

# SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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

August 10

## EDITORIAL

It's all the fault of the Conservatory. Not so long ago the habitat of the Conservatory was restricted to Country Houses of the rich and the Aristocracy, and even they did not have one as a matter of course. However, times have changed somewhat, and it will be apparent to any keen observer of the landscape that any self respecting domicile aspires to have one of these appendages fitted, to be upsides with the Jones—with apologies to any members of the Jones clan who have not yet had one installed. And the proliferation of Conservatories rivals that of the rabbit. A growth industry if ever there was one.

Come a sunny day ( we do get them even in this neck of the woods) and your Conservatory gets so unbearably hot, that to make it habitable, windows and doors are opened, letting extremely hot air loose into the atmosphere. And while we are on the subject—another candidate for the hot air stakes—the greenhouse. Is it any wonder that we have Global Warming?

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## COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

We held our AGM and an ordinary public meeting on 27th July, attended by 27 members of the public, an Argyll & Bute Councillor and 2 Strathclyde Police officers. As this was the first AGM since the Community Council Review there were no elections, so the 10 members get to keep their jobs.

One of the main issues pursued on your behalf over the past year has been the ongoing works by Scottish Water, of late concerned with reinstatement of roads and residents' properties. The early stages of talks on 2 proposed wind farms are now also keeping members busy, along with the usual topics of the state of roads and local planning. The Fairer Lorn and Islands consultation resulted in a grant of £500 to the Community Council, more than doubling our usual running budget and allowing us to end the year in the black.

The following topics were debated during the ordinary meeting:-

**POLICE REPORT.** Chief Inspector Glen Bland attended his first meeting, and encouraged community members to contact him on his mobile on 07967 097 954 regarding any issues with the way policing is carried out. P.C. Jeremy Moore gave update on disposal of old distress flares, advising that these should be reported to Oban Police or Coastguard.

**PROPOSED RAERA WINDFARM.** The importance of this to the community could account for the exceptional attendance at this meeting. 238 objections have been received by the Council, most of them from our area. Due to the number of objections, the matter is likely to go to a hearing following the initial planning meeting in September.

**LOCAL ROADS.** Much of the resurfacing work between Clachan Bridge and Balvicar has already been completed. The Council is now looking at repairing the Balvicar to Cuan stretch. Please let Charles Struthers know of any problems with the roads.

**JAPANESE KNOTWEED.** Seil and Easdale are to be included in a Council pilot to eradicate this pest using glyphosate.

**SCOTTISH WATER** An on-site meeting is to take place between the Community Council and Scottish Water. It is important to tell Charles Struthers or other CC members about outstanding issues, even if you have reported them to Scottish Water, as they are not permitted to give us a copy of their list.

**HEALTH MATTERS.** An update was given, including the postponement of the Dental Access Centre in the old Harbour Bowl until 2011/12.

**SCOTTISH FERRIES REVIEW.** Following the meeting on 27th July, a CC sub-committee will be set up to take part in this important consultation.

**NEXT MEETING.** Tuesday 28th September 2010, Easdale Island Hall at 7pm.

## 10<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY FOR LOCAL CONSERVATION

Your local Conservation Trust was founded in autumn 1999. Driven by a conviction that local heritage was at risk, a small group, representing Seil, Easdale, Luing and Belnahua, formed the Scottish Slate Islands Heritage Trust. The Trust remit was to advance the conservation and protection of land, buildings, records and artifacts within the Slate Islands, and to inform residents and visitors about the former slate industry, and the social history of the area. In spring 2000, the Slate Islands Heritage Centre opened in Ellenabeich: the public face of the Trust, and to spearhead the collection of artifacts and records, while undertaking education, interpretation and entertainment. Premises were secured through the interest of Isobelle Smith, and converted by the volunteer work of Bert Baker and Petre Withall. The displays were designed and executed by Jean Adams.

Strathclyde Regional Council had just completed a comprehensive "enhancement" of the square in Ellenabeich, leaving an urban, concrete desert, owing nothing to the heritage of the village. At the same time the wooden pier was decaying, and would shortly drop the much-loved old crane into the sea. It was decided to make the crane the centre of a project to improve the whole square, with slate features and new paving. Negotiations with local authorities, community consultation, daunting fundraising, and complicated engineering were all overcome. The square was completed in 2002.

The Centre survived on the hard work of a growing band of volunteers, and in early years welcomed about 3000 visitors each summer. Jean Adams and Mary Withall enhanced the displays, collected additional material, and did much to research and record local history. That Centre and museum, still relying on the volunteers, is now ten years old, and welcomed 14,000 visitors last summer.

Without the volunteers your Trust would collapse; but their importance goes far beyond the labour they give to the Centre, to administration and to conservation. They are the voice, the conscience and the powerhouse of the Trust. The task is huge, and the possibilities enormous. The Centre absorbs almost all the available resources at the moment, but with additional help more could be done in research and conservation. The Trust should also play a much larger part in promoting community discussion of local strategic planning.

**Being a volunteer for the Slate Islands Heritage Trust, or indeed being a member (at a cost of £5 per year), is very rewarding. You can make a real difference, and there are outings, gatherings and good fellowship. Your Trust is waiting to hear from you:**

**Chairman, Mike Shaw 01852 300 400**

**Secretary, Jim Watson 01852 300 307**

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## HALL NEWS-

### AMALGAMATION of ISLE of SEIL SPORTS CLUB (ISSC) WITH THE HALL COMMITTEE

Following the ISSC AGM on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July it was agreed that the ISSC would be dissolved and amalgamated with the Hall Committee. A new sub-group will be formed called the Recreation and Amenities Group to continue with hall garden maintenance, fund raising and encouraging sporting activities. All monies held by the ISSC will be transferred to the Hall Committee accounts.

### CIVIL WEDDING LICENCE

Seil Island Community Hall has now acquired a Civil Wedding Period Approval Licence which is effective from 20th April 2010 to 19th April 2013. For more details check out the Hall website under Hall Bookings. <http://forargyll.org/>

## HALL GARDENS WORK PARTY AND BBQ

The next Hall Garden work party will be held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm. This is intended as a get together to celebrate a year since the Beechgrove Garden Project. So bring along some food to enjoy a BBQ after some much needed work in the garden.

*Editor's note—Sorry, this intimation will not reach anyone in time to take it up. It is rather unfortunate that because the Seileachan comes out every two months, notification of some forthcoming events will only be intimated after they have actually taken place. Could I urge all organisations who would like their forthcoming events to be publicised, to give me the details at least two months before they take place.*

### SEIL CRAFT FAIR

The next Seil Craft Fair will be held at Seil Island Hall on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August between 11.00 am and 4pm. Stalls will include Cards, Basket Weaving, Jewellery, Silk Scarves, Candles, Books, Knitwear, Indoor Plants. Also Seil Natural History Group and much more. Teas, Coffees, Light Lunches and Home Baking will be provided in the hall, whilst outside there will be family sporting activities, including Canoeing and Kayaking and a BBQ. All proceeds raised are towards Easdale Primary School and the Hall Recreations and Amenities Group.

### ART CLASS

This popular activity will resume in the autumn under the tutelage of Ian Gowdie on Thursday afternoons in the small hall starting on Thursday 9th September. If you would like to take part, please contact Annie Sinclair on 300308 or [tsinclair@waitrose.com](mailto:tsinclair@waitrose.com)

### HEARING LOOP

On Wednesday 1st September at 2pm in the small Seil Island Hall there will be a meeting to refresh many ears. This is both for those who organise meetings and for those who use hearing aids. This is so that more frequent and better use can be made of the Hearing Loop. The instruction is to be given by the domiciliary audiologist.

### LOTTERY RESULTS

JUNE		JULY	
£50	Rollover	£75	Rollover
£10	Maira Taylor	£10	Tracy Duncan
£10	Val Shingler	£10	Jan Wolfe
£10	Jim McKay	£10	Mary Norris

### SUMMER CEILIDHS

The ever popular summer season of ceilidhs is now upon us again and the dates for this year are as follows -

Wednesday 21st July

Wednesday 4th August

Wednesday 11th August

all at 8pm in the hall

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## TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES & CALENDARS

Current copies of the local telephone directory are available in Balvicar Stores at a cost of £4.50 sponsored by the Community Council. Anyone who feels disadvantaged by not being included therein, can have the situation speedily redressed by passing their details to [jimcee6@hotmail.com](mailto:jimcee6@hotmail.com) or as it is a telephone directory after all, by phoning 300344

The 2011 Slate Island Calendar is now in full circulation, and copies at £3.50 can be obtained in Balvicar Stores, Kilbrandon Church, Seafari Shop, J.Taylor's emporium, and G. Brunner's kiosk. Price includes an envelope for sending to all those interested relatives and friends.