

SEILEACHAN

Seil & Easdale Community Council Newsletter

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www.seil.oban.ws

August 2019

Copy for the next issue should be sent to the editor, Sue, by **31 October**: scwfenton@gmail.com The *Seileachan* is available on the community website: <http://seil.oban.ws> (together with full minutes and agenda) and on *The Slate*: <http://the-slate.freeforums.net>

The Seileachan is also available by email (pdf). Drop Sue an email with your house name/number; you may also, however, still receive a paper copy through your door, sorry!

There are some spare paper copies in Balvicar Stores.

• Please could distributors let me know if they are unable to deliver timeously, for any reason. 'Bank' distributors, available to cover any absences, are always very



welcome. A distributor for Easdale Island is still sought!

FACEBOOK

The Seil & Easdale Community Council now has its own facebook page, which will help with communication with the wider community.

See: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/758246257908565/>

Community Council (CC) Public Meeting Tuesday 23 July

12 members of the public joined Councillor Elaine Robertson and members of the CC in Easdale Island Hall. John Gordon has stepped down from the CC and Julie Ferris thanked John for his work as a councillor and also the wider community. Anne Foster was co-opted onto the CC. leaving a vacancy for one more member. Anyone interested?

Scottish Water (SW)

The planning application for the new Waste Water Treatment Works has now been submitted. The CC is undertaking a consultation exercise which closes on 4 August and the CC will respond to Argyll & Bute (A&B) Council by 15 August.

Yowann Byghan advised the meeting that the CC's response would include a mention of the level of response to the consultation, how many were in favour and how many against, and then notes reflecting concerns which had been raised in the comments.

Bus Service Ellenabeich – Turning Circle

The CC are still awaiting a topographical survey being carried out by A&B and are keen to make progress on this issue. The subject was raised at a recent ministerial visit. The minister offered helpful advice about applying for funding via the Communication, Transport & Islands Fund, and the CC will look into how this can be pursued.

Parking at Ellenabeich

The CC are looking at ways to improve parking, particularly for residents. This involves trying to get

abandoned vehicles and trailers removed. Yowann Byghan expressed thanks to Guy Knight for cutting the grass and forming a border of stones on the green area by the bus stop. Campervans cause problems parking overnight on the pier and creating an obstruction. The CC are looking at ways of improving signage both for residents and visitors.

Campervans

The CC feel campervans are an economic asset and potentially have a significant impact on the community. There are a minority who dump their waste irresponsibly, and the CC has contacted SW to see if they could assist with providing a site for access to clean water, and draining/getting rid of waste. The government is reviewing water-point sites for the NC500 and SW will add Seil to the list of sites for consideration. Councillor Robertson reported that the provision of bins for the main car part was 'on the list'.

Phone Directory

It was noted that the response for entries were still not enough to warrant printing the directory and a last promotion would be undertaken over the Scarecrow Festival week. The CC would then decide what to do and it was likely the directory would only be available in electronic format, maybe with a small number of paper copies being made available at cost.

Peace Pole

The CC continues to seek views about the peace pole. Please pass on comments to the secretary or visit the Community Council's Facebook page. For more information see <https://peacepoleproject.org>

Roads and Bridges

It was noted that Japanese Knotweed is thriving along Loch Seil. The grate at Tramway is due to be repaired once the road adoption process has gone through for the road. The CC noted that the extent of the growth of vegetation on the verges is now becoming a safety issue and will request they are cut back.

The CC is aware, and reassured, that the bridges are checked regularly.

Police Report

No police report was submitted for the meeting.

Planning

Julie Ferris reported on applications since the last meeting. For more information please visit the A&B website.

The visit of Islands Minister

Easdale representatives reported their meeting had been very helpful. Seil representatives had raised issues of lack of IT connectivity in the village hall, mobile phone coverage and public transport with the minister.

Place Standard Tool

This is a tool which scores areas of daily life which impact on the community and the results are plotted on a chart to identify areas for improvement. The CC had undertaken this exercise as a group and overall the results were that we lived in a safe place with many amenities. People are encouraged to complete this exercise on-line via A&B website.

NEXT CC MEETING

The next meeting will be at 6.30pm on Tuesday 24 September, in Seil Island Hall.

AN CALA GARDEN

A late 19th century photograph, in the Scottish Slate Islands Heritage Trust's collection, shows a distillery situated beside the present day primary school in Ellenabeich. One can't help but be struck by its transformation into the present day An Cala house and garden. After the Revenue got wind of the whisky making, tax was demanded on the spirit and the enterprise came to an end.

The five acre site was developed in the early 1930s by Colonel Arthur Murray and his wife, the actress Faith Celli. To the existing row of five cottages was added an upper story and an extension in the Arts & Crafts style. Having renovated the house, attention then turned to the garden and Thomas Mawson, the leading landscape architect of the day, was employed. It took Mawson's team of gardeners a year to sculpt the present day layout from the rocky barren terrain, the legacy of previous volcanic activity. Luckily there was an abundant supply of dynamite from the local slate quarries; huge areas of bedrock were blasted to make the winding drive up to the new house.

Fast forward nearly a hundred years and the garden has withstood the test of time. A shelter belt of conifers sweeps up from the road in a giant semicircle and encloses the garden within its arms. An 18 foot high brick wall was built on the roadside to protect the garden from the worst of the Atlantic gales. Streams running through the garden were diverted and the waterfall and Distillery Burn were fashioned into a series of ponds.

The hydrangeas, thriving in the acid damp soil, are at their peak at this time of year.

Entrance donations to the garden are divided between cancer charities and Scotland's Gardens Scheme. However, custodian/owner Sheila Downie has extended an invitation to local residents to stroll through the gardens free of charge (shh, don't tell Edinburgh!)

Other local gardens open to the public as part of the gardens scheme are Eas Mhor, up Cnoc-a-Challtuinn, and Ardmaddy Castle Garden.

SEED FOR LIFE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

An evening of Paintings & Poetry

Kenneth Steven will host an informal showing of his paintings at Clachandubh Lodge in Balvicar on Saturday 24 August from 6.30pm and will read some of his poetry. Light refreshments will be provided. A portion of the proceeds will go towards Seed for Life. View online in advance: <https://kennethsteven.co.uk/paintings>



HOUSE CONCERT

Folk singer and songwriter Kirsty McGee will perform at Anna Northover's House in Balvicar on Saturday 31 August as a fundraising event for Seed for Life. Further details to follow.

SEIL ISLAND HALL

July Lottery winners

£50 John Chroston

£10 Ann Reid, George Fleming & Kevin White

August Lottery winners

£50 Campbell Fleming

£10 Alec Clayton, Sheila Brown, Sally Knight

GARDEN WORK PARTY at the hall, Sunday 25 August at 1030 am until lunchtime. Everyone welcome. Bring your own gardening gloves. Refreshments provided!

SCARECROW FESTIVAL

The week-long event was very successful – many thanks to all the organisers and participants! The final amount is still being tallied, with money still to come in and go out, but exceeded all expectations of the hall committee. All profits gathered are towards the hall development fund.

To put you out of your misery, there was a total of 128 scarecrows on the Scarecrow Trail. Anyone who wants to dispute the finer points of the grand total *viz* is an operation one or two scarecrows, is a dog a scarecrow? *etc* should take it up with George MacKenzie!

The most popular scarecrow was voted as *The Revenge of the Crows*, seen at the farm of the chief scarecrow, closely followed by the *Invisible Man* at Balvicar.

What fantastic, imaginative creations, everyone!

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (SCOTLAND) EASDALE BRANCH – ANNUAL SALE

The Easdale Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland are holding their Annual Sale for Forces' charities in Seil Island Hall, Ellenabeich, on Saturday 24 August from 12 noon to 3.00 pm.

Donations of baking, toys, books, garden produce 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 (Ellenabeich) 300307 or Stuart Reid (Clachan Seil) 300311.

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

THE SCOTTISH ENSEMBLE

The inaugural event of the Netherlorn Music Scheme (NeMS), formerly known as the Seil & Easdale Music Scheme, will be held on **Friday 30 August at 1.15pm** in Seil Island Hall.

A special lunchtime recital will feature the Scottish Ensemble, playing Mendelssohn's Octet in E flat major opus 20. Admission is free, although donations are invited.

A flier for this event, and for NeMS, is enclosed with this *Seileachan*.

