

SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Vol. 13 No.4

www.seil.oban.ws

August 09

EDITORIAL



For all of you who missed the Beechgrove Garden activity, here is a rear view of some of the stalwarts doing a bit of concentrated gardening.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Our last public meeting was on Easdale Island on 28th July and was well attended – despite the need for a sea crossing. There were a number of interesting items on the agenda but we will have to omit a few here. The Editor has had words! There is a big demand for space in this edition so we have to limit our writing to one page so we can accommodate our colleagues. Here goes.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL REVIEW This continues and we have sent our comments to the Council. We have a number of criticisms about the proposals which we hope will be addressed. However, after meetings with the Association of Argyll and Bute Councils and the Short Life Working Group (yes, really!), recommendations will go to the Executive on 20th August. If agreement is reached, arrangements will be made to hold Community Council elections in October. We can have 6 to 10 Community Councillors. If we have 11 nominations, there will be an election. If we have 6 – 10, the election will be uncontested but if there are less than 6, the Community Council will be dissolved. This would be a big loss to the community so if you are interested in doing your bit, please think about standing. Most of the present incumbents have been doing the job for 10 years or more and some fresh faces would be welcome.

LOCAL ROADS We are still reporting defects to the Roads Department but we must await the completion of Scottish Water's restitution work before we can establish their true state. However, it is important that everyone reports potholes and other defects. The Council is required by law to repair potholes within 7 days of notification – ergo, no complaint, no repair. The person to call is Graham Stone on 01631 563264. The Roads Department do encourage calls.

SCOTTISH WATER Their activity is diminishing but the project has not yet been 'handed over'. You will probably have noticed the smaller green boxes, but we have not resolved the matter of the floating Balvicar outfall pipe. We were trying to have it buried but a layer of rock beneath the mud prevents this. We will have to accept it laid on the sea bed covered with properly secured cement honeycomb blocks. Eventually, these should become covered in mud so it may blend in better – but small craft will have to be aware. We will ask for it to be properly marked at high water. Unfortunately, Scottish Water cannot favour us with a pathway from the new to the old cemetery and war memorial. We had hoped they would oblige us in return for the disruption we have all had to bear. However, all is not lost as we have asked the Employability Team to do it and we have the support of our Councillors for this.

PROPOSED RAERA WINDFARM We have had 2 meetings with N Power and will be visiting a live windfarm on 10th August. However, many people are unaware of the details and not sure what questions to ask. So we have included a 'fact sheet' with this Newsletter – which we hope you find helpful. This is all we know at the moment. There is a visibility map on the noticeboard at Balvicar Stores. You should have received a newsheet from N Power with your questionnaire and we think another is coming. There is going to be an exhibition in Seil Island Hall on Tuesday 8th September from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m. (and in Kilmelford Village Hall on 28th and 29th August). In addition, Mr Gary Parker from N Power will be knocking on doors during August to answer your questions. If you miss him, he can be contacted on telephone number 07525 754982.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SEIL We have long felt that we should have a plan for the future development of Seil so we can be proactive rather than reactive. At the moment, the community as a whole has little influence over what happens here. As a Community Council, we are discussing the best way to approach this and get the views of the majority of residents. We will probably start by circulating an ideas document which might include types of road, leisure facilities, sheltered housing, hotel, provision for small industry etc. We are only at the embryonic stage – but watch this space.

STAG APPRAISAL This has been completed and the summary recommendation from Argyll and Bute Operational Services is that '...while from a transport planning perspective a fixed link is preferable, the STAG report shows a replacement ferry is the better solution. As there is no budget provision for a replacement ferry, the existing ferry should remain in service while we await the outcome of the Scottish Ferries Review'. PTO

This will conclude in early 2010. The Chambers Dictionary defines patience as 'the quality of being able calmly to endure delay'. We're quite good at this, we think!

Our next meeting will be in the Seil Island Hall at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 29th September. We hope to see you there.

HALL NEWS

Beechgrove Garden Community Project

The Beechgrove Garden Community Project has been a great success for the community bringing together over seventy members of the island to work on the landscaping of the hall gardens. In eight weeks the grounds were transformed from wasteland to what you see now. Those that could not provide labour gave donations of money and plants reducing costs for the Hall Committee. The filming was broadcast Wednesday 8th July on BBC1 Scotland and was covered by the Oban Times and the For Argyll website.

The planting of the gardens has been with native trees, shrubs and flowers, using plants we knew were already successful on the island. The main theme has been to attract wildlife to the area to make the whole experience as natural as possible. Apart from the Drill Hall Garden with its wildlife area, vegetable plot and the amazing Bug Bunkhouse, there are the planted bunds, a new footpath down to the sea with a picnic area, 110 metres square of decking with glass balustrade and at the rear of the hall a wildwood bench, made from 40 year old elms felled when Dutch Elm disease struck hard. The Sports Field has new goal posts provided by the Sports Club and existing gates and benches have been repaired and improved.

However work on the project has not finished with several jobs to be completed. There is still planting to complete, wood chip and bark mulching to be applied and gravel to be laid. To this end a work party has been arranged for Sunday 26th July so if you need some exercise and would like to help please turn up and give a hand. Further work days are planned for Sunday 30th August, 27th September, 25th October & 29th November. Your island needs you !!
Richard Wesley

FAMILY CEILIDHS

As usual the committee is running family ceilidhs on 4 Wednesday evenings during the school summer holidays. The first took place on 22 July when the hall was well filled and those present danced to the music of the Seil Ceilidh Band and enjoyed the performances of a number of artistes singing and playing the pipes, fiddle, accordion, guitar and clar-sach. The other dates are 29 July and 5 and 12 August, starting at 8.00pm, cost £4 for adults and £2 for children, which includes tea/juice, sandwiches and cakes. You can also bring your own bottle.

MAIN HALL CLOSURE

The committee has arranged to have the floor in the main hall resurfaced. This necessitates the main hall being closed for use from 13 August to 22 August inclusive. Groups using the main hall will relocate to the small hall where this is suitable.

HALL LOTTERY RESULTS

July £50-rollover; £10-Fiona MacLarty, Mairi Hole and Ian MacKenzie

August £100- Caroline Curley; £10-Sue Croft; Ann Campbell; Ruth Gilmour.

FORTHCOMING EVENT –CRAFT FAIR

Sunday 23rd August 10:00 - 1600 hrs

Musical Instruments, Jewellery, Cards, Children's Clothes, Decorative Bags, , Felted Goods, Basket Weaving, Cards, Photography, Pottery & much more

Children's Activities organised by Atlantis Leisure
11:00 - 12:00 hrs

5 to 8 year olds - Funfit, parachute games & rounders with big bats and balls

12:00 - 13:00 hrs

9 to 12 year olds - Races, rounders and a choice of foot-ball or dance. BBQ

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SCOTLAND

The Easdale Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland is once again requesting help and support for its ANNUAL SALE OF WORK in aid of Service Charities. The Sale will be opened at 3 p.m. on Saturday 29th August in the Seil Community Hall.

We are seeking help and donations for the following:-

- The Baking Stall and the Teas,
- Books, CDs, DVDs and Videos for the Bookstall,
- Plants and Produce
- Bottles for the Bottle Stall
- Items for the White Elephant & Bric-à-Brac Stall

If you can help in any way please contact one of the following:-

Baking - Mrs Daphne Allan	359
Books etc - Mr David Collyer	727
Plants & Produce - Mr Malcolm M ^c Innes	309
Bottle Stall - Mr Stuart Reid	311
White Elephant Stall - Mrs Mary Sandilands	313
Raffle prizes—Mrs Ann Reid	311
For further enquiries please ring Mrs Anna Bevis	232

CLASSES PROPOSED FOR THE AUTUMN

- 1) A "Spanish for Beginners and Beyond" class on either a Monday or Tuesday from 2-4pm starting the first week in November for 6 weeks. More information in the next Seileachan
- 2) "Hands on Art" with Ian Gowdie, likely on a Thursday afternoon probably starting in September. If you are interested in this class, please contact Maura Rae on 300 379 and you will be kept informed of further details.