and return it by the 3rd December 04. If it is necessary to have an election then ballot papers will be sent out during the first week of December, along with the agenda for the AGM, giving you 3 weeks to return your vote. The name of the new Director will be announced on 30th December at the AGM.

Donald Melville  
Chairman  
Eilean Eisdeal Trust