

SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Vol. 19 No2

www.seil.oban.ws

April 15

EDITORIAL

Television Advertising—Presumably the number of people watching television in the middle of the day are considerably less than in the evening prime time, and consequently the rates for advertising will be considerably less also.

Exposure to these adverts means being bombarded almost exclusively by money lenders (49% interest), ambulance chasers (no win -no fee), bingo promoters (pay £10- play with £60), life insurance sellers (not Michael Parkinson again!), and charity donation seekers (African babies and skinny donkeys).

Not much help here with seeing the latest supermarket blandishments, knowing when the DFS sale will finish, or seeing the remarkable power of Sillitbang—and the dirt is gone!

About all that can be said about this motley collection is that it keeps the advertising industry in employment.

SECC Seileachan Report April 2015

It was great to see so many people at the meeting of Seil and Easdale Community Council held on Tuesday 24th March. With well over 30 members of the public, Cllr Elaine Robertson, Dr George Hannah and all members of our Community Council + Secretary, it was certainly a full house!

Argyll Sea Kayak Trail

The Chair welcomed Russel Daniels, Paddlesport Coordinator of Stramash Social Enterprise and Peter McDonald, Senior Development Officer, Argyll & Bute Council, who gave a presentation on the Argyll Sea Kayak Trail. This is a 150km trail that runs between Ganavan and Helensburgh. Ellenabeich is being considered as an additional access point on the trail, and some funding may be available to enhance facilities for kayakers. Discussions are still ongoing – watch this space.

Scottish Water: New Waste Water Proposals for Seil

Joanna Peebles, Regional Communities Manager and Fraser MacKintosh, Assets Manager of Scottish Water, were welcomed to the meeting to discuss these proposals. Fraser explained that a directive from the Scottish Government requires Scottish Water to provide appropriate treatment for Seaview Terrace, where they currently discharge untreated sewage into the sea. He maintained that the cheapest whole-life solution is to decommission the treatment facility at Clachan Seil and transfer the effluent from there to an area at Seaview where they would treat all the effluents and provide potential capacity for adding Ellenabeich to the system should there be a similar directive for that community.

As you can imagine, this is a controversial proposal and many of those present expressed concerns regarding pollution of a Special Area of Conservation, and the possibility of the bad smells suffered on occasion at Balvicar and Clachan Seil being transferred to Seaview. Further worries were the visual impact at one of the most iconic views of the region, and what would happen in the event of system failure.

Cost was another major issue, given what some saw as the staggering cost of the current system, which had not even connected all houses in the area, had been installed in a sub-standard way and had never functioned as it should. Clearly, this was just the first of many discussions on this topic. This proposal is at its earliest stage, and the Community Council is committed to reflecting the views of the community and ensuring, if the project does go ahead, that there is proper communication and continuity of site management. However, the point was made that the fundamental decision must be whether to embark on another major project when there could just be a septic tank for the few households at Seaview. **WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS? Speak to any member of the Community Council, email the Secretary, ferrisjef@aol.com and/or contact Scottish Water direct via the Project Comms Advisor, trish.wilson@scottishwater.co.uk**

Roads

As ever, Charles works to keep A&B Council informed of ongoing maintenance issues, i.e. potholes, puddles and verge cutting. The white lining machine will be back soon, weather permitting, and it was agreed that the white edge to the road was very effective.

Health

Dr Hannah thanked the Community Council for its support in maintaining the current level of community nursing provision. He confirmed that the nursing staff continue to provide an excellent service, with the overriding aim of enabling people to stay in their own homes. The Integration of Health & Social Care continues to move forward. Regular newsletter updates can be found on the A&B website.

Police Report

There had been only one crime in our area since the last meeting, that being the theft of monies from the ferry shed at Cuan. If anyone had any information they should contact PC Moore through the usual channels or through Crime Stoppers if they wish to remain anonymous.

Planning

New applications since the last meeting

Proposed kayaker's facilities including conversion of workshop to bunkhouse, extension to existing store, erection of pod style timber tents and toilet/shower/laundry facilities, formation of parking provision, installation of septic tank and associated works.

Land North East of Cuan House Ref No 14/02992/PP Status: Pending Consideration

Still pending/decided since last meeting

Erection of dwellinghouse. Plot 1 Cnoc Fennaig House Balvicar PA34 4TF

Ref No 15/00180/PP Status: Application Permitted

The Sheiling, Clachan Seil, PA34 4QZ Alterations, extension and change of use of dwellinghouse to bed and breakfast accommodation including formation of self contained unit

Ref No 14/02995/PP Status: Application permitted

Erection of fence (retrospective)

The Old Engineering Works, Ellenabeich

Ref No 14/01058/PP Status: Pending Decision

Site for the erection of 20 dwellinghouses

Land South East of Oban Seil Farm Clachan Seil Isle of Seil Oban PA34 4TN

Ref No:14/00180/PPP Received Monday 20 January 2014 Status: Pending Decision

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission reference 03/02221/DET to remove the requirement for sound attenuating material to be applied to the whole of the interior of the building. Land west of Am Bruach Balvicar

Ref No 14/03024/PP Status: Pending Consideration

Street lights in Ellenabeich

These had been ordered, with delivery due in approximately 2 months.

Vodafone Rural Open Sure Signal (ROSS)

A site visit which is part of our shortlisting assessment had been rescheduled from 30 March to 20 April.

Filming – Florence And The Machine

As I think most people will have been aware, this took place in Ellenabeich and Easdale over 27 and 28th March. It went really well, bringing income to the area as well as excellent publicity. Thanks to everyone who helped to make it such a success.

NEXT SECC MEETING

This will be held on Tuesday 26th May at 7pm in Seil Island Hall—includes AGM.

HALL NEWS

Lottery results	March	April
	£75 Liz Dickey	£50 Alasdair Gardiner
	£10 Brian Mitchell	£10 Bobby Harvey
	£10 Avril Nicholl	£10 Stephen Geoghegan
	£10 Nancy Gardiner	£10 Douglas Hill

HALL FACEBOOK PAGE - this has now been set up as another useful way to communicate what's going on. We already have more than 100 "friends" - for more information contact Ronnie Robinson.

CRAFT FAIR The next one is planned for Sunday 2nd August.

HIGHLAND FAIR 20th JUNE 2015

Some older readers will remember the Highland Fair which was held annually in the 1970's to raise money for an extension to the old Easdale Hall. It was relatively simple to organise and was a popular social event. Each club or organisation was responsible for running a stall—e.g. cake and candy, produce, bottle, treasure hunt, jumble, etc. They were not expected to stock the stall. Nearer to the event the community was leafleted and asked to donate to the general sale. Outdoor events were limited because at that time the land around the hall, including the present sports field, was a wasteland of slate debris.

Seil Island Hall Committee is going to resurrect this event to raise funds for improvements to our hall and hope that the community will support this day. Now that we have a sports field some sporting events might be organised for part of the day. A ceilidh/dance will probably be organised for the evening.

Please contact John Gordon (332) if you can help in any way.

Biological Recording in Argyll (VC98)

Lorn Natural History Group (LNHG) has been fortunate to obtain a grant of £21,000 from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) over the next three years, towards biological recording in Argyll. We have maintained a database of biological records in Lorn since our inception in 2007 and this is why LNHG has been able to apply for this grant, as there is no other organisation locally which keep such detailed records of every species, not even SNH.

What is a biological record and why is it important ?

What did I see? The first step in making a record is to identify what you have observed. With the exception of some microscopic life, all living things are assigned a unique identity in the form of a species name. While some species have common names, such as 'mallard duck' or 'common frog', many do not. However, they all have a 'scientific name', which is unique to them and understood internationally. Scientific names have two parts, usually derived from Greek or Latin: the first part is the group, or 'genus' to which the species belongs, and the second part identifies the actual species. It is the two parts together that make up the unique names of all living things. The scientific name for the Mallard duck is *Anas platyrhynchos*. This shows that it belongs to the genus '*Anas*' which is Latin for duck, and indicates that the Mallard is related to other ducks. The species name, *platyrhynchos*, is Greek for flat bill, referring to its typical ducklike bill.

If a species is not immediately recognisable, you can consult identification keys, field guides, or ask for help from someone who knows more about this group. For LNHG recording purposes four items are crucial Species, Location, Date and Observer. Other information can be provided such as weather, habitat and numbers but this is not essential. LNHG would like to ask the assistance of all Seileachans whether they are LNHG members or not to help provide this information. If you wish to participate please pass records to myself on T: 01852 300388, M: 07479 265601 or E: lnhgv98@gmail.com.

Biological records provide the basic information for all meaningful actions to protect and enhance wildlife. We may also use them to check that our efforts have their intended effect. Government agencies and local government require detailed and reliable information so that they can carry out their statutory functions, which include protection of some species. Better understanding of declines or increases in species populations, or changes in their locations, enables us to plan how to avoid local losses, and be forewarned of any important changes underway in the natural world. The LNHG website :- <http://www.lnhg.org.uk/> is being updated to reflect our new status, and we have just created a new LNHG Facebook Group at :- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LornNaturalHistoryGroup/>. Anybody can join the Facebook Group, you do not need to be a member. Currently 182 members. Richard Wesley (LNHG chairman)

SWRI INTIMATION

What do you immediately think of when you hear SWRI mentioned? Do you imagine a crowd of wee bustling women intent on outdoing each other with their jam making or home baking and sewing skills? Perhaps you do but let me put you in the picture. We are a group of ladies who meet in Seil Hall on the first Tuesday of every month. It's a social event with a different speaker each time, followed by coffee and cake and a raffle.

This session we started in September with "Our Favourite Things", a bit like "Show and Tell", but members were under no obligation to take part, some opting just to listen. Our October speaker was James Fenton who gave a fascinating talk on Polar Wildlife, sharing photos of spectacular scenery and wildlife and his experiences in the Arctic and Antarctic. Fiona Coutts, our November speaker showed us "How to Decorate a Christmas Cake" and brought along a beautiful array of decorated cakes. December's meeting was a Christmas Dinner in Seil Hall. Phil Moss, editor of the Scottish Beekeeper magazine, was our speaker in January. His topic was "What has happened to our pollinators". Phil gave an informative and interesting talk on the habits of bees and the production of honey. Diving in the Firth of Lorn was the subject of February's talk and the speaker was Graeme Bruce, accomplished diver and member of the Community Council. He showed us stunning photographs that he had taken underwater at two different locations not far from here. In March we were treated to a Reflexology demonstration by Elaine Bissett. This was a very "hands on" experience where we were given the opportunity to try Reflexology on ourselves with Elaine kindly donating a Reflexology session as a raffle prize.

Most of our speakers are local, there being a wealth of talent on Seil. We are already planning next sessions speakers. If you have a talent you would like to share please let us know. We'd also like to attract more members of all age groups—if you'd like to join, it's £20 for the year or £2.50 per night for a non-member or casual attendee. You do not need to know how to make jam or how to bake to join. Men are welcome too and we've had many male attendees this session. If you would like to join but don't fancy driving, we can arrange a lift. For more information phone Julie Ferris Chairperson (300090) or Tricia McDicken, Secretary (300445). By the way, from now on we will be known as the SWI, the word rural being removed to reflect today's membership. Tricia McDicken.

Indoor Carpet Bowls for All

Following the success of the carpet bowls "trial weekend" in January, when the carpet bowls mats from Atlantis Leisure were available in the hall for the local community to try their hand, the Hall has now purchased 2 second-hand "Short Mat" bowling mats and a set of indoor biased bowls. These are currently stored under the stage in the main Hall. The equipment is available for members of the community to use in the main Hall for a small rental fee (in addition to the Hall rent payment). This equipment was purchased by the Recreation and Amenities Committee (RAG) and it is hoped that the cost of purchase and any maintenance will be recovered by the rental fee in time. In the first instance the rental fee for the equipment will be £1 per person per session and the Hall can be rented for £4 per hour for local residents (usual rules apply about adult supervision of children). If you want to use the mats and bowls please contact Janet Scott (300483) who will make the hall reservation and collect the fees. If you want to learn more about short mat bowls visit <http://www.hsmba.org/page134.html> for a good description of the game. In the near future we will try to arrange some local competitions so now is the chance to get some practice in