

Update 3: October 2005

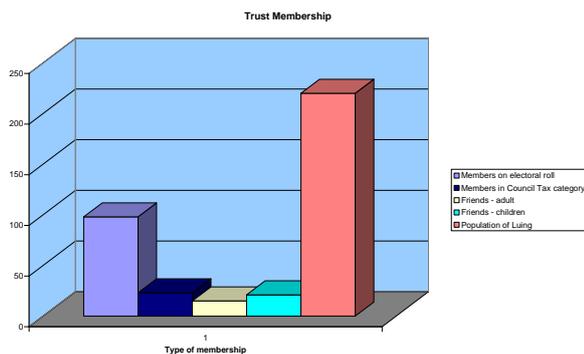
Making haste slowly!

It seems a long time now since the Inaugural General Meeting of the Trust at the end of May. A few days after that, the newly elected directors held their first meeting to complete the formalities of setting up the Trust Company, but since then the larger Management Committee, consisting of the Directors and six others, has met six times. In between meetings members of the Committee have undertaken further work towards achieving our aims. Perhaps little evidence of all this has been noticeable to the rest of the island – unless you have been reading the copies of the Minutes that appear from time to time on notice boards around the island! So it is now time to report directly to you all on where we now are.

We are deliberately proceeding carefully. The financial implications of mistakes are too serious for us to proceed with undue haste. Much of the work is sensitive – clarifying legal positions of various kinds - and all done within the time limitations of a group of volunteers. In order to proceed with major grant applications, we have to have formal valuations of the assets involved – an expensive process in itself, for which a separate grant had to be applied for (see below)!

Membership

This now totals 117 Members and 36 Friends:



New Grant Awards!

The Trust has been awarded a grant from the **Community Animateur Scheme** (yes, spelling correct!) to fund a number of tasks until February. We have already been able to find a minuting secretary for Management Committee meetings (Linda McGregor), and have made good progress towards web-site development (Rosy Barlow). We have funds to fill the post of editor for the next two issues of Update. Also for someone to lead fund-raising for the Trust; this is a most important role, as the continuation of the other roles depends on that!

We have been able to purchase a colour laser printer for Trust use, and this Update has been printed using it. The Trust is happy for other organisations on Luing to use this, and will be looking at the costings for such use in the near future. Please contact Alastair Fleming for further information.

Another successful grant application has enabled the Trust to have necessary valuations done on various pieces of land and on mineral rights. The latter was a particularly expensive exercise. At this time we still await the results of these valuations.

Wanted!

Editor for Update for the next two issues, please contact Dawn McKenzie as soon as possible.

Fund-raising co-ordinator: please contact Simon Breasley as soon as possible.

(Simon: please alter and extend this section! Rosy has heard about the Update Ed role, and Mike says she may well be interested. If so, we can take out the ad for that. Can you shape up the fund-raiser ad.?)

Donations and Gift Aid

The Trust has recently established with the Inland Revenue that subscriptions and donations to the Trust are eligible for the Gift Aid Scheme. All Members and Friends will be contacted by Fumiko Miller in the coming weeks to ask them to complete a Gift Aid form, if they are income tax payers, that will enable the Trust to reclaim income tax paid on subscriptions and donations. This could amount to several hundred pounds each year – a welcome help to our funding.

Sub-Groups

An important aspect of the Trust's Rules is the ability for many other groups on Luing to become sub-groups of the Trust, and in this way achieve the benefits of charitable status without having to go through the process of achieving that status. The main requirement is for the aims of any group to be consistent with the charitable aims of the Trust.

Luing History Group is the first sub-group to be formally approved as a sub-group. Because the formation of the Trust itself was so closely tied to the museum plans of the History Group, the Rules of the group had to be carefully drawn up. For other groups this part should be much easier, once their aims have been written in such a way as to come within the aims of the Trust. A major aspect of this scheme will be the ability to come within the planned insurance cover for the Trust as a whole.

Luing Horticultural Society is expected to be the second sub-group. The Trust has written to all the existing groups and societies on Luing (at least, all the ones the committee know of!) to invite them to consider this relationship for themselves.

Development Trusts Association

The Trust has been accepted as a provisional member of the Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS), which in turn is part of the Development Trusts Association UK. We have a year's free membership as provisional members, which has to be firmed up into full membership next year, with a subscription (very reasonable!). As members we can get advice, access to insurance tailored to our needs (especially useful for sub-groups!), training among other benefits. The Management Committee have already had a Director Training session provided by the DTAS Trainer, Wendy Reid, who visited us in early August.