

# SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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April 12

## EDITORIAL

The telephone. With the advent of free calls and unlimited time one can afford to be more verbose, and add a touch of originality to answering one's calls. For this illustration I have chosen the name David, as it is a common one in these airts -

### Can I speak to David?

*"Well if your vocal chords are in reasonable shape, that shouldn't really be a problem",*

*"You might have to shout a bit, because he's in Oban at the moment"*

### Is David there?

*"Sorry—not at the moment, but you're in luck, he's here",* or

*"Actually he's not all there, he has mislaid his glasses"*

### Is that David?

*"That's the name my parents eventually compromised on at the Registry Office".*

### If David doesn't reside at this address -

*"If you had checked the number and dialled it correctly, you might just have been successful".*

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## COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Seil and Easdale Community Council had a public meeting on Tuesday 27 March at Seil Island Community Hall.

Discussions continue to resolve outstanding issues with Scottish Water. These include, reports of over pumping, increased levels of scum (about which local residents are encouraged to make direct contact with SEPA), and the fencing by Cnoc a' Challtuinn which has yet to be removed.

A meeting about Kilninver Bridge has been arranged for the week of 2<sup>nd</sup> April, after which it is hope there will be clarification of the existing state of the bridge and contingency plans should restrictions or closure be necessary.

A SLOW sign is to be painted on the approach to Cnoc a' Challtuinn.

The Council have said that they are keen to surface the Balachuan passing place on the Balvicar – Cuan Road and are currently in conversation with the landowners.

SECC have responded to a consultation on changes to local speed limits. Following the response at the previous public meeting and other communication from local residents, SECC stated that were in support of a 30 mph limit through Clachan Seil but asked that signage be kept to minimum, using existing posts where possible. The proposals would also see a 40mph limit at Kilmore where there is currently advisory signage only and the 40 mph limit at Kilmelford being reduced to 30 mph.

SECC have written to Historic Scotland regarding the deterioration of the sea wall at Ellenabeich. A response from a local representative is expected. As it is in a conservation area and is of individual construction, focus needs to be on restoration rather than repair.

Serious crime remains low in the area. Consable Moore also clarified that damage to property and local infrastructure re Reportable Road Accidents and should be reported to the local police. He also indicated that there would be increased monitoring of speed around the local schools.

The Clachan Wind Farm application is now with the Council. A survey was sent by SECC to the 377 voters on the Edited Electoral List to assess local opinion regarding the wind farm. The papers were made anonymouus but colour code so that the opinions of each area could be gauged. Of 208 returns, 60 expressed support, 138 objection and 10 stated no view either way. 72 chose to make additional comments. Clachan Seil, which will be most affected by the proposed plans, had the highest return.

Following clarification of the guidance given by planners in responding to planning applications, there was discussion on the proposed content of the SECC response. Relevant considerations include suitability of the site, visual appearance, impact on archaeology and nature conservation and adequacy of infrastructure. Items not relevant to planning include personal circumstances such as devaluation of property, political considerations or ideological dislikes and the cost of the development.

Stuart Reid outlined the key points being made by PACT (People Against Clachan Turbines) which include the impact on sensitive countryside and archaeological sites, the proximity of dwellings to the site, potential health hazards and the capacity of the infrastructure to manage the additional pressures of building and maintaining the turbines (in particular weak points such as the Kilninver Bridge). Further information can be found at the PACT website: <http://www.clachanwindfarm.co.uk/>

The principal points raised in discussion were the importance of ecology, effects on tourism, infrastructure (inc the Kilninver Bridge) and visual impact.

It was confirmed that the Ferries Review had found the Easdale Service fit for purpose although it is still not deemed safe by the Scottish Ambulance Service. The issue has been escalated to Nicola Sturgeon and a response is expected.

At Lorn and Islands Hospital, work on the new Dental Access Centre at is underway and due to open early 2013. Ward I is open and working well. Dr Henderson and Mr Yadav will both be retiring in the coming weeks but both intend to return as locums while suitable replacements are recruited.

The next public meeting will on Tuesday 22 May, 7pm, Seil Island Hall

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### **The Marsh Fritillary Butterfly**

The Marsh Fritillary butterfly is only found in Scotland in south Lochaber, Argyll and the Argyll Islands. Its long-term survival relies on controlled grazing, ideally by traditional breeds of cattle, to maintain its habitat in suitable condition. The name Marsh is a little misleading as it is not a true marshland species. A more appropriate name would be the Damp Grassland or Moorland Fritillary. Suitable habitats are open unimproved grasslands, unshaded but often sheltered with abundant patches of devil's-bit scabious, the caterpillar's sole foodplant. The UK government has listed the Marsh Fritillary as a UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority species, in need of urgent conservation action.

Females lay their eggs in batches of 20 to 150 on the leaves of larger specimens of their sole foodplant devil's-bit scabious. The eggs hatch within a few weeks. The caterpillars live communally within a conspicuous and protective silk web which they spin themselves. Counting these webs from August to October is often the most reliable method of monitoring the fortunes of this species. The caterpillars hibernate over the winter inside a smaller but thicker web, deep within a dense grass tussock where they can even survive temporary flooding. The caterpillars emerge from hibernation in March and bask communally in the spring sunshine. They commence feeding before becoming solitary, dispersing and pupating. Their black colour enables them to warm up and feed quickly. The adult butterflies emerge in May or June.

Ensuring the long-term survival of the Marsh Fritillary, as with many other species, is probably more likely if sites are linked, enabling an exchange of adults between neighbouring colonies. The loss of suitable habitat can be detrimental by making the surviving populations more fragmented and thus isolated.

Richard Wesley – Seilnaturalhistorygroup

Editor's note—To see what this butterfly really looks like go to - [snhg@btinternet.com](mailto:snhg@btinternet.com) On left side click—Lorn's photos Then click snhg wildlife photos - then Lorn's butterflies Then click on row 3—third from left

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### **Forthcoming Attraction (for Royalists)**

There will probably be a BIG LUNCH on 3rd June to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee -more details nearer the time.

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**A REQUEST**—Next year's local calendar is in the making and anyone who has interesting photographs (particularly of our resident deer) are invited to have their efforts immortalised—contact [jimcee6@hotmail.com](mailto:jimcee6@hotmail.com)

### **ISLE OF SEIL GOLF CLUB**

At the recent AGM of the club, the principal points discussed were the necessity to increase membership fees, and proposals for the replacement of the clubhouse which went walkabout in a recent storm.

The club invites current members to renew their membership for the year commencing 1st April 2012. All members of our community are invited to consider either joining as playing members or supporting the club as non-playing members (supporters). We also invite local businesses to participate as sponsors. Sponsorship information and forms can be obtained from the Sponsorship, Secretary (01852 300 475) or by email—[kilbridecroft@aol.com](mailto:kilbridecroft@aol.com).

Considerable improvements have been made to the course over the last few years, including some new tees and better greens. These improvements have been consolidated by an enhanced regime of course maintenance. Membership information and application forms can be obtained from the Secretary (01852 300 548) - email [geo11adam@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:geo11adam@yahoo.co.uk) or in the club hut/caravan.

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**ZUMBA** is an exhilarating, effective, easy to follow, Latin inspired, calorie burning, dance fitness experience. From ages 13-16 with parents approval and over 18s no upper age limit.

Classes held every Thursday at Seil Island Hall from 6.15 to 7.15 pm at £4 per session. Come along and give it a try. Further details from [ZumbaOban@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ZumbaOban@yahoo.co.uk)

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### **Forthcoming Attraction**

Rumour has it that in the foreseeable future there will be a return visit by the Taynuilt Swing Band to the Seil Island Hall. To date no details are available but further information will be available if you keep your eyes and ears open.

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### **HALL NEWS**

Lottery Winners

MARCH	APRIL
£100 George Houston	£50 Rollover
£10 Drew Connolly	£10 Charlie Watt
£10 Jean Bisp	£10 M & S Yearsley
£10 Campbell Fleming	£10 Alastair Mill

The hall committee recorded a vote of thanks to Brian Mitchell and the team of collectors for all their hard work.

There will be another CRAFT FAIR on Sunday 19th August.

### **FINALLY SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT!**

From Julie Ferris—I am delighted to say that we now have a musical director to take forward the idea of a fun, no hassle, no stress CHOIR. It's been a while since we first raised this idea—thanks to everyone who initially expressed an interest, and I do hope you are still all out there! More information will be coming soon—please come along and join us. Young, old, male, female, everyone is welcome—no talent needed except the ability to enjoy singing. It would be very helpful to have an idea of numbers, so if you are interested or have any queries just email me Julie Ferris on [FerrisJEF@aol.com](mailto:FerrisJEF@aol.com) or call on 300090. Come on, you know you want to.