

SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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www.seil.oban.ws

August 15

EDITORIAL

There is rather a lot of stuff for this issue, so just an endorsement for the new carpet bowling facility at the hall. If you have relations to entertain and the weather is not conducive to a barbecue, this hall facility is excellent value and a round robin competition will keep everyone interested—highly recommended.

Notes for Seileachan from the SECC Meeting held on 28th July 2015

It was heartening to have another excellent turnout at the public meeting of the Community Council held on 28th July in Seil Island Hall. 25 members of the public joined your Community Councillors and Cllr Elaine Robertson at the meeting, which opened with a very informative presentation on **ACCESS ISSUES** given by Mr Jolyon Gritten, Access Manager of Argyll and Bute Council. The presentation covered legislation, access rights and responsibilities, core paths, and the proposals at Ellenabeich with regard to the Kayak Trail. If anyone has any queries regarding access issues, they can contact Jolyon Gritten direct on 01546 604314

ARGYLL SEA KAYAK TRAIL

The agreed signage improvements should be completed by the end of September.

SCOTTISH WATER: NEW WASTE WATER PROPOSALS FOR SEIL

Copies were distributed of the Community Council's letter to Scottish Water outlining community concerns, and the reply received from Scottish Water. Apparently Scottish Water will be holding a drop in session soon to allow everyone to view their proposals and discuss concerns with the project team.

ROADS

Thanks were given for the recently-filled potholes, especially that crater near the 30mph sign on the way to the bridge – long may it stay filled! We were pleased to be amongst the first areas to have the grass verges cut this year; we will press for the scrub to be cut back asap to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

POLICE REPORT

PC Moore couldn't be at the meeting, but after a recent theft of a significant amount of cash in the area the Chair reminded everyone to secure their property and to keep an eye on any vulnerable neighbours. Anything suspicious should be reported on 101.

Speeding through Clachan Seil continues to be of concern to some residents, and this would be passed on again to the police. So watch out – you have been warned!

PLANNING - New applications since last meeting

1. Non material amendment for change of window. Achnaclach Clachan Seil - Application permitted
 2. Erection of decking and modifications to windows. Fasgadh Clachan Seil - Pending consideration
 3. Erection of garage/store Land North West of Dunearn Ellenabeich - Pending consideration
 4. Erection of dwellinghouse, detached garage and formation of new vehicular access. Plot 1 Barnafeochaig Farm Clachan Seil – Application permitted
- Still pending – all information is at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk search planning applications**

It was noted that the application for the erection of 20 dwellinghouses Land South East of Oban Seil Farm will be presented to the next available Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee with a recommendation of refusal.

VODAFONE OPEN SURE SIGNAL

Vodafone have confirmed they would set up the five Open sure sites on Seil. Contracts for all locations (TnT, Surgery, Balvicar Stores, Cuan Ferry and the Hall) have been signed and returned. Planning for all has been approved.

OUTSIDE TAP AT ELLENABEICH TOILETS

The Community Council is awaiting a reply from A&B Council as to why the hose adaptor was removed.

20mph FLASHING LIGHTS AT EASDALE SCHOOL

The Community Council is pressing for these to be repaired as a matter of utmost urgency.

DISTRIBUTION OF SEILEACHAN

The Chair asked for volunteers to take over distribution of this newsletter to the delivery folk. Two people stepped up to the plate – many thanks to Christine Moinard and Sue Fenton as well, of course, to Jim Cunningham and all the delivery team.

PARKING IN OBAN

Concern was expressed at the impact of parking restrictions, particularly the new proposals to time limit parking in the Atlantis Leisure and Lochavullin car parks, on local residents. Cllr Robertson explained that the proposals are up for consultation and all constructive feedback is welcomed. See www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/parking for more information.

TABLED PAPER : LETTER FROM HSE ON CONCERNS REGARDING SEAFARI OPERATIONS

The Chair read out and tabled a letter he had received from Kathryn Wilson, HM Inspector of Health and Safety, confirming that A&B Council are the enforcing authority both for the existing operation and for the bulk storage. The two departments within the council that enforce the above are Environmental Health and Trading Standards respectively. The letter was sent to the Chair “as a matter of courtesy as I am sure you are aware that a number of concerns have been raised by residents in your community regarding the health and safety arrangements relating to operations undertaken by Seafari Adventures Ltd from Ellenabeich and Easdale Island.”

The letter concludes:

“I appreciate that the concerns raised by various parties related to whether the operations undertaken by Seafari presented a risk to the communities of Ellenabeich and Easdale. I hope that you can now be reassured that the appropriate health and safety measures are in place to reduce any risk to the general public.”

A copy of the letter is available from the Secretary by request to ferrisjef@aol.com

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 22nd September 2015, 19.00, Seil Island Hall

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

This subject has been brought to the fore recently with the discussion on Himalayan Balsam, an invasive non-native plant that survives on Seil. This is probably one species that is easier to eradicate than others, but another more problematic plant is Japanese Knotweed. This can render a property uninsurable, and must be dealt with correctly and without delay. Invasive plants damage the environment in a number of ways. They out-compete our native flora for light, space and nutrients. They can reduce the light and heat reaching lower-growing plants, alter rates of nutrient cycling, or (in freshwater habitats) cause large changes in the amount of oxygen available, all of which can be harmful to other plants and animals. The environmental damage caused by invasive non-native plants can be irreversible and destroy many of our national natural treasures. In fact 30% of important plant areas have been found to have invasive species in them.

Another damaging species, that most of us are aware of is the American Mink. Since the early sixties this animal has decimated seabird colonies up and down the West Coast since its release from mink farms and has done immeasurable damage. American mink are often mistaken for otters, but are much smaller with fluffier tails and pointed snouts. Inside this beautiful looking creature lurks an indiscriminate killer of birds, fish and small mammals that decimate ground-nesting birds and tackle fish as large as themselves. Native to North America, they were introduced around the world for fur farming. Escapes and deliberate releases have resulted in this great survivor becoming established in Europe and with no natural predators in the UK, their populations are thriving.

Non-native species are the second most serious threat to global biodiversity after habitat loss and islands, freshwater and coastal waters are at risk more than most. We can all do something to help stop their spread, non-native species cause problems that affect us all. They cost the Scottish economy at least £244 million a year and cause great damage to our native wildlife. Everyone can play a part in stopping the spread of non-native species. For advice, identification or to report any of these species please refer to the Scottish National heritage website at :- <http://www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/nonnative-species/id-and-report/> or contact our local SNH office at Cameron House, Albany St, Oban PA34 4AE Phone :- 0300 244 9360
Richard Wesley – Lorn Natural History Group

SCOTTISH WATER PETITION The petition opposing Scottish Water's latest proposal for Seil achieved over 200 signatures from local residents in less than 3 weeks. This indication of the feeling in the community has been presented to those at a high level who might be involved in this proposed project.

Thanks to all who signed—If you missed the opportunity to sign please add your name at Balvicar Stores, T & T, Seil, Hall, or The Heritage Centre.

A reminder about the proposal— To decommission the treatment works at Clachan/Balvicar and pump raw sewage over the hill to a septic tank at Seaview. All the effluent, of a lower quality would then be discharged into the sea in a designated Area of Conservation.

SEIL HALL NEWS - LOTTERY RESULTS

JULY	AUGUST
£50 Frances Hill	£50 Julie Ferris
£10 Alasdair Danskin	£10 Aileen MacFarlane
£10 Nancy Gardiner	£10 David Pearson
£10 Kieran Gordon	£10 Jill Cadzow

The C raft Fair was, once again, an extremely enjoyable and well attended community event, which raised the tremendous sum of £1258. Thanks to those who worked so hard to make the day such a success.

Thanks to everyone who took part in the grounds working party held on 26th July—look out for the next one to be arranged soon.

Indoor carpet bowls—just a reminder that we now have “Short Mat” bowling mats and a set of indoor biased bowls. These are available for £1 per person (plus hire of hall which is £4 per hour for local residents).

As we are approaching the onset of darkness continuously earlier as the days progress, it is probably time to consider those things which might usefully occupy these reduced hours of daylight, in the coming months ahead.

It is highly likely that the popular Art class will be resuming again this Autumn, but future dates are not forthcoming at the moment. Please watch the next issue for updated information.

Another activity for those not in the first flush of youth is the Over 50's Badminton in the Seil Hall on a Tuesday afternoon 2-4pm. This is scheduled to resume again on Tuesday 22nd September, and existing members and any prospective ones will find a warm welcome.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (SCOTLAND) EASDALE BRANCH—ANNUAL SALE

The Easdale Branch are holding their Annual Sale for Forces' charities in Seil Island Hall on **Saturday 29th August -12 noon till 3pm.**

Donations of baking, bric-a-brac (non electrical) and bottles for the bottle stall will be welcome and can be delivered to the hall from 9am on the day of the sale or given in advance to Jim Watson (Ellenabeich) 300307 or Stuart Reid (Clachan Seil) 300311.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on the day.

KILBRANDON SWI meets at 7.30pm in Seil Island Hall on the first Tuesday of every month from September to May. We get together to learn, be entertained, and above all to share friendship and have a good old natter and laugh. Why not give it a go? This year's programme includes Old Oban in photographs, Falconry—come and meet a Harris Hawk, a trip through Death Valley USA, and the inspirational work of Mary's Meals. Not to mention jewellery, crafts, cookery, and a Christmas Party—what's not to like? Look out for the posters coming soon, or ring Julie on 090.

LUNCH CLUB—Just a reminder to our diners that Lunch Club will resume on Wednesday 9th September starting at 12.30 as usual in Seil Island Hall. We look forward to seeing you all again.

SEIL SOUND—our local amateur choir resume their exercising of the vocal chords on Wednesday 2nd September from 7-9pm in Seil Island Hall, and Wednesdays thereafter and extend a welcome to anyone who enjoys belting out a song or two.

SEIL DRAMA GROUP will be having their first AGM on the 1st September at 7pm in the small hall of Seil Island Hall. Agenda will be posted at Balvicar Stores nearer the time.

If anyone is interested in joining the group either to act or be behind the scenes, please come along. We will be performing another panto this/next year (30th January 2016) so keep this date free. Auditions for the panto will take place in October. Date to be confirmed.