

# HARRIS MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – 2023/24

### Tarbert Community Centre – The Year of the Community Fund

What a year it has been and what a start to 2024! This January saw the most amount of snow I think Harris has seen since 2003? It made for a very beautiful looking Community Centre garden, however, the following collection of gales were not as enjoyable.

Tarbert Community Centre was host to many large events this past year including a Macmillan Coffee morning, Pensioner's Afternoon Tea, a wedding, various community consultations, a jam packed Jumble Sale and biggest of all, the launch of The Hearach! Solus Productions returned to wrap up filming for their second series of "An Clo Mor", there was the annual Children's Mod, Careers Fair, Butt to Barra charity cycle group, Rionnagan Og fun days, Hebridean Fine Food & Drinks Festivals, HVS Charities Fayre, our Christmas Dance and many more.

The Tarbert Day Centre started up again after success in finding a new volunteer and the North Harris Bowls group was established in November. It's been lovely to see both of these groups use the Community Centre and bring with them a new set of faces.

Following on from our new roof, brackets were installed last summer in preparation for new Solar Panels and we are confident that we will be successful in gaining the funding required to complete this work as soon as we are able.

Due to an error on our end, last year's Chairperson report wasn't published publicly. Here are the main points worth mentioning;

- New Roof - completed in September 2022
- Fire Safety Upgrades – a new Fire Safety and Alarm System was installed in December 2022
- Sanding and Varnishing of the main hall floor – completed January 2023

We invested in a brand new cooker at the start of last year which was installed in March. It was a much needed upgrade and has hopefully improved the facilities for all those using the kitchen.

Comfortable seating had also been on our list for quite some time so brand new padded chairs were purchased this summer and have been a welcomed addition to the hall facilities. More improvements on the agenda for this year are;

- Painting of all interior walls
- Replacing soundproofing on the stage walls
- Upgrades of stage lighting and equipment
- Improvements to the garden area
- Upgrade of the main hall heating system
- Community Classes/Skills Workshops

Finally, and most exciting of all, was the addition of our Community Fund at the end of 2023. For the last 6 years or so our main focus has been on essential upgrades, all of which were extremely costly. Thankfully, we are coming to the end of our list and with regular income from regular bookings we are now in a position to be able to give something back to the community. Harris Mutual Improvement Association will always be a charity itself and we will always rely on regular bookings and fundraising to run and maintain the Community Centre. However, it's important to us to continue to give back when we are able to. With our own fundraising efforts at the end of last year, along with an extremely generous donation of £1,250 from the Isle of Harris Distillery from their launch event, we were able to waive fees for other charity events, school dances, annual fun days and help with the purchase of start-up equipment for the new North Harris Bowls Group.

As always, we would welcome anyone new to come forward to either be a part of our committee or our group of regular volunteers and we will always take on any new suggestions or feedback. Community is key, and with the help of the community we could put on many more events and activities to be enjoyed by all ages.

To conclude, I'd just like to thank the committee of HMIA for their hard work over this past year. As with all small committees, the workload per person is challenging at times but we thank them sincerely for keeping Tarbert Community Centre going and for all the improvements that have been made so far.

## **Heather Campbell**

HMIA Chair

05/2/24