

HARRIS MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 2021/22

Tarbert Community Centre – Staring Again

For obvious reasons 2021 was a very lean year for the Community Centre and, although some restrictions were relaxed during the year, we were still very limited as to what activities were allowed. The main income for the Community Centre comes from public events including weddings, but due to the maintained social distancing and the ban on public gatherings, we were not able to host any events of this kind in 2021. The Handmade Harris craft markets are also an important source of revenue, but again due to social distancing they were very much limited in numbers for traders and customers.

Spring of 2022 is now looking far more promising as the restrictions are hopefully being completely lifted as of the 21st of March, meaning we can host larger events and enjoy reinvigorated Handmade Harris craft markets for both traders and visitors.

It was excellent to see the Scottish Opera so well attended last week.

On a tremendously positive note though, we have secured funding from CNES to cover the complete cost of the replacement of the Community Centre roof which has been deteriorating for a number of years now and having a detrimental effect on the good work the committee has been doing on the interior of the building. This, together with the award of £8k from Crown Estate funds last year and a potential similar amount from the Robertsons Trust, means that this year we should be able to complete the renovation of the TCC. A huge thanks to Peter Kerr and HDL for achieving this for us.

We have a lot of work to get a construction contract in place by 22nd of March to secure the funding.

Any surplus (and additional specific funding applied for) will be used to ensure we continue to meet existing and new regulations for the building and install insulation, solar panels etc in a bid to reduce our ever increasing energy costs. As part of the vision for our future we should include making the building more sustainable for future generations by investing in renewable energies and technologies.

Finally, as Gordon mentioned in his last report, recruiting additional committee members/helpers continues to be a high priority.

To Conclude, Gordon decided to stand down from his role and from his membership of HMIA in 2020 and the current committee would like to thank him for the work and effort he put in throughout his tenure as Chair of HMIA. I have assumed the role of Chair of HMIA as of last year.

Doug Blake

HMIA Chairman

01/03/22