

SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

From time immemorial (and that is going back quite a long way) this little corner of the planet has been subject to incursions from outsiders—some just to do a bit of plundering “en– passant” (Vikings) and others intent on a bit of territorial expansion. Fortunately for us, the efforts of the Spanish (Armada), French (Napoleon) and fairly recently Germany (Adolf Hitler) came to naught. Currently we have incursions from tourists, but as they are only here temporarily, and they add considerably to our coffers, they pass muster as acceptable—and are even sought after.

That covers humans—the indigenous ones have also introduced Sheep, Fish and Oysters (all farming) and the population of each of these species probably outnumber the humans (but we have to eat).

The latest potential incursion is wind turbines, and heaven forbid that these could outnumber the human population. The jury is out on this one.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

The November meeting of Seil and Easdale Community Council took place on the 23rd of the month. None of the usual representatives of Strathclyde Constabulary was available, so there was no police report. The two most pressing issues discussed were Scottish Water and, what has most occupied us of late, wind farms and other alternative energies. As usual, a full copy of the minutes can be viewed at <http://seil.oban.ws/cc.html>.

PROPOSED CLACHAN & RAERA WIND FARMS

The planning application for Raera wind farm has been recommended for refusal by the planning committee. As a result there will be a public hearing on 14th December, to which those of you who have corresponded on the application will have been invited. Speakers from both sides will have an opportunity to put forward their case, following which the committee will give their decision.

It is expected that the planning application for Clachan wind farm will be submitted in January. Following submission, the community council will carry out a survey and use the results to inform its representation to Argyll & Bute Council. Everyone on the edited electoral roll will receive a questionnaire. There is some concern about the thoroughness of the archaeological report on the proposed site that has recently been completed, as a possible bronze-age settlement may have been overlooked. Clarification will be sought.

EASDALE HALL AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP

A planning application has been submitted for an air source heat pump and solar PV panels on Easdale Hall. A number of island residents take issue with the noise that will be generated by the operation of the heat pump, and that the appearance of the solar panels may be out of keeping with their surroundings

On another note, the application for a wind turbine on Easdale has been withdrawn for the time being.

SCOTTISH WATER The local representative was due to attend the meeting, but disappointingly cancelled at the 11th hour. He has been given a list compiled by Charles Struthers of all complaints received to date. A copy has been sent to the Chair of Scottish Water, in an attempt to escalate the situation and bring it to a satisfactory conclusion. Please email Charles (ardmaddycastle@btinternet.com) with details of any other complaints.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING The Chair of the community council attended the most recent meeting. There was a discussion about REAP, the renewable energy action plan, and the potential business opportunities it could bring to the area. It was reported that Argyll & Bute Council is to introduce a dynamic list of issues and works which can be added to by community councils and freely viewed, and they are also to upgrade their website.

HEALTH MATTERS A paper entitled ‘NHS Highland Vision’ has been published, which sets out the expected changes in delivery of health services over the next 5 years.

Easdale Island Emergency Evacuation There has been an outstanding response to the request for volunteers to be involved in the management and deployment of emergency landing lights. A survey of the proposed landing site will be carried out in December, and discussions continue on funding of the lights.

LOCAL ROADS Can anyone noticing potholes please notify the roads department on 01546 605514.

REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS It was noted that the amalgamation of Easdale and Luing Primary Schools will not be going ahead.

NEXT MEETING In case you wish to book them ahead in your diary, meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of alternate months. Using this formula, the next meeting is on 25th January, Burns Night! Every 3rd meeting is Easdale Hall, but in January it will be the turn of Seil Hall. Please email the secretary Jane Nichols on ljanenichols@btinternet.com in connection with any Community Council business.

ANYONE NEED A LIFT TO CHURCH?

If anyone would like to come to any of the services at Kilbrandon Church, but can't get there because of transport problems, there's always someone in the church who would be willing to give you a lift. If you would like a lift to church at any time, here's who you should contact –

- Martin and Myra Waddell - 300395 (for folk wanting lifts from Balvicar or Cuan);
- Robert and Maura Rae - 300379 (for folk wanting lifts from Clachan Seil);
- Brien Dickey - 300482 (for folk wanting lifts from Ellena-beich or Easdale).

On receiving a request for a lift, we will either provide the lift ourselves or arrange for another church member in the locality to do so.

CHOIR

Many thanks to those who expressed an interest in joining a friendly stress-free choir. To anyone else who might be interested but doesn't want to commit themselves to anything embarrassing or hard work or generally awful, please get in touch and help us make it a fun activity. We are still looking for some kind soul to act as Choirmaster / Mistress so if you or anyone you can think of, would be prepared to do so, please contact Julie Ferris 300090 or FerrisJEF@aol.com

ART GROUP

After a successful autumn session the art group will resume again after the holidays on Thursday 13th January. We meet in the small hall in Seil Island hall from 2-4pm, and anyone who fancies a dabble at art will be very welcome to join us—no previous expertise necessary. Contact Mary Blackstock on 300347 or just come along.

BADMINTON—OVER 50s Club

Another activity with a bit more exercise involved that is open to new members is the Tuesday 2-4pm Badminton club—resuming Tuesday 11th January. Rackets available—all you need are shoes, and an ability to move about a bit. Contact Ann Cunningham 300344 or just turn up.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Alternatively, if all this “Strictly Come Dancing” has given you itchy feet, and you fancy treading the light fantastic, the Country Dancing class in Seil Hall on Tuesday evenings (8 -9.30pm) - resuming 11th January—will make you most welcome.. Contact Margaret Danskin on 300315.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

SATURDAY 15th JANUARY

A Sale of Fabrics, Craft Goods, & Sundry Items in Seil Island Hall from 11am—3pm.

Teas/coffees & home baking will be served and there will be a raffle. Entry is by donation and all proceeds will be donated to Marie Curie Nurses & Easdale Medical Practice in memory of the late Meryl Fraser.

WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB

The last lunch of this year will be on 15th December. We will resume again in the New Year on Wednesday January 5th.

Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy home prepared food in a convivial atmosphere for just 2.50 pounds. You don't need to let us know you are coming just turn up at the Seil Island Hall around 12.30. Lunches are held each Wednesday with a break in the summer.

If you would like to be a helper, please give Ann Reid a call on 300311

CHRISTMAS IN KILBRANDON CHURCH

Sunday 19 December

Christmas Family Service

10.00am

Christmas Eve (24 December)

Watchnight Service

11.15pm

Christmas Day (25 December)

Worship for Christmas Day

11.00am

A Waxwing Winter

The UK is currently seeing a huge influx of Waxwings from Russia and Northern Europe as winter approaches. The last major influx of waxwings was in the winter of 2004/05 which is the last time I recorded them here on Seil. The first record I have this year was on Sunday 24th October with a group of ten birds feeding on berries at Balvicar.

Waxwings – exotic birds to British eyes with their striking crest, dark, somewhat fierce ‘mask’, and coloured plumage – breed in northern European forests and woodlands, but often move south in the winter in search of better feeding grounds. Flocks of hundreds have been seen in towns and cities throughout the UK, with reports from as far afield as Shetland, Wales, and the West Country, and total numbers are likely to be into tens of thousands.

The Waxwing feeds mainly on berries, and in Britain particularly favours rowan and hawthorn berries, but will also eat cotoneaster and rose hips. It gets its name from the red tips to some of its wing feathers, which look like sealing wax. They usually first appear in the UK on the east coasts of Scotland and England, but often then spread inland. Migrant numbers vary significantly each year, depending on the abundance or scarcity of berries in their main habitats.

They are often spotted in supermarket car parks, where landscaping frequently incorporates the sorts of trees and bushes which attract them. They can be seen descending on berry trees and bushes and stripping them of fruit in a feeding frenzy, before moving on. Richard Wesley SNHG

GOLF CLUB—Put Back The Clock Competition

Unlike last year when the event had to be cancelled because monsoon rains fell, a dry sunny day was enjoyed by the thirteen competitors. The event was won by Ian Wylie, who with his son became a member this year. In second place was David Nathan. Ian donated the 130 pounds raised to the Beatson Cancer Clinic.

EASDALE MEDICAL PRACTICE

The Practice will be closed on -

Monday & Tuesday 27th & 28th December

Monday & Tuesday 3rd & 4th January 2011

If you need prescriptions during the week beginning January 24th please order your prescription in advance, to avoid this week as we are installing a new computer system.

The surgery will be open throughout this period but it would be helpful if all repeat prescriptions were ordered before 24th January.

Thank you for your co-operation

Royal British Legion Scotland –Easdale Branch

The recent House-to House collection on Luig, Seil, and Easdale for the Scottish Poppy Appeal raised a total of 954.25 pounds—a tremendous result and the most we have collected in recent years. Thanks to you all for giving so generously. We are now responsible for collections in Kilniver and Kilmelford where the total raised was 501.42 pounds. The grand total was therefore 1455.67 which has now been remitted to Poppy Scotland.

A REMINDER

If you have any intimations you would like included in the next issue of the Seileachan, could you please let me have these by about the third week in January to either jim-cee6@hotmail.com or 300344