

Eilean Eisdéal

The Easdale Island Community Development Group
Newsletter 47, September 2011

ATLANTIC ADVENTURE DAY SUCCESS!

Atlantic Adventure Day held on Saturday 6th August has raised over £2,400 and we still have some sponsored swim money to collect. It was a great fun day out for all the family and every one of the competition events was very well supported with entrant numbers for the Aquathon alone up over 150% on 2010. Twenty six swimmers braved the Atlantic chill to swim Easdale Sound from Ellenabeich to Easdale Island and 14 then competed in the run round the island. First man home and winning the Aquathon was Michael Wright from Stirling followed by Neil Morrison from Cuan in 2nd and Sam Cohn from Easdale Island in 3rd. Evelyn Bryce from Hamilton was first lady home followed by Allida Pettie from Dunoon in 2nd and Jan Fraser from Easdale Island in 3rd. The Kayak race was won by Kenneth Bryce from Larkhall with Jan Fraser from Easdale Island in 2nd and Keith Jackson from Easdale Island in 3rd.



Swimmers and Aquathoners after hot soup at the Puffer



'On your marks' for the wheelbarrow race

The Raft Races provided the usual hilarity especially for the gathered crowd and were won by Evelyn Bryce in the 16 and under and Neil Morrison, Simon Fraser and Seamus Morrison in the adults. One hundred ducks of the rubber variety set forth across Easdale Harbour in the annual duck race and No 34 came home first owned by the Hahn family who have just recently arrived on the island. As well as all the water based shenanigans there was also the wheel barrow race, kids race, pet show, Sea.fari 'round the island' trips, stalls and craft fair. In the evening local band "The Antics" entertained us all at the family dance in the hall. The directors would like to thank everyone for helping make the day such a success and especially to all the volunteers who helped run the event. A special thank you to Sea.fari for donating an hour of round the island trips which were a complete sell out and raised £266 and also to The Puffer Bar & Restaurant for a £300 cash donation to cover the band's fee, 2 bottles of Jura Malt Whisky, a bottle of champagne, a bottle of wine and all the sweets and chocolates for the event prizes. The day would not be possible without the continued support of our ferrymen and a massive thanks to Willie and Callum for their help on the day.



Serious competition in the Raft Race!

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Charities Regulator dismisses complaints

The directors are pleased to announce that the Scottish Charities Regulator OSCR have found all complaints against the group to be unfounded. In addition, they have advised Eilean Eisdeal, and other small charities, of measures that can be taken in future to handle persistent complainers and avoid malicious attacks.

Following a detailed investigation by OSCR of a string of complaints including 'ignoring opposition', 'conflict of interest', 'transparency'

and 'maximising the visibility of renewable energy sources' no evidence has been found of serious misconduct in terms of section 66 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the case is now closed. OSCR are publishing their report under section 33 of this Act.

In addition OSCR advised the charity on a number of governance matters such as having a code of conduct for managing conflicts of in-

terest and a policy to address external complaints, which have now been put in place. This advice was also extended to other small charities as learning points to enable them to avoid similar problems.

The directors would like to thank the community for their support throughout this period and now look forward to pursuing the community plan with renewed enthusiasm.

Dennis the Tractor

For those of you who don't know our Fergie tractor was gifted to the community in 2007 by North Warwicks Diving Club who have been visiting the island for over 25 years. It was named Dennis in fond memory of one of their founder members Dennis Johnston who loved Easdale and whose ashes are scattered up on the hill.

Dennis is a great asset to the island and has already proved his worth pulling boats out the harbour, moving large bulky items to and fro and was a great help during the island clean up. He does however require looking after and the odd run now and again if not in use but unfortunately for one reason or another that didn't happen.

When the diving club arrived for their annual holiday in May this year they were disappointed to see Dennis abandoned and not running. Mike Cafferty said he would be happy to take a look at him and after a bit of TLC and help from Chic McAteer Dennis roared back into life and has been seen trundling around the island of an evening.

Eilean Eisdeal are currently looking into getting a shelter for Dennis to protect him from the inclement weather and salt air.



Scottish Gas Green Streets

the solar PV and heat pump are due to be installed starting 12th September

The directors were invited to Edinburgh in June to take part in the regional event for the Green Streets competition. There were three regional events across the UK to accommodate the 14 national projects and from these events 3 projects would go forward to London to compete for the final prize of a further £100,000 to spend on another renewable project for their community. Each community had to make a presentation to a panel of judges and demonstrate how their project had best met the Green Streets criteria. We decided to make our presentation in typical Easdale style and do it as a panto! This was extremely well received by the judges and although we did not get further in

the competition we were delighted that our innovative presentation stole the show! Scottish Gas will continue to support us until project completion. The Solar PV and Heat Pump are due to be installed in the week commencing 12th September and the planning appeal for the wind turbine is currently going through the motions. A reporter has been appointed to determine the outcome of the appeal.





KAN in action

There have been some amazing gigs over the summer; bands such as Kan, The Budapest Café Orchestra and Southern Tenant Folk Union were very well attended and immensely enjoyed and several theatre productions in June received rave reviews from their audiences' especially local group The Three Wee Crows and Mike Maran's Italia n Caledonia. All of our events run seamlessly thanks to our brilliant hall committee, who make sure everyone enjoys themselves.

Check out what's on and buy advance tickets at www.easdaleislandhall.org and don't forget the very popular Easdale Hall Facebook page at facebook.com/easdale.hall

Arts Festival and Exhibitions

Ghalia's inaugural arts festival 'Storm' provided a showcase for a wealth of local talent. The theme was displayed through words, paintings, photographs, sculpture and music by local artists and next year's theme 'Comings and Goings' was decided by those attending.

Ghalia also had her own exhibition displaying new work and David Donnison and Kenneth A Burns also had a very successful exhibition which included many pictures painted on the island. Geoff Heslop exhibited his collection of pastels, in addition to playing with Ribbon Road!



Caitlin McNeill



Ribbon Road



Budapest Café Orchestra

HALL REPAIR UPDATE
 Work will start digging out the back and side wall of the hall in the coming weeks. It will be quite an undertaking but is essential to repair the failed tanking and stop the water leaking through the wall and damaging the floor and electrics again. Many thanks to Ghalia as most of the digging will be in her garden! We would ideally like to have this completed before the winter so that it can dry out before re-tanking is undertaken. We also plan to install a hanging system to make it easier for artists to display their work in future.



Three Wee Crows Theatre
 A Journey through the history of Easdale Island and other legends of Argyle!
Easdale Island Community Hall
Saturday 25 June
 8.30am, 10.00am & 2.00pm, 7.30pm, 9.15pm (return party)
 www.easdaleislandhall.org
 Easdale Hall Charity Number: 300798



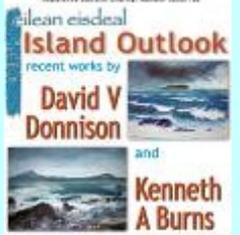
Easdale Island Community Hall
Saturday 2nd July
 8.30am, 10.00am & 2.00pm, 7.30pm, 9.15pm (return party)
 www.easdaleislandhall.org
 Easdale Hall Charity Number: 300798



Easdale Island Community Hall
Fri 8th July: 7.30pm
Sat 9th July: 11.00am
 Exhibition opens 11.00 - 1.00, 2.00 - 4.10
 www.easdaleislandhall.org
 Easdale Hall Charity Number: 300798



Easdale Island Community Hall
Fri 15th July - Mon 1st Aug
 Exhibition preview Fri 15 July 7.30pm
 www.easdaleislandhall.org
 Easdale Hall Charity Number: 300798



Easdale Island Community Hall
Fri 5th Aug - Sat 20th Aug
 Exhibition preview Fri 5 Aug - 7.30pm
 www.easdaleislandhall.org
 Easdale Hall Charity Number: 300798



Easdale Island Community Hall
Saturday 27 Aug
 8.30am, 10.00am & 2.00pm, 7.30pm, 9.15pm (return party)
 www.easdaleislandhall.org
 Easdale Hall Charity Number: 300798

PLAYPARK PLANS

As part of the Green Streets project the playpark has had a renewable energy facelift and is now fun and educational for the kids. A solar panel and tiny wind turbine powers solar lights, fountains, fogger, sensor and amplifier which plays a variety of ocean and pirate sounds. From the comments received so far it seems the kids absolutely love it especially the water fountains! Rob still has some work to do to complete this project and on completion the lights and noises can be programmed to suit the varying seasons. A fun day is planned for the 18th September to link with International Talk Like a Pirate Day and we will look forward to seeing everyone in their best pirate garb to officially open and name the kids pirate ship. The directors have also agreed to give the kids a percentage of the feed in tariff from the solar PV which will soon be installed on the hall roof. The kids will form a committee of their own to decide how to spend the money each year.



the Pirate Ship afloat!

MUSEUM UPDATE

After a very slow start to the season the visitor numbers have picked up significantly and we are now running a fraction over 4% down on last years visitor numbers for the corresponding period.

We would like to welcome Jill Hunter to our group of volunteers and are sure she will prove to be a valuable asset.

New shelving has been erected in the craft sales area increasing the display area by about two thirds. Any islander wishing to sell their craft goods should contact Lynn Noble. Similarly additional shelving has been erected in the office area and we can now see the wood for the trees.

There have been a number of donations to the museum funds through the staff assisting people to search our records for their ancestors. These donations have been given in recognition of the museum maintaining these records and being able to point individuals in the right direction to further their searches.

Thanks to Tommo for gifting the museum a flat screen monitor for the computer, and another monitor to be attached to the slide show computer along with a modern mouse and keyboard - the museum technology has been modernised!

'The Broons' at the World Stone Skimming Championships!

Granpa Broon recommends the Stone Skimming in the new book 'The Broons' Days Out'. We hope to see him competing in the 'old Tossers' category again this year on 25th September.

Again thanks to another part time resident, Alan Hunter, for gifting a case for the slide show computer, which has been upgraded and now recognises the monitor.

Lynn, May, Iain and David Donnison visited the Luing History Group's summer exhibition in Cullipool at the beginning of August and were well received and entertained by Ann Macqueen. The exhibition was well presented and informative and through this we have corrected a few errors in our archives. We saw a very interesting British Pathe Newsreel from 1944 showing a visit to Easdale. Follow the link and I'm sure you will find it interesting, note the accent and the pronunciation of Seil <http://www.britishpathe.com/results.php?search=easdale> Hopefully before the end of the season the museum slideshow will be updated to show achievements on the island in recent years.

DON'T MISS....
The Walking Theatre Company's production
"Skimming the Waves"
The Easdale Slate Play
from Heritage to Sustainability
at the Stone Skimming Championships on the
25th September

DIARY DATES

- Sunday 18th September
PLAYPARK LAUNCH
- Saturday 24th September
Pre-Skim DANCE with the
HOLLOW MOUNTAIN
STRING BAND doors open
7.30
- Sunday 25th September
WORLD STONE
SKIMMING CHAMPION-
SHIPS

Eilean Eisdeal is the community development group for Easdale Island, the smallest permanently inhabited inner Hebridean island. The directors are all volunteers, and rely on their members for support in fundraising to enable us to maintain our magnificent Community Hall and continue the Arts Programme despite cuts in funding. The island Folk Museum and the historic harbour are also owned by the community and managed by Eilean Eisdeal as valuable community assets. We welcome ideas which would help us improve the sustainability of this unique island community.

The current Directors are: Keren Cafferty (chair)
 Donald Melville (treasurer)
 Jan Fraser (secretary)
 Iain McDougall

Our address is:
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 For more 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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