



## SEIL ISLAND HALL

### January Lottery Results

£50 rollover

£10 Brenda Wesley

Andrew Bevis

Kathleen Gordon

### February Lottery Results

£75 Danny Nee

£10 Aggie Foster

Mary Norris

Louise Reid



The Lottery is our biggest fundraiser and helps us to keep hire costs down for local groups. From April, it has been decided that there will be a £50 prize every month – so now there's even more chance to win!

Collections for the new lottery year will start soon so please sign up if you've not yet joined, or would like to take on additional numbers.

**CRAFT FAIR:** The Seil Hall Recreation & Amenities Group would like to thank all members of the community who helped make this event (in December) such a success. A total of £891 was raised. There were many donations of time, raffle prizes & food which all contributed towards the Craft Fair being a successful & enjoyable day. Thanks, too, to Maggie & the *Seil Sound* choir for bringing some festive cheer to the occasion.

**NEW YEAR DANCE:** A big thank you to Graham Campbell and other members of the Hall Committee who organised an enjoyable and successful New Year Dance. The event raised £694 which will go towards maintaining and developing the hall. Also thank you to all those who supported this event by coming along and having fun!

Money raised from events such as this helps to keep Hall rents at their current low rates which benefits the whole community. Remember it's your hall. The hall and its facilities can be hired, when it is free, by anyone to hold a private function. Details on how to book and pricing are on the hall website: [www.seilhall.org.uk](http://www.seilhall.org.uk)

John Gordon will be helping Janet with the bookings diary during late February and March. Contact John on 332 or [gordonjdm@hotmail.com](mailto:gordonjdm@hotmail.com)

The hall has a facebook page – @seilhall

**INTRODUCING SATURDAY CLUB!** An informal get-together for children and carers to play and socialise. Seil Hall, on Saturdays during term-time, 1 to 3<sup>pm</sup>. A £2 donation *per* family is welcomed. Bring toys and/or snacks, or not! Feel free to ring Britt (310) or Suzanne (068) for further details. Come and have fun! To check when Saturday Club is on, please check our Facebook page – @SaturdayClubSeillsland

## SAVE THE DATE

### AN EVENING WITH KENNETH STEVEN

Kenneth Steven, the well known poet and author, has recently come to live on Seil. 14 of his poetry collections have been published, as well as many other books, and he makes poetry-related programmes for BBC Radio. Kenneth has kindly offered to give a reading of his work in support of funds being raised for the community of Bemvu in rural Malawi.

Kilbrandon Church, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.45<sup>pm</sup> £5 (tea/coffee & cakes included).

### FASTER BROADBAND

Stuart, from BoB Broadband, will be talking about providing faster broadband to Ellenabeich and Easdale Island. Easdale Island Community Hall, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30<sup>am</sup>

### RBLS BOOK SALE

The Easdale Branch of The Royal British Legion Scotland is holding a **Book Sale** in Seil Island Hall on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March from 11<sup>am</sup> to 2<sup>pm</sup>, to raise funds for our various Forces' charities. There will be a raffle and refreshments will be available.

## HISTORY OF SEIL – MARK 2

Following the success of *200 years of an Island Community* last October, the Slate Islands Heritage Trust have agreed to sponsor another exhibition at Seil Island Hall from 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April. Special areas of interest are the Balvicar Quarries, local families, old settlements and the Rollo factory. If you can help with material or reminiscences please contact John Gordon ([gordonjdm@hotmail.com](mailto:gordonjdm@hotmail.com) or 332) or Isobelle Smith ([isobelle\\_smith@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:isobelle_smith@yahoo.co.uk) or 287).

## RIB RENDEZVOUS

Now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year, this cruise-in-company event attracts over 40 RIBs (about 120 persons) to the Easdale area at a quieter time in the tourist season. Seafari Adventures organise this event in recognition of the support received from the local tourism community. This year's rendezvous, on 29/30 April, is heading to Colonsay & Oronsay (Saturday) and Carsaig/Loch Buie (Sunday). See: [www.easdaleRIBrendezvous.org.uk](http://www.easdaleRIBrendezvous.org.uk)

## COMMUNITY NEWS & VIEWS

### EASDALE SCHOOL

Sheena Nisbet has been appointed as the new joint head teacher for Easdale & Luing Primary Schools. Dave Monro is the new chairperson of the parent council. Thanks to Fiona MacLarty for her stint as chair for the past two years.

### OYSTER BAR & RESTAURANT

Under new management! Lyden & Dawn Singleton have taken over the Oyster Bar in Ellenabeich. They look forward to welcoming old and new faces into the bar and restaurant over the course of their new venture. See the new facebook page for current opening times: @OysterBarEasdale

### THE BOGEYMAN OF BALVICAR: A REVIEW

Absurd, absolutely ridiculous, seriously over the top and full of silly jokes. And we all loved it! Seil Drama Group's third production was a sell-out and confirmed that script-writers Wendy Dugdale and John Colston and director George Houston have got a very clear idea of what makes for a good panto and a very entertaining couple of hours for people of all ages.

The plot was updated traditional. Arch villain and evil Laird Longjohn of Ardlycapable (short on stature and charisma) wants to marry the Princess Blair (beautiful until sunset when she turns green) and blackmails Boris the Bogeyman (green and ugly) into rescuing her from the Castle Tower. Naturally, Boris falls in love with Blair and there follows a lively romp with Donkey through Seil, populated by fairytale characters, a motley collection of bodyguards and, of course, a dragon and Big Bad Wolf. In the best panto tradition, true love wins the day and the finale is a rousing singsong.

The drama unfolded with a liberal sprinkling of local references, notably dustbins and sewage, the odd topical note and a few bodily functions of the less desirable sort. Clever scenery transported us into a happy, sparkly world (for the most part) and most imaginative was the use of the auditorium where characters came down into the audience. This interaction brought everything alive. It was especially nice to see so many young aspiring actors in the cast.

The music and songs, under the direction of Maggie Thorpe, were enchanting and cleverly transposed into the story. It takes some courage to sing in front of a few hundred folk and they certainly had the audience humming along. Costumes were clever and colourful and demonstrated that old theatrical adage: *'Never underestimate the comedic appeal of a voluptuous bosom.'*

In short, the traditional standards of panto were maintained admirably. Ad-libbing was plentiful and hilarious and the occasional moments of forgetfulness very amusing (at least, the audience thought so!) Thank you to everyone, seen and unseen, who helped bring us 'a lorra laffs' and the opportunity to hiss and boo. It takes many hours of preparation and rehearsals to stage an event for the entertainment of others and it paid off handsomely (even if there is a 'local laird' still nursing bruised knees). Everyone left with a huge grin on their faces. Job done. Brilliant fun. OH YES IT WAS!