

SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

The main purpose of this newsletter is to record the doings of the Community Council, The Seil Island Hall, nature notes, forthcoming attractions, and grateful thanks for support in previous activities.

However, occasionally there is an event which impinges on community life which deserves to be chronicled.

Such was the recent tragic untimely death of Iain Fullarton. His presence, in one way or another, must have touched the lives of most of the residents of these fair shores, and his absence will be felt by many. This is not a full blown obituary, but the things for which Iain will be remembered for, are his consummate activity, his dedication to everything he tackled, his lack of "airs and graces", his distinctive sartorial garb, and his unusual perception of time.

Seil has lost one of its outstanding citizens.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Seil and Easdale Community Council held a public meeting on Tuesday 24th July at Seil Island Hall.

A broken sensor and membrane breach at Pumping Station 3 has led to a high volume of tankers over the past few weeks to remove sludge. SEPA have advised that sludge being washed up at Balvicar is of unknown origin but unrelated to Scottish Water activities. The silver fencing near Tigh Cladich has been replaced following concerns over safety. The orange fence near Cnoc a Challtuinn remains and a further request for its removal has been made. Following discussions between SECC and Scottish Water, it has been agreed that tankers will now turn at the shop rather than in the bell mouth at the new housing plots by the Golf Course and that as future incidents arise, Scottish Water will give necessary information to Balvicar Stores for display. SECC will continue to work with Local Councillors and Scottish Water to resolve outstanding issues.

There has been no movement recorded at Kilniver Bridge for over a year although the parapets have been hit by a number of times by vehicles. There is ongoing concern regarding why it is taking so long for contingency plans to be finalised and why the offer by the Kilniver Estate to part fund an alternative road and bridge has not been acted on. SECC will continue to seek confirmation and progress from Argyll and Bute Council.

The bollards at Balvicar have been filled with gravel but holes remain. White lining has been requested but this will not be done until workmen are in the area for other work.

The road side part of the cemetery fence now has a rail and capping and there is a kissing gate waiting to be installed between the cemeteries.

Members of the public have recently raised concerns regarding the loss of the sign about falling rocks which has gone from by Dunearn on the way into Ellenabeich and about the lack of parking at Cuan Ferry.

There has been no progress regarding the repair of the holes in the Sea Wall as there are ongoing uncertainties about ownership and responsibility. The outcome of the Ferries Review may have a bearing on this.

Investigations are ongoing regarding whether the Community should purchase land on offer by the Inglis family. Seumas Anderson has been appointed a Director of the Kilbrandon Trust which will now be used as a vehicle with which to investigate the options and potentially the purchase of the land. The Ferries Review may have an impact on this, should Argyll and Bute Council need to purchase some of the land to improve links to Easdale.

There has been no formal decision from the Planning Department regarding Clachan Wind Farm. Rory Young, owner of Clachan Farm is seeking further Community involvement and investment should the planning permission be granted. It was agreed that although the prospect of additional funding for the area is tempting, for SECC to investigate this further would contradict their objections raised to the planning application which were based on views expressed by members of the local community.

For further information on planning applications, see the Argyll and Bute Website <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment>

There has been no movement on the evacuation from Easdale Island. SECC will write to the MSP to raise the matter further.

Since the meeting SECC have been advised that we were unsuccessful in our application for the Vo-daphone which would have seen a localised mobile receiver being installed in the area. The Kilmelford application was successful.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 25th September, 19:00 at Seil Hall

The November meeting (27th November) will be held at Easdale Island Hall.

Basking Shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*)

Following recent sightings at Cuan and Cullipool in July, I thought it might be interesting to unearth a few facts about this magnificent creature. The most we normally get to see of this animal is the dorsal and tail fin, but below water is a huge fish.

In fact the basking shark is Britain's largest fish and is one of only three plankton-feeding shark species. They can grow up to 11 metres long and weigh up to 7 tonnes, about the size and weight of a double-decker bus! The large, black, triangular dorsal fin moves slowly through the water, with the tail tip or snout sometimes also visible above the waves. These harmless giants reappear in our coastal waters each summer. Once numerous, basking sharks were hunted for their liver oil and their populations declined to such an extent that now they are considered to be endangered in UK waters.

Now they are protected and the fishery has stopped, but as the population recovers they still face threats of accidental entanglement, disturbance at their surface feeding sites and illegal fishing for their valuable fins. We still have much to learn about these gentle giants, which spend most of their lives hidden beneath the waves. While we are beginning to identify basking shark hotspots where they come to the surface in summer to feed, we do not fully understand the importance of these hotspots and what exactly the sharks are doing there.

Don't forget to report sightings to 'The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust' if you see a Basking Shark - your sightings are crucial in helping understand and protect these magnificent animals!.
Seil Natural History Group

FROM THE HALL COMMITTEE

Thanks to Alice & John Wilson of Willowburn for their generous donation of a commercial dishwasher, which has now been installed in the Hall.

LOTTERY RESULTS

MAY	JUNE
£75 Ian Galloway	£50 Ian Galloway
£10 Lyn MacPherson	£10 Charlie Watt
£10 Richard Allan	£10 Brian Phillips
£10 Julie Ferris	£10 Janice Baxter

JULY	AUGUST
£50 Drew Connelly	£50 Rollover
£10 Kathleen Gordon	£10 K.Lacey
£10 Jo Pearson	£10 Christine Wills
£10 Bridget MacGregor	£10 Sheila Hunt

INVITATION

The Choir meets every Wednesday evening, 7-30 to 9pm in the Small Hall, where a great time is had singing folk, pop, and songs from the Shows. We have had a really good turnout so far, but we know that lots of people are busy during the summer. If that applies to you, but you would like to come along in the Autumn/Winter, please do— you would be very welcome and trust me, it's great fun.
Julie Ferris.

THANK YOU

From Shela and Roan Barra (An Grianan) - to all those who contributed towards the Yorkhill Children's Hospital, Cancer Ward, where our older brother received excellent treatment for many years. We are pleased to announce that the sum raised was £265.

RAG (Recreation & Amenities Group) would like to thank everyone who attended the "Big Lunch" on June 3rd. The food was fantastic and it was a BIG success. We would also like to thank Alisdair and Judith Gillespie for providing the lovely music.

RAG (again) would like to thank The Antics and the Lush Puppies for the second successful live music night at Seil Island Hall. The sum of £364 was raised and will go towards completing the children's play area. We would also like to thank everyone who attended for their support. Another night is planned for a future event.

BALVICAR STORES & P.O.—a message from the new face behind the counter.

"I would like to thank everyone for their notes of support, as I embark upon this journey. I feel this is a well supported shop and look forward to serving the community, with a smile" She also asked people to bear with her during the first few weeks, while she finds her feet

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (SCOTLAND) EASDALE BRANCH—ANNUAL SALE

The Easdale branch of the RBL (Scotland) are holding their Annual Sale for Forces Charities in Seil Island Hall, Ellena-beich, on Saturday 25th August 2012 from 12 noon—3.30pm.

Donations of baking, bric-a-brac (not electrical) and bottles for the Bottle Stall, will be welcomed and can be delivered to the Hall from 9am on the day, or given in advance to Jim Watson (Ellena-beich) 300307 or Stuart Reid (Clachan Seil) 300311.

ISLE OF SEIL ROWING CLUB

Building is now underway of a St Ayles rowing Skiff as a community project. There is a regular build night at 6.30pm on Wednesdays in the shed at Oban Seil Farm. Progress and further information can be followed at <http://www.seilskiff.org.uk/> 56 of the 64 shares have now been sold and the share certificate is being designed. Anyone wanting to support the club and buy one of the last few shares can make out a cheque for £60 – payable to Isle of Seil Rowing Club, and hand it in at the Surgery. Hopefully we can move on to rowing and racing the skiff before the end of the year

SEIL GUIDES

Seil Guides will continue but Sue Vest and Sue Fenton are looking for people to contribute to individual meetings. The more variety the better—baking/outdoors/crafts/ music/other interests appreciated. If you are able to give up one evening, please contact Sue Vest on 300160 or sue.vest@hotmail.co.uk Many thanks.

FORWARD THOUGHTS FOR THE AUTUMN

If a dabble in Art takes your fancy perhaps it is worth mentioning that an art group under the able tutelage of Mary Blackstock will resume on Thursday 4th October in Seil Hall at 2pm. We are not all Vettriano's and any degree of talent, or none, will be made very welcome. Further details from Mary on 300 347.