

COLONSAY AND ORANSAY HERITAGE TRUST

Minutes AGM Tuesday 27th June 6.30pm

Directors present: Dave Binnie, David Hobhouse, Katie Joll, Keith Rutherford, Esme Marshall, Donald (Pedie) MacNeill, Carol MacNeill and seventeen members.
Apologies: Dannie Onn and Mary Carmichael

- Tea and biscuits to welcome
- Chair's report from Dave Binnie

The Board has remained stable over the past year, with no changes in directors: David as Vice chair, Katie taking over as Treasurer from Keith, Keith as membership secretary, Carol as secretary, Esme and Pedie on the Board. We have a strong membership with over 50 island members and have now introduced life membership.

Everything has changed for the Trust with the generosity and vision of Baptist Church members - Netta and Irene - who offered us the responsibility for the church and its future when members had dwindled to three. This has been a major boon for us: fulfilling our aim for a dedicated centre, providing much more space, storage and facilities as well as an opportunity for future development. Our intention is that the building could still be used for occasional church services in special circumstances.

We had great volunteer response to getting it decorated and set up in time for Easter opening and change of use has been well received. We thank everyone who helped make it possible, and also Colonsay Estate for the use of the Generator Shed at Port Mor over the past five years: a great catalyst in promoting the work of the Trust.

As a consequence of our move we don't intend to proceed with our HLF reapplication, in partnership with Ulster, although we will maintain links for the future.

Other projects over the past year:

- Preservation of Oransay graveslabs, in conjunction with Frannie Colburn and Historic Environment Scotland.
- With grant funding we have produced an information panel to compliment the priory leaflets.
- Pedie has begun collating oral recordings, with the help of Niall Brown.
- We have offered a series of walks and illustrated talks as part of the spring and autumn festivals.
- The church was used as a workshop venue during the spring festival, proving very popular - a useful revenue stream for the future.

Our future plans revolve around renovating and restoring the church, with grant funding, to promote and preserve our collection. We thank Dannie Onn for his structural survey report on the building. With help from Elaine McChesney, curator of Campbeltown Museum, we have developed a three stage plan for the future.

We also thank all those who have donated artefacts, photographs and financially: the McConnell family bibles, George Ward cup, Walter Williams' bellows amongst many other items. A special mention to Christine McNeill who raised £600 for the Trust from her sponsored walk.

- Treasurer's report
Monies in bank £12936, of which £8000 restricted for fabric maintenance and £800 for future training, outstanding bill £561.

Keith brought our membership figures up to date:
14 new members, 43 life members, 30 ordinary annual, 9 honorary and 5 associate annual members, giving a total of 87.

- Election of directors

All directors stood down but were happy to stand for re-election. From the floor, Diane Clark was welcomed to the board. Dilly Emslie expressed an interest in joining us on future projects. At a future meeting of the board the constitution will be examined to consider the desirability of increasing the number of directors.

- AOCB none

- Short presentation

Dave's illustrated talk took us through recent refurbishment of the church and all the community support we had to achieve our Easter opening. He then took us on a pictorial trip round to the church from Scalasaig, taking in some of the less well known sites on the island.

- DONM (to elect office bearers) Monday 10th July, 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8pm.