

As we approach the end of another year I am pleased to say that TRD has had a good one.

There have been a number of projects running under our umbrella, the Access Officer post, the Powerdown post, the Community Information post, and the Home Insulation Scheme contract.

Thanks to Frances, Morven, David and Alun for all their hard work - these posts are all financed from other sources and indeed bring TRD a reasonable income, mainly from the use of office space. Thanks also to Shari and Sophie for taking care of all the tedious admin that these posts create.

The cinema will be complete before you receive this and special thanks to Andy and Craig for all the time spent on converting the ring to a comfy venue to watch the films.

The cobbled cow is unfortunately closed at the moment but should be available for rent in the spring.

On the mart front numbers have been fairly consistent with sheep prices buoyant but cattle returns a bit disappointing, anyone buying feed recently will see why buyers have been shy when parting with their money. BVD testing on the island has been disappointingly slow, but at least the Scottish government have taken this in hand and testing will be compulsory by September 2011. Be reminded that if you test before the end of March there is a small financial incentive. (Speak to Pat for more information). Lastly a big thank you to all my fellow directors for all their help and support over the year, and also remind you that the AGM will be held in march as usual and appeal to you to attend and help us run the rural centre as you would wish, no point in sitting on front of the fire and saying, I wish they would do this and that, come out and have your say.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. *Alastair*



Discover Tiree, Tiree Trust and TRD set up a brand new community information Point in the Rural Centre in June. The idea was to provide general information to the public throughout the summer months and also to offer services such as selling dance tickets and taking bookings for businesses. Morven MacInnes, who was our information officer ran the service throughout the summer months. Morven's welcoming helpful manner was a great boost to the rural centre, the service was extremely well received by visitors and by those working in the building who were able to get on with their own jobs without interruptions. The project was such a success that plans are already afoot to organise the same service in 2011 ■

NOTE FROM THE ACCESS OFFICER

My term began in April following in the footsteps of two previous Access officers who, over the last two years, have laid some stalwart foundations. I quickly realised they were going to be a hard act to follow. With the system almost up and running and the season commencing immediately I was grateful that there weren't many loose ends.

Informing visitors how the Isle is dealing with the increase of motor vehicle traffic has not been as exasperating as first perceived, with only a very few miscreants unable to grasp the concept of acting responsibly. Comments given, both verbally and anonymously, have

shown that the parking scheme is largely supported by visitors, and in particular, being greeted on arrival at the ferry or at the information point within the Rural Centre has been appreciated. This also seemed to be a hit with CalMac staff as a lot of pressure, to provide tourist information, was taken off them at their busiest time.

Despite the economic downturn and ferry disruptions there has still been a steady influx of visitors, and although numbers are down on previous years both here and on the mainland, the recent site charges didn't seem to be the over-riding factor.



Some sites have proved to be very popular, in particular, those closest to the Lodge Hotel, I wonder why?

Dialogue Marketing, the Wave Classic organisers were keen to solicit advice with and keep me informed of all their plans, with the competitors and followers staying within the car parks and complying with our strategy of the Machair management. A success, especially for Barrapol Common grazing area.

The upkeep of car parks and signage proved to be quite a challenge with even the "animals" encroaching upon the stobs and "disrupting" rope lines.

Thank you to Crofters and locals alike for proving to be a helpful resource, with information, guidance and reports of visitor numbers and activities around the Isle. Their assistance and general good humour, especially with difficult and large repairs, made this job much easier and enjoyable.

Many ideas have been put forward to help improve facilities on the Isle, some of which have been taken on board and are being considered for funding applications.

This is an ongoing project that will, I'm sure, continue to become more accepted by all as each year passes.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

Regards *David*


TRD Identity



TRD launched its own website this year and also adopted a logo after many years not getting round to it. The web address is www.tireerd.co.uk



A fantastic **£1,370** was raised by TRD in 2010 from the sale of Internet Access to the public. This money will help with the upkeep of the building, provision of toilets and the community information service.





RINGSIDE THEATRE



Can Tiree win its very own Cinema?

This was the question we were asked last year; the answer **Yes** and **It Has!**

In 2009 TRD applied to The People's Millions competition for money to equip the auction ring into a warm comfortable cinema and through a public vote won £43,000.

Work started early this year; the ringside barriers can now be moved, the inside has been made warm and comfortable, cinema seats and lighting are now in situ and we even have our own popcorn machine. Special thanks must go to Andy Philips, Craig Watson and Jim MacDowell who worked tirelessly to get the Cinema up and running.

The doors opened on 29th July when the younger members of our community came in Film Character Fancy Dress to view Alice in Wonderland, enjoyed party food and were judged on their costumes.

The Red Carpet opening followed on 30th July; the community dressed to impress for the



showing of Amelia; champagne and nibbles were enjoyed before Innes MacKinnon - winner of the children's fancy dress - cut the ribbon. Prizes were awarded for best dressed couple – Jo & Mark Vale, best dressed girl – Kirsteen MacKinnon and best dressed boy – Sean Kemp.

After a busy start with almost full capacity for both events 6 more films were shown in August. Since then each month we have had a mixture of matinee and evening films; we celebrated St. Andrew with a wee dram and some traditional Scottish food before viewing the much loved film 'Whisky Galore'. These theme nights are set to continue over the festive season with a showing of 'A Christmas Carol' after some mulled wine and mince pies and finally to round off the year a finger buffet and a glass of wine will be available before the 'Illusionist' (2010).

The Ringside Theatre has been a great success with some good turnouts and others disappointing! This is the community's cinema; we cater for everyone! If you have a film request please make it know to Archie MacArthur, 7, Kilkenneth who will do his best to obtain a copy.

Anne MacKinnon

Festive Films at The Ringside Theatre



The Search for Santa Paws (PG)

(2010) – brand new Christmas film - Magic dogs and an elf team up with two children to rescue Santa who has lost his memory.

Thursday 23rd 4.30 p.m.

A Christmas Carol (PG)

(2009) Starring Jim Carey - An animated retelling of Charles Dickens' classic novel about a Victorian-era miser taken on a journey of self-redemption, This will be shown after a glass of mulled wine and mince pies.

Thursday 23rd 8.30pm

The Illusionist (PG)

(2010) – A well reviewed animation for fans of Jacques Tati about A French illusionist who finds himself out of work and travels to the west coast of Scotland, where he meets a young woman. Their adventure changes both their lives forever. Festive finger buffet.

Tuesday 28th December 7.30 p.m.

Future Plans for TRD

The TRD Directors are busy as usual planning for the future and keeping abreast of current issues, necessary changes and opportunities for land based activity on Tiree! At present there are several projects on the go.

Frances has been working on plans for a small wind turbine to make the Rural Centre more sustainable, more comfortable and to help with carbon reduction on the island. Funding and planning are coming together now and hopefully the turbine could be up and running by late spring 2011.

Following the success of the Access Project this summer and the introduction of the 'Campervan Scheme', the Access Steering Group is looking at possibilities for improving tracks, car parking etc and even perhaps installing some extra public toilets.

Before making any firm plans we intend to carry out a survey on the island to find out what the community's thoughts are regarding the type of infrastructure required and where it should be sited.

An SRDP funding application is being worked on for some improvements to the building and the market. This will include enclosing the lean-to and extending the roofed area over the pens, improving the septic tank, putting a ceiling in the foyer and improving the heating system to make the building warmer.

Work continues with Argyll Estates, SNH, Argyll & Bute Council and the Tiree Trust on the further development of Access

Management and our application for the next two years of for an Access Officer has been submitted.

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 us with any ideas you might have. *Jane*

**TRD Annual General Meeting
9th March 2011**

AGM stands not for Any Gullible Muppet, but for Annual General Meeting. This is the member's chance to come along and hear more about the past year's activities and join the Board of TRD Ltd. It's a very rewarding role running the Rural Centre and all the projects, and there's a project or task for everyone!

You could join the team who clean after every UA Sale, or be called upon to fix and redecorate the building, or join a steering group to help run one of the projects - or just come along to the meetings and influence how we run the company on your behalf. Board but never Boring! The next Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th March 2011 at 7.30pm in the Rural Centre

Clare Jones - Company Secretary

UNITED AUCTIONS

Dear Customers,

Once again we are nearing the end of yet another year and UN fortunately there is no escaping the fact that we are all another year older. Last year, in the TRD newsletter, I remember quoting that it only felt like a few months ago since it was lambing time and our thoughts on what the lamb trade was going to be like, that is all in the past now, having come and gone quicker than ever and by now, the Rams will have successfully completed their duties and the cycle is yet again in full swing.

We can look back on 2010 with one plus point that the sheep trade continued firm although sadly that is not the case with the cattle trade. The escalating costs of fodder and feed coupled with a sluggish end trade for finished cattle dampened the cattle trade to an extent. Stock numbers sold through the ring at Crossapol during 2010 was slightly up for sheep, reflecting better lambing percentages whilst cattle numbers sold dropped slightly by 73 head. However, it was encouraging to see some extra cattle stock being purchased locally this autumn which will help numbers for the forthcoming year.

At the main Sale of Lambs in August, trade on average rose by a further £4.27 per head on the £13.72 increase in 2009 whilst the lambs recorded a drop in weight by 1.1 kilo's. At the September Breeding Sheep Sale, some record prices for the Centre were again achieved when Gimmers were selling to £140 and Home Bred Breeding Rams sold to £520. Trade has been steady in recent weeks for prime Lambs and we would be more at ease if this section of the market would

increase in order to give finishers of lambs which were bought earlier, a better return, thus ensuring that the same finishers would be back to buy store lambs again in 2011 with some confidence.

At the February Sale, Cattle prices rose per head by a further £39 on the £130 rise in 2009 whilst a drop of £68 was recorded in October against a rise of £138 in October 2009. Quality stock were again presented at these sales and despite the downward trend in prices there were some 4 figure prices achieved, this again proves that the quality of stock offered at the Tiree Sales can compete with any Mainland Centres.

Once again, Tiree Stock has attracted a lot of interest out with the Island and I am pleased to confirm that no fewer than 46 different people either bought or received stock during 2010.

I am pleased to confirm that Niall MacKinnon is progressing very well in his career as trainee Auctioneer and, he is continuing to take a very active part selling Prime Sheep most Thursday's at our new Stirling Centre, and at Dalmally Auction Mart.

Our new Agricultural Centre at Hill of Drip, Stirling surpasses all expectations and has been overflowing with stock on many occasions, sometimes we are having to ask customers to carry over stock for a week in order to accommodate them. This complex

which is the flag ship of the company, meeting all EEC standards, continues to draw customers and stock from far and wide.

The investment of £250,000 in upgrading the Dalmally Market facility has also been very well received and stock at this centre has increased for both cattle and sheep.

We completed refurbishing our Islay Auction Mart this year and are pleased to announce that this centre is now all in steel pens and fully meets EEC standards. This completed the refurbishing of all our West Coast markets and they are all trading in very good health.

As mentioned to you in last year's article, I trust that you can see 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, 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 prosperous 2011.

Leis gach deagh dhurachd dhuibh uille

Donald M Morrison.
Regional Managing Director United Auctions

Crofters Levy Fabric Account

End of year 2009 £ 9,085.29
End of year 2010 £11,466.44

Some of this fund may be used for the planned improvements to the market – details of this up-grade and how much of the levy fund should be allocated to it will be on the agenda for the AGM in March.



Tiree Rural Centre used as a case study in European

TRD and the Rural Centre were used at the European Network for Rural Development 'Public Goods and Public Intervention Conference' in Brussels last Friday – as an example of how Rural Development interventions can benefit society. The Network for Rural Development is in charge of making sure that Rural Development in Europe interventions enhance the provision of public goods for the benefit of our society.

Our Rural Centre has been used as an example of how this can be done. A copy of the full report can be obtained from the TRD office for anyone interested. Ring Jane/Shari 220055/677



COMMUNITY powerdown



The Community Powerdown project is now well into its second year. Successes of the year include securing funding to employ a dedicated home energy advisor for Tiree and Alun Jones was appointed on a 10 month contract in June. To date he has made in-depth home energy visits to 53 houses. Advice provided along with changes to lighting and energy saving devices issues have saved an estimated 57.1 tonnes of carbon. Well done to everyone on Tiree who has changed a light bulb or taken some other action to help achieve this.

We have been making progress with microgeneration for our community buildings. 95% funding is secured for a 10kW Westwind turbine and solar thermal hotwater for the Rural Centre and some accompanying electrical heat storage. We hope that this will be up and generating power by the end of March. The system will provide an income to TRD through FITS as well as providing for a warmer building that is cheaper to run. An Talla and the Golf Club have planning applications in and Tiree Community Business will be submitting theirs soon.

In October we secured the Home Insulation Scheme contract to visit every home on Tiree and refer people for free loft top ups and other heating measures. We have been surprised by the number of homes

with lofts and eagerly await the contractors visiting Tiree to complete the work identified.

The DIY solar panel course scheduled for November was fully booked but had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the ferry not getting in. The course has been rescheduled for March and will also provide a workshop with both Tiree High and Primary School.

Other events planned for the New Year include a green cinema night, a crofters wind information swap and an ecodrama event working with the School eco-committee. We are also working with the West Highland Housing Association who are looking at energy efficiency of all their houses.

Powerdown is due to come to an end in March 2011. However it has recently been announced that the Climate Challenge fund has been awarded a further 13.2 million pounds to continue '*community led action on climate change*'. Community Energy Scotland will be making a bid to continue Powerdown and we have indicated that we would like to be part of this.

Contact the steering group members Alastair and Clare or Frances or Alun with any ideas for powerdown projects you would like to see be part of a bid to continue.



LETTERS

Ruaig
Isle of Tiree

Rt Hon James Paice MP
Secretary of State
Defra
Nobel House
17, Smith Square
London

Dear Secretary of State,

My friend, who is in farming at the moment, recently recieved a cheque for £3,000 from the Rural Payments Agency for not rearing pigs ...I would now like to join the "not rearing pigs" business.

In your opinion, what is the best kind of farm not to rear pigs on, and which is the best breed of pigs not to rear? I want to be sure I approach this endeavor in keeping with all government policies, as dictated by the EU under the Common Agricultural Policy.

I would prefer not to rear bacon pigs, but if this is not the type you want not rearing, I will just as gladly not rear porkers. Are there any advantages in not rearing rare breeds such as Saddlebacks or Gloucester Old Spots, or are there too many people already not rearing these?

As I see it, the hardest part of this programme will be keeping an accurate record of how many pigs I haven't reared. Are there any Government or Local Authority courses on this?

My friend is very satisfied with this business. He has been rearing pigs for forty years or so, and the best he ever made on them was £1,422 in

1968. That is – until this year, when he received a cheque for not rearing any.

If I get £3,000 for not rearing 50 pigs, will I get £6,000 for not rearing 100? I plan to operate on a small scale at first, holding myself down to about 4,000 pigs not raised, which will mean about £240,000 for the first year. As I become more expert in not rearing pigs, I plan to be more ambitious, perhaps increasing to, say 40,000 pigs not reared in my second year, for which I should expect about £2.4 million from your department. Incidentally, I wonder if I would be eligible to receive tradable carbon credits for all these pigs not producing harmful and polluting methane gases.

Another point: These pigs that I plan not to rear will not eat 2,000 tones of cereals. I understand that you also pay farmers for not growing crops. Will I qualify for payments for not growing cereals to not feed the pigs I don't rear?

I am also considering the not milking cows business, so please send any information you have on that too. Please could you also include the current Defra advice on set aside fields? Can this be done on an e-commerce basis with virtual fields (of which I seem to have several thousand hectares)?

In view of the above you will realize that I will be totally unemployed, and will therefore qualify for unemployment benefits. I shall of course be voting for your party at the next general election.

Yours faithfully

Alastair MacInnes