

# SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Vol. 15 No.1

[www.seil.oban.ws](http://www.seil.oban.ws)

February 11

## EDITORIAL

With all this Arctic weather we have been having recently, it is difficult to find any positive points to it. However, I have managed to come up with one. On the Golf Course a ball will travel considerably further due to the rock hard condition of the fairways. As less than 20% of the inhabitants of Seil are either equipped or licenced to make use of this added bonus to their game, it is probably of little consolation to the majority. And even those hardy souls able to indulge must have a masochistic streak to venture on to the links in the sub zero temperatures.

While on the subject of the Golf Club, it is probably worth mentioning that one of our members has been nominated, and is now on the short list for selection as Volunteer of the Year, by the Scottish Golf Union—He deserves it.

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## COMMUNITY COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS

The latest meeting of Seil and Easdale Community Council took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January in Seil Hall. This was our most thinly-attended meeting for a year, with only 7 members of the public, although numbers were swelled by the welcome attendance of PC Jeremy Moore and Argyll & Bute Councillors MacIntyre and Robertson.

### SCOTTISH WATER

As yet no luck in getting Scottish Water to attend the community council meeting. However, a meeting between Scottish Water, Community Council and Argyll & Bute Council representatives is being arranged within the next few weeks. This should allow clarification of the current situation regarding individual complaints from residents, and hopefully an action plan will be established for resolving them. Complainants are asked to please email Charles Struthers at—[ardmaddycastle@btinternet.com](mailto:ardmaddycastle@btinternet.com) - to keep him apprised of progress in each case.

### LOCAL ROADS

We are now experiencing the full after-effects of the cold and wet weather. The council is tackling repairs on a priority basis, but needs to be informed of any potholes, which members of the public can do by phoning the roads department on 01546 605514. If, however, you encounter an especially problematic or dangerous pothole, you should ring Jacksons Quarry on 01631 563264, in which case it will be dealt with urgently.

### Argyll & Bute Council AUSTERITY MEASURES

There was a frank discussion on the Council's budget cuts as they may affect Seil and Easdale residents and also the wider community. Details can be seen in the full minutes on the website as below.

## PROPOSED CLACHAN & RAERA WIND FARMS

The planning application for Raera wind farm was unanimously rejected by the planning committee. We wait now to see if an appeal will be made by the developers. There is nothing much to report in the case of Clachan wind farm, other than that it has not yet appeared as a formal planning application.

### POLICE REPORT

PC Moore was pleased to report that the Christmas drink driving campaign resulted in no convictions on Seil or Easdale. He also advised that as a precaution against theft, with the days getting longer and the resulting increased potential for spotting valuable items in gardens, we should all be on the alert for strange cars in the area.

### EASDALE HALL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There have been a further 3 applications in connection with Easdale Hall. These are for an illuminated freestanding sign, solar photovoltaic panels and air source heat pump, and a wind turbine. The latter is a new application in a slightly different location to the previous one. Eilean Eisdeal now has a total of 4 applications pending consideration. The community councillors will consider the situation and make a submission on these applications within the 21-day period.

### OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

There were no objections raised to the application for 2 new moorings in Easdale Sound. The relative merits of the relocation of a fish farm near Ardmaddy Bay, to be moved further South, was discussed at some length. The farm will be substantially increased in size and change from mussel to salmon production. There is concern about the effect on the sea bed and also the visual impact of illumination, but also appreciation of the considerable employment opportunities provided by fish farming in this area.

### NORTH ARGYLL VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME

Margaret Anfield gave a useful update on the scheme. Since its inception in early 2003, usage has grown to well over 100 journeys per month. Typical journeys include visits to the surgery or shops, where buses are not appropriate for either timing or mobility reasons. Service users pay a small amount per mile, and volunteer drivers receive expenses. The scheme also relies heavily on grants and donations. Margaret would welcome calls from new passengers and drivers on 300368.

### HEALTH MATTERS

All meetings in December and January were cancelled due to the weather. Surveys and a visit by the insurance assessor to Easdale regarding helicopter emergency evacuation were postponed for the same reason.

Continued overleaf

**NEXT MEETING** The next meeting is on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, in Seil Community Hall. Please email the secretary Jane Nichols on - [ljanenichols@btinternet.com](mailto:ljanenichols@btinternet.com) in connection with any Community Council business. A full copy of the minutes can be viewed at <http://seil.oban.ws/cc.html>.

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## HALL NEWS

### LOTTERY WINNERS

November	December
\$75 Rollover	\$75 Charlie Watt
\$10 Mrs Morton	\$10 Mrs Morton
\$10 Kim Rowswell	\$10 Miranda Brunner
\$10 Frances Hill	\$10 Alasdair Currie
January	
\$25 Geoffrey (c/o Iris Bell)	
\$10 John Brown	
\$10 Catherine de Vries	
\$10 Morag MacKenzie	

Editor's note—These payouts have all been made in pounds Sterling—not dollars -unfortunately my keyboard produces a # when I ask for the pound sign and should I ask for # it produces |. Also, to get @ I have to use" and @ to get" - any suggestions on how to cure this problem would be appreciated.

Over 18's are able to hire the large hall for 4 pounds per hour to play badminton—contact Mary Norris for availability and to book.

Coming in July—On 6th July a selection of Brass and Wind section of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra will be playing in the hall.

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## THE CHARMING GOLDFINCH

Goldfinches are one of our prettiest native birds with their bold pattern of red, yellow, black and white. It is easy to see why the collective name is a 'Charm'. It may however refer to their song, a pleasant rambling twitter or tinkling. The delightful song is a composition of this call and other rattling notes.

They feed on various tree seeds, such as alder and birch, and on thistle, teasel and dandelion seeds, which it can obtain owing to its thin bill and light weight. Teasels are very much the goldfinches plant and along with crossbills, are the only birds that feeds on them. The seeds lie at the bases of long tubes protected by sharp bristles and only these two birds have long enough beaks to pluck them out.

Outside the breeding season, goldfinches roam in flocks in search of food and groups of up to 40 birds are quite common in the winter. They are often also seen in mixed flocks with other finches moving from one feeding area to another. They will feed at bird tables in your garden, preferring to swing acrobatically on hanging seed feeders, full of niger seeds or peanuts.

Some of our breeding birds migrate to the south-western Europe, e.g. France and Spain. Interestingly, many more of these birds are females than males, and birds that migrate one year will not necessarily migrate in others. The autumn population is increased by the passage of continental birds into eastern Britain. Richard Wesley – Seil Natural History Group

## OTHER STUFF

### LUNCH CLUB

Our regular Wednesday Lunch Club has restarted after Christmas recess and we would welcome new patrons. Lunches take place from 12.30 to 2pm in the Seil Island Hall and you can enjoy good homemade soup and sandwiches and a speciality of the day for 2 pounds 50. Plus, of course, good company.

If you would like to come along, just turn up. Why not give it a try?.

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### FROM ALAN MacFADYEN

Easdale Island has had a very enjoyable festive period. Santa took time out to visit all the children and bring them a gift. His wee stories of each child kept us all amused in the hall. Hogmanay, and the island comes into it's own after the "Bells" with all "First Footing" and partying the night away. The Annual Football game held in the square on the 1st .... to get everyone motivated, prior to the DIY Ceilidh that night. Ending with Easdale Island's very very Amateur Dramatic Group casting Sleeping Beauty on 2nd January.

Lots of fun by all. Looking forward to a fun 2011.

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### COMBAT STRESS !!

Come to the SWRI open meeting on Tuesday 5th April at 7.30pm in Seil Island Hall.

Everyone is warmly invited to join us for a talk by Colonel Sir Clive Fairweather, about the work of Combat Stress, the UK's leading military charity specializing in the care of veterans' mental health. Despite the serious subject matter, Sir Clive is a most engaging and entertaining speaker—this will not be a "heavy" evening but one which I am sure everyone will find most interesting and worthwhile. For any further information please contact Julie Ferris 300090 or FerrisJEF@aol.com

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### WINE AND WISDOM

A quiz night in aid of Oban Hospice in Seil Island Hall on Friday 25th February at 7.30pm. BYOB. Tickets are 3 pounds available at the shop or call Ann Campbell on 300301.

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### SUPER SUNDAY

Something new at Kilbrandon Church! The first Sunday of each month is now a Family Service, and from 20<sup>th</sup> February we will have activities for children every Sunday at the same time as the normal service. Our aim is to give young folk the opportunity to explore faith in a way that is relevant and appropriate to them, and we extend a really big welcome to all young people from 4 years upwards. If anyone would like more information, please call me. Maggie Thorpe 300058  
On behalf of The Super Sunday Team

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### TWO PLEAS

- 1) For next year's calendar we are on the lookout for any snow scenes that might remind us of that Arctic weather of recent memory.
- 2) Anything you would like included in the next Seil-eachan due out early April—please by late March. In both cases jimcee6@hotmail.com or 300344