

The Glendale Trust has made considerable progress over the last twelve months in implementing the business plan that was published at the inception of the Trust.

I want to begin my report by placing on record my thanks to all the directors of The Glendale Trust over the last twelve months. All have made a contribution to developing the trust and the one thing that has particularly been evident has been the high degree of teamwork shown.

I am glad to say all of the eligible directors have offered themselves as available for re-election with the exception of Ocean Graham. I am sure everyone would like to join me in thanking Ocean for all her efforts over the years and I am glad to say that although we are disappointed that Ocean will not be standing for election this year she remains a strong supporter of the trust and amongst other things she will continue to produce the Trust newsletter, a task she has done particularly well in over the years.

All of the retiring directors were elected at the previous AGM with the exception of Fay Thomson who was co-opted by the director's post the AGM.

Whilst all directors with the exception of Ocean are offering themselves for re-election Ewan McLay has also indicated to us he will however be stepping down from the post of Treasurer. Again I would like to thank Ewan for all his efforts he has been a most reliable and trustworthy treasurer a real credit to the organisation.

I would also like to thank the many volunteers who have willingly given their time, either directors, members of the project groups, trust members or supporters. It has been gratifying to see the community working together for the common good.

The Glendale Trust belongs to you the members. Please get involved in any way you can in our work. We are an inclusive trust and all are welcome to play their part. Members can do that in a variety of ways and we would be delighted to see members volunteering to join the project groups and indeed to become directors.

It is your community company.

There has also been a good level of co-operation with The Glendale Hall and we have continued to work together where appropriate and for mutual benefit.

One of the most pleasing developments was the establishment of a Heritage exhibition, cafe, gallery and bookshop in Borrodale School over the summer of 2010. The success of the pilot project is a clear demonstration of the attractions of developing a permanent facility to showcase the rich heritage of Glendale and its people.

We continue to develop plans to create a permanent facility but in the meantime we are currently negotiating facilities for 2011 with an aspiration to mount a heritage exhibition and cafe, gallery and bookshop undertaking from Easter 2011 until the end of September. It is important that we develop from our initiative in 2010 and we aim to specifically focus on genealogy in 2011 as well as attracting visiting exhibitions, something we are currently exploring.

Perhaps the highlight of the heritage exhibition was the Homecoming Weekend when there was a range of activities and indeed something for everyone. This will be repeated in 2011 over the weekend of the 22-23rd July and the programme will be announced in due course.

We are also collaborating with the Isles Book Trust in Lewis and our first joint venture will be a conference on the Land Struggle in both Skye and Lewis in the 1880's which is to take place on the 15-16th April 2011.

A particular desire of the trust is to create employment in Glendale and that was a particular success with the cafe that we employed two people on a full-time equivalent basis from end June until the middle of September. It would be our intention to employ two full-time staff for the 2011 season.

We are also delighted that HIE and LEADER agreed to fund a project officer to be employed by The Glendale Trust for the benefit of the whole community of Glendale, a post that commenced on the 1st December 2010 for an initial twelve month period.

There have been many other initiatives over the last year. The environmental project group continues to make progress and has been active in offering support in the creation of solar panels as well as supporting an audit of energy use and publicising the government's availability of support for home insulation amongst other things.

Whilst not being the main aim of the trust providing social activities in Glendale has also been something we have embraced and we are delighted that so many attended the recent Burns Supper where we were fantastically entertained with good food, fine speeches and great singing. It was a night that seemed to be much enjoyed. Our events at the pier, for which we are grateful for the support from the Glendale Estate seem to have become increasingly popular, both the mid-summer event and the Hogmanay gathering.

The aim is to make the trust self-financing and that should become a reality as we develop our income streams over time. In the short-term we have received funding from Highland Council and other personal donors that we are most grateful for.

Finally thank you to our members and supporters for participating in our events and activities over the past year.

Ian Blackford
19th February 2011