

# SEILEACHAN

## Seil & Easdale Community Council Newsletter

Vol. 20 No. 6

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

December 2016

The **Seileachan** wishes everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a Guid New Year.



This issue has a guest editor in Jim's temporary absence (get well soon, Jim!)

Contributions for the next issue should be sent to; [scwfenton@gmail.com](mailto:scwfenton@gmail.com) by 31<sup>st</sup> January.

### SECC Meeting November 2016

Convenor John Gordon welcomed Cllrs Elaine Robertson and Kieron Green, Dr George Hannah and 13 members of the public to the meeting held in Seil Island Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016.

### SCOTTISH WATER

Anne Marie gave an update, and reported that responses are still awaited from SW to various requests from the stakeholders. Copies of recent correspondence were tabled, and are available for perusal in the shop. The local representatives welcome the whole community's views and asked for comments to be submitted in writing to any of them.

### ROADS

Concerns had been raised that 'the bulge' in Kilniver bridge had grown. A&B Council have carried out a detailed inspection, and have confirmed that no further movement has occurred. Work to repair damage to the parapets will be carried out as resources allow.

Charles reminded everyone to report potholes to A&B direct, although he continues to do an excellent job in bringing such matters to the Council's attention.

It was confirmed that the battle against knotweed will continue, with constant monitoring as regrowth starts in the spring.

### HEALTH

A course on Falls Prevention will be held in the New Year – more details to follow.

### POLICE REPORT

PC Moore had sent a report reminding everyone that he can be contacted by email or by dialling 101, but that no-one should hesitate to use 999 in an emergency. As always, we are reminded to keep our belongings safe – PC Moore would be happy to provide crime prevention advice. He is aware that the 20 mph sign at Easdale School has been painted over and is not working properly – Cllrs Robertson and Green agreed to take this forward for resolution.

Seumas Anderson raised concerns over threats to our local police station, cells and court building. Although the Cllrs assured us that there would still be a police station in Oban (though the current building is not really fit for purpose), Seumas felt we should register the community's concerns.

### PLANNING

All details are on the A&B website. There was discussion on the application for the erection of telecommunications equipment on land north of Kilbride Farm. Cllr Robertson would check with the Council's Digital Liaison Officer to establish whether a public phone service could be provided.

### BUS SHELTER

A survey of local residents showed that the heritage design (as by the loch at Inveraray) would be preferred. Pending consultation with the Heritage Trust, Charles will submit a request to the Council and, hopefully, the shelter will be provided early next year.

### FORWARD PLANNING

Anne Marie thanked all who had attended the event in Seil Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> November, and everyone who had helped make it such an enjoyable social event. It is not too late to return your questionnaire – spare copies are available at the shop. To date, top projects are: sea access, a café, housing for rent, a footpath network and care services based and run locally. The next event will probably be another open public meeting to discuss a Community Trust, important for funding. Watch out for information and notices about a date, possibly in the new year.

### PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER – PROHIBITION OF WAITING NORTH CUAN FERRY

The CC has received advance notice of A&B Council possibly prohibiting parking on a section of the road by the ferry terminal. It was noted that Luing CC are actively engaged in this consultation – please let your CC know if you have any comments/concerns.

### BINS

A request was made for more bins on Easdale Island, and for secure housing for the bin by the toilets at Ellenabeich.

### PHONE BOX REMOVAL

BT are holding a consultation into the removal of some Public Phone Boxes, including the one at Balvicar Stores. Again, please let the CC know your views ...

### DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

**6.30 pm** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in Seil Island Hall.

The full draft minutes of the November meeting are available online at: [seil.oban.ws/ccminutes/sccminDRAFT1116.pdf](http://seil.oban.ws/ccminutes/sccminDRAFT1116.pdf)

### CC SECRETARY

Julie Ferris has now 'retired' as secretary of the Community Council. Anyone interested in taking over the post should talk to any member of the CC. Full and ongoing support will be given.

## HALL NEWS

### November Lottery Results

£100	153	Aileen MacFarlane
£10	182	Emma Ainsley
£10	263	Ronnie Robinson
£10	282	Ewan Warnock

### December Lottery Results

£50	212	Louise Wilson
£10	007	Alison Danskin
£10	306	Maggie Thorpe
£10	289	Steve Patterson

## RECYCLING AREA AT HALL

Please can we have everyone's cooperation in keeping this community area clean and tidy? Don't leave bags of recycling near the bins or use it as a general dump – double glazing units and builders rubble are just two recent examples of items found. It's not magically cleared by the Council; hall working parties are spending time on this which should be used to maintain the grounds and gardens so your help would be greatly appreciated.

## NEW YEAR'S DANCE

Will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2017; check out the publicity nearer the time for details. Please come to what is not only a traditional social event, but a much-needed fund raiser for the hall. Remember, it's **your** hall – please come along and support it.

## LOCAL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

John Gordon has started to prepare a 2017 edition of the Directory. If you are not already included and would like to be please contact John. If a friend or neighbour has moved away please let John know. Please check the details of your club, organisation, business *etc.* and report any changes. *Email: gordonjdm@hotmail.com*

## SEIL COASTAL ROWING

The community's skiff, *Selkie*, will continue to go out throughout the winter; set times are on Wednesdays and Sundays at 1400, and any other times by arrangement. Just sign up on [www.seilskiff.org.uk](http://www.seilskiff.org.uk), under the 'Book a Rowing Session' tab, or telephone Sue on 545.

Club members recently attended the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association Freshwater Regional Regatta on Loch Tummel, rowing *Selkie* with harlequin crews from all over the Highlands & Islands, including Orkney, Lewis, Uist, Islay, Helmsdale and Kinlochbervie. There are now 143 St Ayles skiffs launched in communities throughout Scotland, and many more being built including those in Oban, Iona, Lochaline and Fort William.

### Young People Wanted!

The rowing club's current poster shows a crew of 'old codgers' ... however, we are very keen to encourage teenagers (both male and female) to have a go/row. Just get four friends together, and we will supply the cox and training. If it floats your boat, next summer there is a series of youth skiff regattas all over Scotland, and it would be great for the island to have it's own youth crew/s. *A rowing machine with scenery.* Phone Sue as above or pm on facebook, @seilskiff

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT KILBRANDON CHURCH

### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December

#### *Carols by Candlelight*

Kilbrandon Church at 6.30 pm, with Seil Sound. (Mulled wine, juice and festive nibbles afterwards).

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December

#### *Nativity Family Service*

Kilbrandon Church at 10.00 am.

### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Eve

#### *Watchnight Service*

Kilbrandon Church at 11.30 pm (carol singing starting at 11.15 pm).

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Day

#### *Christmas Worship* for all ages

Kilbrandon Church at 11.00 am.

## SLATE ISLANDS YOUTH

There was healthy number of interested adults and a few young people at the **Slate Islands Youth** consultation on Friday November 25<sup>th</sup>. The outcome of the presentation and discussion was the start of a mailing distribution list and the formation of a core group. This core group will be planning an activity and consultation event for young people to take place in the spring.

If you would like to be included in information about developments please give your details to Sue Croft who has volunteered to be the core groups' secretary. *Telephone: 300137; Email: Suecroft27@aol.com*

## SEVEN SWANS A-SWIMMING ...

'Henry' & 'Henrietta,' two mute swans, are well kent characters on Seil Sound at this time of year. Both



ringed, they have been here since at least 1996, arriving each year in September and leaving again in March/April. Only twice have they returned with a cygnet. They appear as regular as clockwork at a certain house in Clachan Seil for elevenses and afternoon tea (chicken pellets and the odd wee

bit of Hovis™ left over from lunch club sandwiches). They see off any other swans who dare to invade their patch although two others did nest on the un-named island off Whinbank one year and laid two eggs, which are thought to have been 'minked.' Whooper swans have been seen on this stretch of water too, and Teddy's pond often has a handful of swans on it. Sadly, two swans were electrocuted by powerlines near Loch Seil this autumn, but thankfully it was not 'our' two. But where do Henry & Henrietta go for the summer??

### It's PANTO TIME!

The Seil Drama Group proudly presents

## The Bogeyman of Balvicar

on Saturday 28 January

Seil Island Hall

at 3<sup>pm</sup> & 7<sup>pm</sup>

Tickets are £5

(including ice-cream & soft drink)

available **NOW** from Balvicar Storrs