

## **The Islay Winter Colloquium Friday 26 to Sunday 28 February 2010 Port Charlotte Youth Hostel.**

You are cordially invited to take part in a weekend of discussions, talks, walks and wildlife watching based at the Port Charlotte Youth Hostel on the shores of Loch Indaal. It overlooks a sandy beach with abundant bird life and great views across to the eastern hills of Islay and the Paps of Jura.

The weekend is likely to include:

- 'Names and concepts and how we perceive the world' – a short talk by Bill Eddie followed by discussion.
- A follow-up discussion on 'The Boundaries of Experts' led by Gordon Peters and one about our developing links with the International Futures Forum.
- One or more visits to the RSPB Bird Sanctuary at Loch Gruinart where thousands of geese and other birds will be wintering.
- 'Zen and the Writing Life' by Peter Matthiessen. An audio recording of an audience with the famous American author of *The Snow Leopard*, recorded at the San Francisco Zen Center. This is a superb recording which should be an ideal catalyst for discussions.
- A possible visit to the lovely village and bay of Portnahaven.
- 'Travelling Light - 50 years of Stravaiging' a talk by Jim McCarthy following the example of Kenneth White's Way-books including some thoughts on a philosophy of travel, plus discussion.

The Youth Hostel has excellent kitchen facilities and a spacious dining area for us to meet in addition to being ideally situated next door to local amenities (restaurant, pub, the Islay Natural History Centre and the Museum of Islay Life). This means we will all be in the one place rather than dispersed to local B&Bs. A breakdown of the rooms/beds is as follows: 2 rooms take 2 people, 1 takes 3, 3 take 4, 1 takes 5 and 1 takes 6, a maximum of 30 beds in total. The rooms are not en-suite but there are wash hand basins in every room and plenty of showers and toilets. The allocation of rooms will be on a 'first come' basis and we will have exclusive use of the Hostel for 3 nights.

The total cost per person for the 3 nights will be £70 if 10 people come, and proportionally less if more come. **Please send £20 deposit by return to Bill Eddie at 20 (2F2) Gosford Place, Edinburgh EH6 4BH). Your cheque should be made payable to William Eddie.** We will notify those coming of the balance which will require to be paid not later than 14 January and send them a draft programme for the weekend. The short timescale is because we require to pay the full rental cost of £790 to SYHA by 15 January, so an alternative would be to pay the full £70 now and we will refund any reduction once we know how many people are going.

It costs £69 for a car (which we will arrange to share) and £12.35 per passenger return on the Calmac ferry from Kennacraig, south of Tarbert, to Port Askaig which leaves at 18.00 on a Friday arriving at 20.05, or 07.00 and 13.00 on Saturday, arriving at Port Ellen at 09.20 and Port Askaig at 15.05 respectively. There's a return ferry on the Sunday at 15.30 from Port

Askaig arriving at Kennacraig at 17.35, and at 9.45 and 15.30 on the Monday.

We hope you can join us for an informal and relaxing weekend with lots of wind and waves, birds and distilleries (though not necessarily in that order).