

SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

Still on the Climate Change scene—all the indications are there—glaciers cracking up and weeping like a jilted lover—icebergs proliferating like rabbits, and Antarctica fraying at the edges. Yet here, in our neck of the woods one could well be forgiven for thinking that we were well on the way to the next Ice Age, given the winter we have just had to endure. Snow which used to disappear by lunchtime, following the fall has been hanging around for days on end. And we have not had the worst of it—other parts of the country have borne the brunt of it, and northern USA has had an exceptional dose of the cold white stuff. The poor old daffodils and crocuses don't know whether they are coming or going. Roll on a bit of Global Warming.

Owing to the late arrival of Community Council news, this issue is a bit topsy-turvy, so apologies to any traditionalists who might be upset by the changes.

HALL NEWS

The Opera Night was a great success and raised £900. As a result of this it was noted that the Large Hall could accommodate 120 seated comfortably at tables, 150 in chairs on rows, and the maximum for weddings being 160— Any prospective brides and grooms, please note.

LOTTERY RESULTS

February	March
£75 Rollover	£100 Sandra Melville
£10 Paul Drew	£10 Jean Bisp
£10 Charles Struthers	£10 Alan Liprot
£10 Alistair MacFadyen	£10 Richard Allan

OBAN HOSPICE FUNDRAISER

The event which took place at Dalanasaig in December 2009 realised £620 and this was boosted by a collection made in the T & T in February which raised a further £70. The organisers feel that it is important that people have their donations acknowledged and for the community to be aware that the provision of a Hospice in Oban is still the aim of the Friends of Oban Hospice Fundraisers. Jean Campbell

EASTER SALE - Saturday 3rd April

The first Easter Sale at Seil Island Hall was a great success, despite the bad weather. The event was run by Seil Natural History Group in conjunction with Argyll Animal Aid.

There were seventeen stalls with other local groups represented, including North Argyll Volunteer Car Scheme, The British Legion and Easdale Primary School. There were many bargains to be found, the highlight being a working TV/DVD/VCR and stand all for £10.

There were light lunches, coffee and teas provided with a raffle. At the end of the day the two groups raised nearly £600 towards their funds and projects. Consequently this is likely to become an annual event here at Seil Island Hall.

FESTIVAL OF THE SEA – May 21st – May 31st 2010

The Scottish Government and Scottish Association Marine Science (SAMS) are running a week long event in the Oban area, from May 21st – 31st 2010. This will be a celebration of Argyll's amazing marine environment., entitled " The Festival of the Sea" including walks, talks, films, drama, exhibitions, open days and much more.

Seil Island Hall will host two events during the week :-

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SATURDAY 22nd MAY 2010 from 19.30 hours in Seil Island Hall :-
Songs of the Sea: a Journey in English and Gaelic

Mod Gold Medallist Mairi MacInnes will be accompanied by acclaimed composer and musician Mark Sheridan and Isle of Luing poet Norman Bissell in presenting extracts from The Flight of the Arctic Tern, which features an epic emigrant journey to Australia by sailing ship, and the whole of The Atlantic Islands Suite, a Hebridean journey of self discovery which premiered last year on Luing and at the Belladrum Festival.

The Flight of the Arctic Tern: "This powerful blend of story, music, sound effects and images is his best yet. ... There could not be a more appropriate show than this to capture the very essence of what Homecoming means to the Highlands and it is bound to strike a resonant chord wherever it plays." Northings HI-arts Journal.

The Atlantic Islands Suite: "The quality of the rapport between poet and musicians brought out the warmth, intelligence and supple sensitivity of Norman Bissell's work, and provided a memorable experience for the audience of islanders and visitors." Northings HI-arts Journal.

Ticket price :- £10/£8 concessions

SUNDAY 30th MAY 2010 from 11.00 hrs to 21.30 hrs in Seil Island Hall

TALKS

11:30 'Seas our Future' by Mark Carter.

14:00 'Argyll Marine Life – a divers view' by Trevor Davies.

16:00 'Fishing Around in the Dark' by Dr John Gordon.

18:00 'Seabirds of the Firth of Lorn' by Richard Wesley.

20:00 'Whales, Whirlpools & White-tailed Sea Eagles' by David Ainsley

DISPLAYS

Display by Slate Islands Heritage Centre

Display by SAMS

Display by Sea.Fari

Display by Sealife Adventures

Admission by donation

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For further details contact Richard Wesley on 01852 300388 or check out the Seil Island Hall Community website on :-
<http://forargyll.org/seil>

ISLE OF SEIL GOLF CLUB

The club has invited current members to renew their memberships for the year commencing 1st April 2010. The first monthly medal will be held on the weekend of 11-12th April. It is therefore an appropriate time to invite all members of our community to consider either joining as playing members, or supporting our activities as non-playing members (supporters). We also invite local businesses to participate as sponsors. There are currently 3 types of sponsors: Playing sponsors enjoy full membership benefits, non-playing sponsors pay a reduced fee and can advertise their services on the course, which attracts many visitors each year. Those sponsors who wish to entertain guests can opt to receive several free tickets for play.

Considerable improvements have been made to the course over the last 2 years, including some new tee off areas, and improvements to greens. These improvements have been consolidated by an enhanced regime of fairway and green cutting during 2008-10, and several new paths have recently been constructed. The disruption caused by the sewerage scheme works is now over and we look forward to a JCB and trench-free season. However, litter is an ongoing problem, and we request that all users of the course take their litter away, or deposit it in the bin provided beside the Club Hut. In addition, in spite of repeated entreaties (see Seilachan, August 2008 and February 2009) the problem of dog-fouling has worsened. Please note that it is the dog-owner's responsibility to remove dog fouling, and that those failing to do so will be liable to prosecution.

Membership information and application forms can be obtained from: The Secretary, Isle of Seil Golf Club, Balvicar PA34 4TF (Tel: 01852 300347; e-mail jbseas@hotmail.com) or in the club hut. Sponsorship information and forms can be obtained from the Sponsorship Secretary (Tel 01852 300475; e-mail; kilbridecroft@aol.com).

A NEW MINISTER FOR SEIL AND OUR NEIGHBOURS

As many Seilachan readers may already know, Kilbrandon Church here on Seil has a new Minister – the Rev Dr Kenneth R Ross.

In June last year, our previous minister, Alastair MacLachlan, retired, and the congregation (which is linked with the churches in Luing, Kilninver, Kilmelford and Ardfern) set about the task of finding a successor. We were warned that this might take a long time, with some other Argyll churches having been without a minister for years, but in fact it took just a few months!

Ken Ross comes to us after a varied and fruitful career as a parish minister in Shetland, a writer and a university teacher, a Church of Scotland Mission Partner in Malawi and Secretary to the Church of Scotland's World Mission Council. He and his wife Hester have three grown-up sons. Ken and Hester have long-standing connections with Argyll, with Hester having been born and brought up in Islay, so they already know the area well. Ken is eager to foster the many links which already exist between the church and the local community, and his many qualities and gifts as a minister will be of great benefit to everyone on the island.

All the linked congregations are delighted to welcome Ken and Hester into our midst and we look forward to working with them in the years that lie ahead.

Martin Waddell, Kilbrandon Church

Meeting of Seil and Easdale Community Council 23rd March 2010

Nine Community Councilors were present, and the meeting was attended by eight members of the public, two Argyll and Bute Councilors and our Community Police Officer.

It was noted that the Community Council is urgently seeking a Secretary. This need not be an elected member, and all Seilachan readers are urgently requested to consider volunteering for this interesting and important task. The CC will meet again shortly to discuss the problem.

Proposed Raera Windfarm. The CC has responded to the planning application, highlighting the visual impact on numerous residents of Seil.

Police Report. There has been some renewed vandalism in and around Easdale island. The police are taking this seriously, and will take various measures in addition to arranging private interviews on the Island.

Local Roads. The section from Clachan Bridge to Balvicar should be repaired by August, but concern was expressed about damaged verges and the threat of a weight limit on the Bridge. Any road matters should be addressed to Charles Struthers.

Scottish Water. It is claimed that 70% of complaints have been addressed, and that all work will be complete by the end of April. The contractor's signs will then be removed. Residents should report outstanding problems to the CC as soon as possible.

Planning. Six new applications were notified to the meeting. The CC has responded to the proposed new houses at Dunearn. The meeting was reminded that Councilors MacIntyre and MacDonald are free to be involved with planning concerns.

Local Planning Surveys. The opinion surveys in relation to FOLI identified needs for: Affordable rented housing, Sheltered housing for the elderly, Improved roads and shore access, Recreation and sporting facilities, and Small scale business facilities. The well-supported LDP questionnaire identified the 5 top issues as: Infrastructure, Natural Environment, Affordable Housing, Business and employment, and Recreation and Leisure. Coherent themes seem to be emerging, and will inform further opinion gathering by the Community Council.

Health Matters. An up-date included concerns over local provision for dementia patients.

Next meeting. 25th May, Seil Island Hall 7pm.

A PLEA TO ANY PHOTOGRAPHERS OUT THERE

Next year's edition of our Slate Islands Calendar is in the course of compiling, and we are looking for local photographs to grace it's pages. Although we cannot make your fortune by paying for any submissions, we can let the world at large know of your talents, With all this Arctic weather we have experienced lately there must be some snow scenes in someone's portfolio. If you can come up with anything please contact jimcee6@hotmail.com