

## EILEAN EISDEAL NEWSLETTER No.32 - JUNE 2005

*To all Easdale islanders, members and friends*

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A bit earlier than expected, here is newsletter no. 32. We have a couple of reasons for releasing it now as we have the results of the recent questionnaire to report back to you and we also have some news on the Renewable Energy project. I trust that everyone has been enjoying the more decent weather recently and making the most of the longer days, sadly though, we are passed the longest day already but I am sure there are some more fun filled days and nights lying ahead. Here's hoping anyway!

### **Questionnaire Results**

We have counted the returned questionnaire sheets and have the results published below. As a reminder, there were 4 questions as follows;

1. Should the Trust try and get funding to renovate the harbour?
2. Should the Trust work with Argyll and Bute Council towards drawing up a Waste Management plan for the island based around a new refuse store / recycling facility?
3. Should the Trust go ahead towards drawing up plans for a sewage project aiming to provide a means of emptying all septic tanks on the island as required?
4. Should the Trust help the Slate Island Heritage Trust save the museum?

Of the 122 questionnaires sent out, 80 papers were returned, which constitutes 65%. The breakdown of the responses was as per the following table. Thank you to all of you who took the time to respond.

Question number	1	2	3	4
'Yes' answers	96%	84%	78%	93%

### **Renewable Energy Project**

As most of you will be aware, one of the projects on the community plan deals with Renewable Energy {wind, hydro, solar power, etc.} and that we have already opened up dialogue with the local energy company, ALI Energy to progress this. We have been successful in securing £6,110 to pay for a consultant energy firm to investigate all sources of renewable energy for the Hall and for a possible Community Energy Scheme. We are shortly to meet with the appointed consultants to start the ball rolling on this and you may well see them at some point as they go about the island in the course of their investigations. Once preliminary investigations have been carried out, we will be having an open public meeting where the findings will be presented by the consultants to the community and where we will have the opportunity to ask questions of the consultants. The consultants will explain the various sources of renewable energy open to us along with the pros and cons of each and it will be up to the community to decide where we go from there.

### **Hall Events**

Since the last newsletter, the Hall has continued to be used and in fact continues to become busier! The Arts Programme that Fiona has put together for us for this year keeps up the high standard that we have come to expect with many professional groups having entertained us since our last newsletter including;

Russian Classical Jazz from 'Koshka', Community Music Workshops, Jessica Wolfson's Art Exhibition, Rapture Theatre's 'Blue/Orange', Fionna Duncan and Brian Kellock with their unsurpassed Jazz piano and singing, Easdale's own Quartet Macaroon and The Hot Hoof Dance Band and Emily

Smith Band playing traditional songs and tunes, Emily being this year's BBC Young Traditional Musician of the Year. What a voice!

There are of course the various groups' meetings utilising the Hall as well as several over-energetic people 'Getting Fit' whenever the mood takes them but especially Mondays and Thursdays for the ladies! The Teen Café has proven popular with the younger members of the community and continues every month or so and expects to be busy over the summer holidays. The 'Friday Slot' from 5.45pm – 9pm features some of the members of 'Orchestra Macaroon' forming 'Quartet Macaroon', also The Hot Hoof Dance Band with caller Stephen McNally, is taking shape and providing family entertainment for us all, so please try and make it along or over for one of these. For details of these and all forthcoming events, please look on the Hall website at [www.easdale.org/hall](http://www.easdale.org/hall) . We hope to see you there!

### **Joint Voluntary Groups Meeting**

As mentioned in the last newsletter, an open meeting was held on May 14th with representatives from the Trust, the Residents' Association and The Scottish Slate Islands Heritage in attendance. Each organisation briefly explained their various projects, activities and roles and then invited questions from the small {19 people} but eager audience. It was good chance for people to ask any questions they had and afterwards, again, there was a feeling that this type of forum works well and looks likely to continue with a meeting every 6 months or so with the next one being around November this year.

### **Community Events**

Recently Mike and I attended a Renewable Energy Conference on the island of Gigha which had been organised by Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust. It was well attended and was a great opportunity to do some serious inter-group networking. We both made some good contacts and will be able to share experiences and best practise with other groups.

Your continuing support is valued and very much appreciated. Thank you.

Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely

Donald Melville  
Chairman.

Chairman - Donald Melville  
Secretary - Jess Hill  
Treasurer - Annabel Gregory  
Director - Wendy Blakey  
Director - Mike MacKenzie

For Hall bookings contact; Fiona Blakey - Arts Program Co-ordinator

For Hall access contact any one of the above.