

eilean eisdale

The Easdale Island Community Development Group

Newsletter 46, May 2011

Welcome to the new format newsletter

We hope you will find it an enjoyable and informative read.

The island has been basking in sunshine for many weeks now creating a wonderful start to the season. The long cold winter is but a distant memory and the Christmas, Panto and Hogmanay festivities and even the Burns supper seem such a long time ago. The directors continue to work voluntarily yet extremely hard on our members' behalf and we look forward to taking forward projects in the pipeline and continuing consultation with the community with regard to future plans



The 'hellish rabble' football team, 1st January 2011

Planning granted for heat pump and solar PVs

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We are delighted to announce that planning permission was granted in April for the solar PVs and heat pump however the directors were extremely disappointed that the wind turbine application was refused by the planning committee. This was difficult to comprehend when there had been nothing but positive signs from the planners. We remain committed to this innovative and exciting proposal and intend to lodge an appeal.

We are also pleased to say that the first ever wood pellet stove/boiler has been installed on Easdale Island and its new owners are delighted with the results.

This was always going to be a challenging part of the project due to the size of a typical Easdale cottage however good design skills and excellent workmanship by Mike and Iain and their team has created a successful solution. We look forward to more energy efficient appliances making an

appearance on the island and hopefully we will eventually have an annual wood pellet day instead of coal. There has been a lot of background activity over the last few months with Thermal Imaging of the occupied houses taking place plus an air test on one of the houses. We now have the results and will be organising a meeting very soon with participants to show the images and also give away some energy efficient/saving freebies from Scottish Gas. Draught proofing will also get underway shortly. Work is progressing on the solar

powered facelift for the playpark providing a fun educational aspect of the project for the children. The children spent an afternoon with Rob Welch in the hall creating pirate sounds and pictures which will be incorporated into the project. We have also agreed to pay a percentage of the annual Feed In Tariff from the solar PV to the children to spend as they wish. Will this be the youngest committee ever???

The Green Streets project was originally due to run from Jan 2010- Jan 2011 and was extended through to the end of March due to the royal wedding. The 14 projects running nationally will be divided into 3 semi-final events being held over the next few months and Easdale will give its presentation in June at an event in Edinburgh. Three winners will then go forward to the overall final in London to win the prize of £100,000. A meeting is planned with the community to decide how this money could be best spent - see Diary Dates on page 4.



Rob Welch and team working on the Pirate Ship



Artist's impression of information board for the renewable technologies

*an award of
£5,200 towards
a new museum
project
"Easdale Slate:
From Heritage
to Sustainability*

Climate Challenge Fund

The first phase of the monitoring equipment is now installed in the sub station and the second phase will take place once the solar PV and heat pump are installed. This technology will let us display electricity consumption and generation for the whole island. The information board which will be located outside the hall received planning permission in February and the steelwork is currently being made by a local company. A graphic designer is also working on the layout for the signage.



Box of tricks being installed in the substation

Scottish Islands Funding Success

Eilean Eisdeal is delighted to announce a successful funding application to the Scotland's Islands Fund secured an award of £5,200 towards a new museum project "Easdale Slate: From Heritage to Sustainability" which will fund guided walks

around the island and a play by the Walking Theatre Company which will be showcased at The World Stone Skimming Championships in September.

Museum volunteers are currently collating stories and information for the audio

guides and leaflets and would welcome members and residents input. If you have anything you would like to be considered please contact Annabel at the museum.

Tel: 01852 300173

email:

easdalemuseum@btconnect.com

Easdale enters 2011 in style!

Another successful panto by Easdale Island Very Amateur Dramatics had them rolling in the aisles, singing Happy Birthday to a certain lady and also raising over £300 for the community through donations from the audience. The Ne'er Days Ceilidh provided ex-

cellent entertainment and it was wonderful to see so many of our young islanders and visitors up on stage. A huge thank you must go to Tommo for a great job co-ordinating and doing the introductions this year. There were the usual crazy antics in the square for the

New Years Day football match. A great turnout provided plenty of entertainment for both spectators and players. Some great goals and even greater tackles lead to a 4-1 defeat for captain Finn's team. Captain Rory led his team to victory but NOT the pub!



Chives reading the latest Easdale proclamation

Last minute Hall rescue operation



Rory McLeod in concert in the Hall

Swift action had to be taken when the hall floor buckled nearly beyond repair during the winter and would have left the hall unusable. The floor has been getting steadily worse over the last few years caused by dampness seeping in from the back walls where the tanking has failed (more about this later). Due to the design of the floor it required immediate remedial works to save the interlocked panels from constricting and bursting open. This was an extremely time consuming and technical job undertaken at very short notice by Mike and Iain's team but I think you will agree they have done a fantastic job and the floor has settled down very well.

We now need to tackle digging out the back walls and re tanking them to stop the problem reoccurring which it inevitably will. Agreement has been reached with Ghalia for access and permission to dig up her garden and Waseem is currently drawing up a suitable spec for the works involved. We will be undertaking this labour intensive work with a volunteer workforce and we would urge anyone who can to get involved and help. This work is essential to the hall remaining the wonderful building that we know and love. It's not going to be easy and

will involve a lot of hard graft so please, please show your support and offer your time. We hope to start digging out at the end of May and continue over the summer period.

The spring clean went very well and we would like to thank everyone who turned up and helped create a spic and span hall ready for the new season of events.

Funding for the arts program was confirmed last month from Creative Scotland but like all other applications has been reduced due to the recession. We continue to look for

The arts programme got underway at Easter with the puppet show on Good Friday and Rory Macleod on the Saturday night coinciding with birthday celebrations for Voirrey and Lynn. Wee has some interesting and unusual artists lined up for the year and if you aren't already on the arts mailing list we would recommend signing up. Tickets for events can also be purchased online. For more information go to the new hall website at www.easdaleislandhall.org

new and innovative ideas to help fund more events in the hall and would welcome ideas from our members.

Burns Supper

The Burns supper was relocated to The Puffer this year and a very convivial evening was enjoyed in warm surroundings. The evening was chaired by Keren who introduced the speakers for the evening; Mike's Immortal Memory, Kenneth's toast to the lassies,

Elaine's reply to the toast, Jan's Tam O'Shanter and Mellon who addressed the haggis. Our thanks go to Pipers Donnie and DJ McDougall, Colin for his tunes and of course to Voirrey, Sheila and Derek for a beautifully prepared meal.

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Flags and bunting fly for inaugural Easdale RIB rendezvous!

Easdale celebrated on April 29th, but for the RIB rendezvous, not the Royal wedding..... Over 40 RIBs converged on the island for the weekend, hosted by Sea.fari. On Saturday 30th they headed for Colonsay and back for a seafood BBQ at the Puffer. On Sunday there was a choice of destinations including Tobermory and the Garvelochs. Participants from as far as the south of England were delighted by the welcome they received, and the weather certainly showed this amazing cruising area at its best.



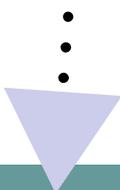
RIBS enjoying the sunshine in the harbour

Harbour News

We have a new Harbourmaster, Kenneth Bryce, who has volunteered to help us run this valuable resource. Kenneth is not on the island full time (yet) but can be contacted by email on harbourmaster@easdale.org



The summer moorings are now in place and we have cleared a lot of rubbish from the bottom of the harbour. We hope to clear all the old moorings remaining on the harbour floor in the next few months.



DIARY DATES

- Sunday 29th May 11am Greenstreets community meeting - what will we spend the money on if we win?
- Saturday 6th August ATLANTIC ADVENTURE DAY
- Sunday 26th September WORLD STONE SKIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Island News



ISLAND MSP!
Congratulations to Mike Mackenzie, who was elected to the Scottish Parliament on the 5th May.



PARTY TIME!

Wee celebrated his half century in style with a party in the hall on the last weekend in April. Friends from near and far joined him to make it a night to remember with a host of musicians taking to the stage throughout the night. "The Chundertones" was the highlight for most as Wee and friends rocked their way through a live set of songs by the Undertones. A brilliant night which continued well in to the 'wee' hours.

NEW ARRIVALS

Skye Macfadyen gave birth to 6 healthy pups after a misdemeanour with Brogan McGillivray. All the pups are now in their new homes with Scarba remaining on the island full time at No.57 and another two becoming part time residents at No.4 and An Lionadh



Scarba

SPORT PRESS

- Calum MacDonald successfully completed the 16 mile Edinburgh kilomathon in aid of Cancer Research UK - well done!!
- Chef Des swept the darts board by winning the Puffer winter darts series, the Puffer Belhaven knockout challenge, and was in the winning team of the McGillivray Cup - wow!

Eilean Eisdeal Directors are:

Keren Cafferty (chair)

Donald Melville (treasurer)

Jan Fraser (secretary)

Iain McDougall

Stephen Carr resigned in January and we would like to thank him for his support, time and effort.

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email: secretary@easdale.org

For information on Eilean Eisdeal go to our website

www.easdale.org.

Information on the Arts programme and ticket sales are on www.easdaleislandhall.org.

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