

## **EILEAN EISDEAL UPDATE NUMBER 8 - SPRING 1998**

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

The main thing to report so far this year is the completion of our proposal for renovating the hall, which we drew up as a background document to attract outside funding. Thanks to Laura and Alison for proof-reading, John for the scanning, and all the children who did drawings. Thirty copies of this impressive document are in circulation around various potential sources of funding;- there are also copies in the restaurant and the museum.

After the Burns supper in January which followed our usual zany trend-setting format of which the Bard himself would have been proud, the main function of recent weeks was the Mad March Market, incorporating storyteller Paraig MacNeill and some inspired auctioneering by Mike. This raised around £600 for the hall roof and it attracted a fair contingent from across the water. The only downside of this was that yours truly lost his 27 year old beard in what I sincerely hope does not become a traditional Easdale ritual. Nevertheless the sponsored shave itself raised £210, some of it from as far away as the Philippines! (this email is a great invention). Thanks to everyone who contributed things to sell or helped to flog them, and especially to Helen Simcox for wielding the clippers so expertly! Paraig MacNeill continued in the evening in the restaurant with his own inimitable brand of tall stories. We suspect that Easdale Island has given him plenty of inspiration for a few more.

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

We received a grant of £500 from Forward Scotland, which we hope and believe will be the precursor to greater things. We are looking for £120,000 and so far we have applied to the following organisations and are exploring several more:-

- Pilgrim Trust
- Forward Scotland
- National lottery, community involvement
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- The Esme Fairbairn Charitable Trust
- The Chase Charity
- The Monument Trust
- Historic Scotland
- The Caledonian Foundation
- Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland
- Argyll and Islands Enterprise
- Scottish Office capital grants
- Community Education

Our overtures have been rejected by:

- The Dulverton Trust
- The MacRobert Trusts
- Henry Smith's Charity
- Community Development Foundation
- North British Hotels trust
- The Lankelly Foundation

Special thanks to Dan MacPherson for sifting through the growing heap of paperwork for clues to more buried treasure!!

The accounts are now comfortably in the black after paying off the setting-up expenses, and show that we raised over £4,500 so far since last September.

### ***Forthcoming events***

#### **Sometime in June.**

Jazz on a summers day. Watch this space. Sometime in July. Rhona Mackay, our very own world-famous clarsach player, will give her first-ever recital in the drill hall. Watch this space.

#### **August 15th.**

Coal Weekend. Order your firewood and coal for the winter, and help to bring it over.

#### **September 25th - 27th.**

The festival of traditional music, and the World Stone Skimming Championships. Rumours only..... a craft fair..... another mad auction.....

### ***Become a Director***

All the directors will be resigning this year and you will be electing new ones at the AGM in October. So let's have your nominations by say the end of August. Thereafter at least one director will be changed every year.

### ***Join the Hall committee***

In order to keep the Drill hall running effectively we propose a semi-autonomous hall committee to operate it on a week-to-week basis. We'll discuss it further at the EIRA AGM tomorrow Sunday.

### ***The Constitution***

We have drawn up a draft constitution detailing the working procedures of the Trust. Copies will be circulated for your comments at the EIRA meeting tomorrow.

### ***Become 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 to date are 51 . 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. Paid up friends to date are 20.

***Adrian Laycock***