

# SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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

December 14

## EDITORIAL

There are some things which one rather takes for granted, and it is not until they are absent, that you realise just how much you have relied on them. For those of you who wear a watch (and there are a few stalwarts who don't) you will be aware of the frustration of glancing at your wrist to find the usual timepiece absent. Another instance of this reliance was apparent back in October when we had the first winter taste of electricity outages. It is only when something like this happens that the entire conduct of your life has to adjust temporarily to a new set of options—none of which are attractive.

Admittedly, should this misfortune be sprung on you during daylight hours, there is always the option of a bit of neglected gardening, a round of golf or a dabble at fishing to take up the slack. And at the other end of the scale, should you be plunged into darkness during the 10pm news, then an early night abed would not go amiss. It is this interval during the early hour of darkness that forces us to realise just how much we rely on electricity in our daily lives. No cooking facilities (unless you have gas) No heating facilities (unless you have gas or solid fuel), and no lighting (unless you have huge candle power). And all those normal activities like Radio, TV, Computer activity— unless you have a laptop, even reading (huge candle power again) are denied you with a lack of electricity.

Electricity supply companies—please note—from dusk till midnight we find it hard to live without your supply, and would ask you to prioritise any faults and repairs necessary within this time slot.

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## SECC Report for Seileachan November 2014

7 members of the public and Cllr Elaine Robertson joined Seil & Easdale Community Councillors for the public meeting held in Easdale Island Hall on Tuesday 25th November. Once again, we were blessed with a calm and mild night for the ferry crossing!

### Scottish Water

Charles Struthers continues to work on our behalf on the still ongoing issues of lowering the fence at the main pumping station and painting out the stripes at the top of the shower unit – but at least the planted cover is now growing up to shield it. The Community Council is looking at options for some kind of location map (of the You are Here variety) for the new noticeboard at the shop, and will report back on progress.

### Roads

The recent downpours created a dangerous level of flooding on the road at Kilniver. This is outwith our Community Council's area, but Charles advised everyone to report such incidents to the Council direct, or to phone the police on 101 to report anything dangerous on the roads.

Thanks to Jim Cunningham for providing photographs of the bushes (I think they are actually willows) growing out of the ditch near Cnoc Fennaig and obscuring the view of the road. Once again, Charles is on the case with the Council over this.

### Health

Dr Hannah has alerted the Community Council of a possible plan to change our current, excellent, district nursing service. The local practice has only heard rumblings of this process, which appears to have been going on for about six months, but we will be writing in support of the wonderful service we currently enjoy, and to invite the powers that be to come and discuss any proposals with us.

### Telephone Directory

John Gordon is beginning to prepare for a 2015 edition of the directory.

Please notify John Gordon (300332 or [gordonjdm@hotmail.com](mailto:gordonjdm@hotmail.com)) if you have any changes or are new to the area and would like to be included.

## Police report

PC Moore sent a written report noting 3 issues of concern:

1. It seems some local children have been abusing the facilities of the Golf Club, using the hut in the dark evenings, leaving a mess and defacing the visitors' book, as well as lobbing the flags into the bushes. Please let the police know if you have any information regarding this – as Jeremy said, this is a well-used facility and the police fully support those who put their time and effort into making it the success it is. He and other officers will be keeping an eye on things, especially in the evenings.

2. There has been a complaint of a male urinating on the foreshore at Ellenabeich – completely unacceptable behaviour – especially as there is a public toilet close by!

3. The police are still receiving complaints about Facebook, usually as a result of what people post late at night, possibly after the consumption of alcohol. Remember, if you think you would get in trouble saying it then don't type it, and if you do, wait until the next day before you send it to make sure it is suitable. **Wise words indeed!**

## Planning

Just two new applications since the last meeting:

Alterations and extensions to dwelling house, Balvicar View. Ref No 14/02505/PP Status: Application approved.

Non material amendment to planning permission 12/01876/PP – Erection of dwellinghouse and detached domestic garage/workshop – (introduction of porch to main house and roof of outbuilding raised). Land West of Dunearn House Ellenabeich. Ref No 14/02561/NMA Status: Application refused

## Retrospective planning for a fence at the Old Engineering Works, Ellenabeich

The SECC has received notification from the Access Officer stating that the A&B Access Team believe the route is a pedestrian Public Right of Way (PRoW) but that there was not sufficient evidence submitted to support the claim that the route is a vehicular PRoW through the site. The Community Council has written to the Access Officer to register disappointment and concern over this decision, to request clarification of what further evidence would be required, and whether there is a right of appeal.

## Provision of seating and bins at Ellenabeich

Thanks to Graeme Bruce for this initiative, he's pointed out that there's actually nowhere for people to sit and admire the view at Ellenabeich. Residents should look out for a letter which will be distributed soon, to see if they would like to have some seating installed. Should enhance the visitor experience....

## Vodafone Rural Open Sure Signal

We've been shortlisted – hopefully Vodafone engineers will appear soon to look at possible locations. Thanks again to John Gordon for all his work on this.

## Streetlights in Ellenabeich

The need for these to be maintained was raised before, but Graeme Bruce came to this meeting armed with photos of the sorry state of some of them. A picture paints a thousand words – hopefully the Council will act soon.

## Date of next meeting

7pm Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, Seil Island Hall

### Long-tailed tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*)

One of our most sociable and endearing garden birds, the long-tailed tit, will be seeking refuge in gardens this December. We humans love a good get together and December sees plenty of mixing and mingling as friends and families celebrate Christmas and the New Year. We are not alone – many birds also seek each other's company over winter, flocks of finches flit between treetops in search of seeds and winter thrushes scour the ground for invertebrates.

One tiny bird, however, takes sociability to a different level – the wonderful long-tailed tit. Few garden birds are more exquisite than the long-tailed tit. But for their disproportionately long tails, which slightly exceed the length of the rest of their bodies, these birds are truly tiny. Balls of these tumbling, see-sawing birds bounce from one garden to the next during winter, their high-pitched, rolling si-si-si-si calls, punctuated with more percussive, clipped notes, announcing their arrival. These vocalisations help flock members, which tend to be close relatives, keep in touch with each other as they move restlessly through trees and bushes, gleaning invertebrates and dropping down onto garden feeders.

Being very small, long-tailed tits are vulnerable to prolonged periods of harsh winter weather. Indeed, losses of up to 80 per cent of their numbers have been recorded by BTO volunteers during particularly cold winters. Small birds lose heat more rapidly than larger ones owing to the fact that a larger proportion of their bodies is exposed to the elements. To ensure their survival, long-tailed tits need reliable access to energy-rich food during the short winter days.

This is where garden feeders can prove a lifeline. The small beak of the long-tailed tit is not proficient at handling large seeds. However, this species will swarm over suet-based products, which provide a quick calorific hit. Small seeds, bread crumbs, finely grated cheese and peanut fragments will also be taken. During spring, many fewer long-tailed tits are spotted in gardens as they move out into the countryside to breed. Long-tailed tits are very small, mainly black and white birds, which have almost spherical bodies and an oversized tail. Also, look out for attractive, pinkish markings on the breast and pink eye rings. Both sexes look alike.

Richard Wesley (Lorn Natural History Group)

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### SEIL HALL NEWS

Thanks to Kim Rowswell and all who helped the Christmas Fair such a success. It was another really enjoyable event which raised over £900 for the Hall's Recreation and Amenities Group.

The New Year Dance will be held in the Hall at 9.30pm on Friday 2nd January with Hector McFadyen's band (and licenced bar). Bring your family and friends, or just bring yourself. Lookmout for the posters with more details.

Indoor green bowls is a very popular winter pastime at Atlantis Liesure. Nick Wesley has offered to bring down a mat and bowls for a weekend trial in Seil Island Hall. Possible weekends are either 10/11 or 17/18 January. If interested, look out for posters or contact John Gordon on 300332 or gordonjdm@hotmail.com

### LOTTERY WINNERS

November	December
£75 Dave Alsop	£50 John Cotman
£10 Donald Crerar	£10 Caroline Gully
£10 Ken Cox	£10 J&B Healy
£10 Janice Stewart	£10 Aileen MacFarlane

### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS at Kilbrandon Church

Wednesday 17th December at 7.45 pm  
*Community Carols with Seil Sound (mulled Wine and nibbles afterwards)*

Sunday 21st December at 10 am  
*Nativity family service*

Christmas Eve at 11.30 pm  
*Watchnight service (carols from 11.15pm)*

Christmas Day at 11.00 am  
Christmas Family Service

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### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SCOTLAND

Poppy Collection.

The total collected in the Seil, Easdale, Luing and Kilmelford area this year was £1876.26.

This was £300 more than last year and an excellent result. We would like to thank all those who helped with the collection and everyone who gave so generously. Poppy Scotland will use this to help Forces' Charities.

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### EASDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

We are looking for donations of pillowcases and buttons—any colours or designs—please hand in to school as soon as possible.

As part of our Eco School we are collecting used stamps. Ink cartridges and old spectacles—please send any into the school, for recycling.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Monday 15th December**—A Holly Tea & Enterprise stalls will be held at 2pm in the school—we look forward to welcoming all within the community.

**Thursday 18th December** The school children will host a Nativity "Children of the World" at school at 2pm.

**Friday 16th January 2015** Race Night—Seil Hall—BYOB—Watch out for posters and book tickets—information 300243

*We wish everyone a Happy & Healthy time over the Festive Season from all the children and Staff at Easdale Primary School.*

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### DRAMA GROUP NOTICE

The Seil drama group are still looking for extras to join in with the panto. If you would like a non-speaking part in our panto please let me know. Call Wendy Dugdale on 300373 or call into Balvicar Stores. Note for your diary — **PIRATES OF PUILLADOBHRAIN** panto on **Saturday 31st January**—two shows – matinee and evening—tickets will be on sale from the shop in the New Year.

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The editor apologises if some of the activities advertised have already taken place before you receive your copy. Circumstances outwith my control.