



Here we are at the end of another year, time just seems to pass so quickly! The year has at least been very good for the livestock sector with excellent prices being achieved at all recent sales. I suppose the wet weather has taken the icing off the cake with many people already using up scarce forage.

TRD has had another busy year. I would like to thank all my fellow directors for their hard work - many folk forget that the work we put into running the rural centre and associated projects is time consuming and voluntary - Thank you again.

We welcome several new members, mainly up and coming young crofters, and I urge others to join - membership is now just £10. We have recently been very fortunate to win funding from the Big Lottery Fund to upgrade the ring area into a space for film shows, this will also make the ring much more comfortable on sale days, thanks again to all who voted and encouraged others to vote - you obviously did so in your thousands.

Several projects are on the go under the TRD umbrella; in May we welcomed Frances Woodhead as the Powerdown coordinator, you will have read about all her interesting projects in the Tirsideach and we welcomed Alison Spence as the Access & Conservation Officer, again she has been very busy, and we are seeing some success in managing campers and camper vans, both these projects are funded from outside TRD and bring us revenue in the form of office rental. The cobbled cow has had a terrific year with a tremendous throughput of customers - well done to Elaine and her team.

The centre has been well used by the public for broadband access, meetings book fairs and several other events.

Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year. **Alastair**

Levy 'Fabric' Account

End of year 2008 £2332.36
End of year 2009 £9,085.29

Levy money spent in 2009

£300 for a new pole light at the wooden pens ■

A fantastic £1,245 was raised in 2009 from the sale of Internet Access to the public.

TRD

Annual General Meeting

11th March 09 - 7.30 p.m.

Rural Centre



In June I started working as a Powerdown Officer for the Tirie community. This is part of a wider scheme with similar jobs created in 27 communities across Scotland. My post is funded until March 2011 for 20 hours a week. The project aim is to reduce the amount of energy used by our community through conservation, renewable technologies and behaviour change.

Looking at power use at the Rural Centre and the mart has shown that we currently use more than 34,000 kWh of energy a year at a cost of £5,539. This is the equivalent of seven typical domestic houses! Cost savings identified include changing the tariff (31% saving) and swapping the halogen lights for fluorescents (£400 annual saving). We also hope to install two 6kW grid connected turbines at the Rural Centre with funding from Community Energy Scotland. **Frances**

Other projects on the go are:

Six ways to help us powerdown

- Complete a 'home energy check form' for your home
- Collect your free low energy bulbs
- Borrow a wireless energy monitor
- Pledge to reduce your carbon footprint by 10% in 2010
- Consider renewable energy for your home or business— interest free loans and 30% grants are available
- Visit Frances. Call in for a chat at the Rural Centre or phone 220677 or 07775 354789 or talk to a member of the Powerdown Steering group. Alastair MacInnes, Clare Jones or Ann Kirby.

1. Supporting other community buildings to apply renewable energy funding.
2. An electric car pilot for community use Home energy surveys and advice on grants.

Some energy facts

The average carbon footprint in Tanzania is 0.1 tonnes per person
The average carbon footprint for the UK is 9.4 tonnes per person
The average carbon footprint in Scotland is 12 tonnes per person
Tirie's wind resource is among the best in Europe
Electric vehicles can deliver transport at an energy cost of 15kW per 100 km - five times better than a conventional fossil fuel car. ■

Future Plans for TRD

The TRD directors are always discussing future plans and looking at funding opportunities for projects and ways of improving the livestock market.

There is ongoing discussion looking at finding a way to raise funds to enclose the lean-to, and introduce arc lighting over the pens.

Work continues with Argyll Estates, SNH, Argyll and Bute Council and the Tirie Trust on the further development of Access Management.

The smithy project hasn't taken shape yet but perhaps this is something we will think about in 2010.

TRD as ever welcomes suggestions and requests for development projects which relate to the land and will benefit the community or meet a specific need.

Please do not hesitate to approach the Directors with any ideas you might have. ■

RINGSIDE THEATRE

What a fantastic effort by all (organisers, TV stars and voters) to win the People's Millions/STV competition for funding for the Ringside Theatre Project. The award of £43,000 will be used to upgrade the ringside so that it can be used as a warm comfortable cinema for proper film shows.

Work will involve installing seating and black out blinds, draught proofing and improving the heating system. This project will have the added benefit of improving the ringside for sale days and creating a more flexible space for other events which will bring revenue to TRD.

Croft-to-croft collection of Bale-wrap up-date

Thanks to the continued determination of the TEAR group members, the agri-plastics baler finally arrived in late spring 2009 by which time most crofters and farmers had already disposed of their bale wrap by other means.

The machine has now been tried and tested and an operator has been identified. During the next few weeks an agreement will be finalised with the operator and collections will start in late February.

An up-date on the details of this will be available soon in An Tirsideach.

We would like to thank you all for your patience – for a number of reasons, this has not been the easiest project to get off the ground and we hope that once up and running we will have your full support to make the operation of the scheme a success for the benefit of all.



Dear Customers,

Here we are nearing the end of another year and sadly we are all another year older. As I remember in my article in last year's TRD newsletter, it only feels like a few months ago since it was lambing time and we were all wondering what the lamb trade was going to be like. By now, the Rams will have successfully completed their duties and the cycle is yet again in full swing. One plus point is that we can look back at 2009 and we can favourably remember it as a successful trading year for all classes Cattle, Lambs & Sheep. Stock numbers sold through the ring at Crossapol during 2009 is in keeping with the national trend whereby the sheep & lamb numbers sold has dropped by 16% to around 5200. Cattle numbers has remained steady with only 23 less sold than in 2008. Trade, however, has been very good and it is to be hoped that Sheep numbers will now remain steady.

At the main Sale of Lambs in August, trade on average rose by £13.72 per head whilst the lambs recorded a drop in weight by almost 2½ kilo's. The drop in weight can be attributed to the wet summer and possibly to the increase in Texel Cross Lambs as against Suffolk Crosses as it is generally felt that Suffolk Crosses tend to weigh better. At the September Breeding Sheep Sale, some record prices for the Centre were achieved when Gimmers were selling to £125 and Ewe Lambs to £100. Trade has been exceptionally good in recent weeks for prime Lambs, giving finishers of lambs which were bought earlier, a satisfactory return, thus ensuring that the same finishers should be back to buy store lambs again in 2010 with some confidence.

At the February Sale, Cattle prices rose per head by £130.41 and a rise of £138.03 was recorded per head at the October Sale. There were five four figure prices at the October Sale, the first time in history; this again proves that the quality of the stock offered at the Tiree Sales can compete with any Mainland Centre. Once again, Tiree Stock has attracted a lot of interest out with the Island and I am pleased to confirm herewith that no fewer than 44 different people either bought or received stock during 2009.

I mentioned in my article in last year's issue that we had started Niall MacKinnon, as a trainee Auctioneer. I am pleased to confirm that Niall is coming on very well in his career and although he has only sold once at the Tiree Market, he is selling Prime Sheep most Thursday's at the at our new Stirling Centre.

In July this year, our firm opened a new Livestock Centre at Hill of Drip, Stirling. This new 14million complex is the flag ship of the company which meets all EEC standards and with this complex being the hub of United Auctions, I am pleased the centre is trading exceptionally well with all its pennaage being full to capacity every week since it opened.

The firm has also invested £250,000 in upgrading the Dalmally Market facility. This has also been very well received by its many customers and Dalmally Market is also an up to

date facility meeting all the needs for the foreseeable future.

I trust that you can see from this article that your own Market on Tiree has enjoyed a successful trading year and that your chosen operator (UA) are thriving well at their Mainland and other Island Centres and are continuing investing well for the future. Barring any unforeseeable catastrophes, I am confident that farming and crofting will continue to prosper and reap rewards for all involved.

I would like, on behalf of United Auctions and all the Oban & Local Part Time Staff, to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a most prosperous 2010.

Leis gach deagh dhurachd dhuibh uille

Donald M Morrison.

Regional Managing Director for United Auctions

Thank you TRD



The Tiree Maritime Trust would like to thank TRD for the use of the Auction Ring and ringside area which has provided a fantastic workshop for boat building courses over the past two months.

The venue has been a great success and traditional Tiree boats Daisy and Moraganne are in the final stages of renovation. The final of three courses is scheduled for January.
Tiree Maritime Trust

NOTE FROM THE ACCESS OFFICER

I arrived on Tiree at the end of May to take up the post of Access and Conservation Officer. It was good to be back and the children and I were looking forward to meeting up with old friends. Somehow we didn't manage to get everything done that we hoped as this was one of the busiest summers on Tiree for tourism. The main part of the job was to be out and about promoting Tiree's access guide. This gave me an opportunity to meet many interesting people, some I knew as they were regulars to the island and some that where on their first visit keen to discover more of island life and ways.

From all this talking with visitors and the people of Tiree, the Access Group is hoping to put together a plan for improving access and facilities for all. To help fund this

project we introduced the voluntary parking permit scheme. This operates by purchasing a car sticker for a minimum contribution of £10 with all money going towards the improvements and maintenance of access. As it says in the name, it is voluntary, but it is hoped that the majority of people using these access points will be glad to contribute to the scheme. Indeed when it was launched in October just before the Wave Classic, many of the competitors and crew were willing to part with their cash for something they have long been waiting for. Locals have also parted with their pounds as Gordon Scott can testify. The new car sticker for next year is currently in the design stages and will be available soon.

Another hot topic this summer, not only on Tiree, has been the increase in motor homes visiting the islands. It became evident, that like other places, Tiree does not have the facilities and infrastructure to cope with the influx. After public consultation it was approved that any of these vehicles coming to Tiree must first book a legal overnight parking space. These will be provided by the existing campsite and crofters around the island. Each croft can site 3 motor homes per night from March to October without requiring planning permission. Water and waste disposal will be available at a central point as it would not be feasible to have such on each croft. We are working closely with Calmac on the booking system which will be run centrally. This will make the process easier for crofters wishing to provide land and for the access officer to monitor. It will also bring an added income over the summer months for crofters taking part. It is hoped that there will be enough spaces to meet with demand and no-one should be turned away. By providing this facility and the improved designated access points it is hoped that the natural environment of Tiree will be protected for future generations.

I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to put ideas and views forward and hopefully from next year the people of Tiree and visitors will see these put into place. By continuing to work together we can reach solutions whilst limiting the impact of our actions on the natural environment of Tiree.

Alison

New TRD Scrapbooks

Pop in and have a look at the new TRD Scrapbooks which have photographs, newspaper articles etc from the very beginning of the building project to the present.

