



THE HEBRIDEAN TRUST

Newsletter - Spring 2002

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Issue 04

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A group from Dundee College enjoy a visit to the beach at Balephuil

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Treshnish Appeal



Ruined village on Lunga

In our appeal to grant making trusts we aim to match lottery funding to further our objectives for the islands. These include the conservation and stabilisation of archaeological remains, continuity in

monitoring and conserving the nationally important seabird colonies and other wildlife, and minimising the impact of visitors while encouraging the use of the Treshnish Isles as an educational resource for the general public and scientists.

The Treshnish Islands provide breeding habitat for internationally important concentrations of sea birds including guillemots, manx shearwater and storm petrels.



Hynish Centre Web Site

The Hynish Centre now has its own web site. We are proud to be running one of the best



www.hynishcentre.co.uk

accommodation facilities in the Hebrides and want to tell the world about it! A combination of design and quality in the buildings, stunning location and excellent staff is on offer to educational or leisure group organisers.

Today very few schools or training organisations can afford to have their own outdoor activity facilities. At Hynish we provide a range of opportunities, as wide and uninterrupted as the ocean horizons of Tiree, so you can get the most out of your students' or leisure group's stay. On the web site we take the leg work out of organising your trip and show you that distance is no excuse for not visiting Tiree's miles of beautiful Atlantic beaches next summer.

With its long hours of summer sunshine and restful tranquility, Tiree has long been Scotland's best-kept secret, so we recommend you visit before too many people get to hear about it!

College Enjoys Tiree Partnership

Ten years after the Alan Stevenson House was opened, The Hebridean Trust continues to provide opportunities for children from inner cities to experience adventure

holidays on Tiree. Last year school children and young people stayed in the Hynish Centre for 11 weeks during the summer and we are hopeful that there will be even more this year. We asked Dundee College, one of our regular visitors, why Hynish is so special to them:

Dundee College, with 23,000 enrolments, is one of the biggest of Scotland's 43 Further Education institutes, and has enjoyed a long partnership with the Hebridean Trust. The College has been running Special Programmes for 20 years and this unit presently caters for between 80 and 100 students. Since Alan Stevenson House first opened parties of students on these programmes have enjoyed residential visits to Tiree.

"We give careful consideration to these trips and many factors have to be taken into account in making a choice", said lecturer Hazel Reid. "Having been on residential trips with activities organised by staff and instructors we have found that the freedom offered on the island is far better".



"We can explore, cycle, build a fire on the beach at night and make our own entertainment. There are many things we like about Tiree, first and foremost we like Monica who has a very friendly manner and always makes a great hit with our students. They always remember her because she takes time to spend with us - even out of working hours. For young disadvantaged people there is no doubt that a trip to such a place is a wonderful experience. Our students live in the most deprived areas of our city and would never in their lifetimes have this kind of opportunity. We feel it is a very valuable thing to do and hope to continue using the house".

For more information on Tiree and the [Hynish Centre](#) please send us your address for a copy of our full colour Tiree Brochure.

Isle of Canna - St. Edward's Tower Survey



Scaffolding will be re-erected around the tower this spring

It looks likely that St Edward's Centre, Sanday, Isle of Canna, will have scaffolding around the tower again early this spring. The reason is a mysterious leak in the tower during heavy rainfall.

Despite our best efforts we have been unable to trace the problem and so we have decided to bring in outside consultants, Unick Architects.

Our design and building team are working closely with the consultants to get a solution to the problem which will include carrying out a thermographic survey of the building. The survey will establish the sources of water ingress and provide recommendations on how to tackle it. Meanwhile we would like to thank the National Trust for Scotland for their continued help (and patience!) and in particular the NTS warden at St Edward's, Shona Quinn who has provided invaluable support.

The process has been a useful learning experience for all of us. When working on grant funded projects we have to make an assessment of the likely contingency required for unknown costs. Historic renovation work can be risky in this respect and the correct procedures need to be in place to make a realistic evaluation of the level of risk involved. We will keep you in touch with our progress throughout the year.

Isle of Tiree

Sandaig Visitor Numbers up on Last Year

It was a good season at Sandaig museum with donations up by a third on the previous year. Not only does this reflect the busy tourist season Tiree enjoyed last summer but also the enthusiasm of the volunteers and the attractive displays.

Visitors are impressed by the intimate homely feel when they step inside and comment

Access Project

Hynish attracts around 5000 visitors a year, a significant contribution to Tiree's growing tourist industry. People come to enjoy the unspoilt setting.

The restored buildings of the shorestation evoke an era of pioneering industrialism and the romance of one of the world's finest lighthouses some 10 nautical miles from the shores of Tiree. The Hebridean Trust plans to improve public access to Hynish, providing WC facilities (with wheelchair access), a ramp at Alan Stevenson House and much needed car parking space.



Thatching maintenance is required at least every two years at the museum

on how much they enjoy a friendly discussion of local history with our curators. Thatching is always an issue at Sandaig Museum. With the possibility that our thatcher may retire in the not

too distant future we are hoping to contract someone else on the island and are investigating the possibility of providing training.

For more information on Tiree and the [Hynish Centre](#) please send us your address for a copy of our full colour Tiree Brochure.

See end of the newsletter for full details of how to Join the Friends of the Hebridean Trust and the benefits of membership.

Shorestation Development

We are looking towards the next phase of work at Hynish. As well as improving physical access we are proposing to enhance the experience of visiting Hynish by providing a heritage trail with interpretation and renewing the Skerryvore Lighthouse Museum. There is also potential for a visitor's centre, shop and picnic area.



The Shorestation at Hynish is popular with visitors to Tiree

A key part of this renewal will be to renovate the shorestation facilities, which include a unique hydraulic system for cleaning sand out of the harbour.

We invite readers to send us their ideas on how Hynish can be improved for visitors while retaining its character as a township and home to some 12 families.

Progress on Lead Roof at Upper Square

The works to the lead roof at Upper Square are nearing completion, which will allow the interior refit of the dwellings to take place during the stormier months of the year.



Although the property is listed grade A, and the quality of the original work over 150

The new lead roof at Upper Square introduces modern design features whilst retaining its historical character

years ago, is exceptionally high some changes have been included to improve the lifespan of the structure. The original consultation document produced in November 2000 tries to tackle the failings of the original roof.

These include; creep/fatigue (where the lead roof expands and contracts without being able to move freely over the base material, condensation (due to lack of ventilation in the roof void) and capillary/wind driven rainwater penetration (which in combination with the condensation has caused extensive rotting of the roof timbers). All these issues have been tackled within the constraints of matching the original character of the building and the end result is a superb roof that will probably last four times as long as a typical home roof.

Hebridean Trust People



Professor Ian Boyd is a long-standing member of the Hebridean Trust's Council of Management and is our chief environmental advisor. With his father, the late John Morton Boyd, Ian is co-author of "The Hebrides, A Natural History". He has recently moved from The British Antarctic Survey, in Cambridge, to become director of the Sea Mammal Research Unit in St Andrews. The SMRU website contains a wealth of information for research students <http://smub.st-and.ac.uk>

Michael Stanfield is a founder member of the

Frank Brown retired as Honorary Treasurer this year and we have not been able to find a human replacement! The office is now equipped with computerized accounting which Frank insists he is too advanced in life to learn (even though he has family links to Microsoft). Despite the reams of reports that the computer is capable of turning out we shall miss Frank's accounting know how and sage advice.

Editor's note

The Hebrides covers a large geographical area, home to communities separated or joined (depending on your point of view) by wide stretches of open ocean. With a name

Hebridean Trust and Chairman since its inception. Hebridean homeowner for many years he is a member of the National Trust for Scotland Canna Advisory Group. Mike has personally raised millions of pounds towards our projects.

Alan Smith is a founder member of the Trust. His family connection to Tiree goes back to the 19th Century. He is also proprietor of two large media agencies.

David Christie has been a Council member since 1998. He was educated at two of Glasgow's Universities and taught at George Watson's where he acquired a love of hill walking. He is a keen island goer, taking every opportunity to visit the Hebrides. He is Warden (Headmaster) of St Edward's School, Oxford

Ian Rees is Executive Director and Editor of The Hebridean Trust newsletter.

Victoria Fletcher is Project Officer for Hynish. She has an MA in Heritage Management from York University.

Monica Smith is Warden and caterer at **The Hynish Centre** since it opened in 1992 she holds an HND in Hotel Catering and Institutional Management from Queens College, Glasgow.

like the Hebridean Trust we might be expected to be of a comparable size to our geographical remit but the reality is quite different. We are a small organisation with little core funding (this always seems to be running out!) As such it would be a mistake to look at our achievements in terms of the physical impact they have on the region as a whole. Instead we work to carefully target funding at inspiring projects, aiming to raise support for our work and encourage an investment of effort and optimism that goes beyond our own projects.

If we can inspire others then we have achieved our aim. In my short period as executive director of the Trust I have seen many things that make me feel optimistic about the future of the Hebrides and it has been a great encouragement to learn that we are not alone.



On another optimistic and more personal note I am pleased to announce the birth of my daughter, Amanda, in September. As I write she weighs 13lbs and sleeps for about 7 hours during the night!

Amanda, aged 5 months

Celebrating Ten Years of Restoration at Lower Square



The old stables (above) and old storerooms (below) at Lower Square, Hynish, were in a ruinous state before The Hebridean Trust successfully secured funding for their complete restoration



The £1.1 million restoration programme transformed the old stables into housing accommodation and the old storerooms into the Alan Stevenson House activity centre



This newsletter includes photographs courtesy of Michael Stanfield, ARP Lorimer and Associates, Ian Rees, Derek Wolstencroft, and Dundee College

Join the Friends of the Hebridean Trust

We need your support! We invite you to join the Friends of The Hebridean Trust where you will be helping us to conserve the unique Hebridean way of life and environment. Your [membership](#) or [donation](#) can help develop

new projects, to ensure future generations will continue to enjoy a rich and varied experience of life in the Hebrides.



See our pages on [membership](#) and learn more about the other ways you can [help the Hebridean Trust](#).

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