

HARRIS MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – 2022/23

Tarbert Community Centre – Getting Back to Normality

As of March this year we finally saw a lifting of the remainder of Covid restrictions and it wasn't too long until our calendar started filling up with regular bookings again. It was lovely to see the various toddler and parent groups back, after school clubs, Markets, the Harris Army Cadet group, Community Cafes, Band practices, Children's Annual Fun Days, the Harris Ceilidh Dancing Club, Zumba & Yoga Classes, to name a few!

In our previous report we gave details about receiving funding for a new roof! This work was extremely essential, very urgent and without it we would no doubt have seen a huge deterioration in the building. Neil Mackay's were successful in their tender application and we are pleased to say that work was completed very efficiently in September 2022!

Rising electricity costs have been our biggest hurdle during the latter part of last year. We are currently looking to upgrade all of our remaining heaters to more cost effective and eco-friendly ones and we are also looking into solar panels as well as extra insulation where possible.

Two other improvements to note for 2022/23 were a complete upgrade of our Fire Safety and Alarms system and the refurbishment of our main hall floor.

This last year has been extremely busy, not only with regular bookings and private functions, but with large community events too. Some of our highlights were, the Sir E Scott School career's Fair, the Scottish Opera (which was a sell-out), *The Whalers of Harris* Book Launch, Eabhal's Album Launch, a lovely local wedding, various film crews and famous faces, Flavour's Hebridean Fine Food & Drinks Festivals and the introduction of our Children's birthday party rate.

As with most committees and organisations, we have had our fair share of struggles in finding new members and volunteers to join us. After a slow and steady reduction in numbers over the past few years, we are pleased to say things are starting to look up! We now have a few regular volunteers to

help us with community events as well as a new addition to our committee. We would welcome anyone new who would like to join us to come forward and either be a part of our committee or our group of regular volunteers.

To Conclude, Doug unfortunately had to resign in his position as Chairman and from his membership of HMIA in 2022. The committee were all equally sad to see Doug leave but he did promise to volunteer for some bar duties at future events. The committee would like to express their thanks and appreciation for the excellent contribution that both Doug and his wife Kate had made to the activities of the HMIA and the management of the hall over the past few years.

I have assumed the role of Chair of HMIA as of last year.

Heather Campbell

HMIA Chair

27/3/23