

SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

PA34 4T whatever is a very pleasant part of this country in which to abide, and has a lot going for it. Among the many benefits is a postal service which sends and delivers letters and parcels to any destination, at the same flat rate. Sadly, this is not the case with other means of delivery. Recently, I ordered (through the internet) a stove from a company in Devon who promised free delivery. A few hours later I got a phone call from them to say that the limit of their free delivery was Glasgow, but because the destination was PA34 the carriers wanted a surcharge of £160. Needless to say, I got the free delivery to my brother's address near Glasgow, and picked up the stove on my next visit there. I pass this tip on to anyone else who gets scunnered by this PA34 problem.

Seil and Easdale Community Council (hereafter SECC) had a public meeting on Tuesday 24 January at Seil Island Community Hall.

Although the majority of issues with Scottish Water have been resolved, there are still some items outstanding. Carol Collis is preparing a plan for fencing to screen the treatment works and the pumping control station by Balvicar Stores. The Local Council has requested that the fence at Pumping Station 2 be removed. The orange plastic fencing near Cnoc a'Challtuinn also needs removing.

There has been little progress with Kilninver Bridge. The meeting scheduled for January was postponed and it is hoped it will take place in early March. At this point, it is expected that emergency plans will be tabled. The public were reassured that there has been no further movement recorded although it was noted that recent bad weather could significantly affect the quality of the bridge. It is understood that there are plans in place for diversions should the bridge be closed.

The public are urged to continue to report highway problems and were reminded of the safety risks if their cars are damaged. A number of cars have recently been damaged by potholes on the Ardmaddy Road.

The plastic bollards running from Balvicar Stores to the village are increasingly getting broken with 14 now as short, hazardous stumps. The Community Council has asked for them to be replaced with a white line.

There are now two significant holes in the sea defences at Ellenabeich. As ownership of the land is unresolved, repairs are being hindered. SECC will write to Historic Scotland and will continue to investigate the issue of ownership and liability.

For the coming budget year the 418 bus service is safe. Numbers of passengers indicate that it is a valuable service. The final siting for a bus shelter at Ellenabeich is ongoing. Local opinion continues to be invited.

The drink driving campaign was extended into January. Despite the high numbers of drivers being stopped, only one from the local area has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Other crime in the area has been low and Constable Moore had no significant events to report.

A key challenge faced by the police in recent weeks has been managing the effects of the winter weather. Constable Moore commended the work of the Council and Hydro staff in clearing roads blocked by trees and helping maintain access and power to the community.

The Clachan Wind Farm application is still to be validated. A survey regarding the wind farm to inform the response to the application is being organised by SECC. This will go to electors on the edited electoral role. There were three further applications: demolition of existing byre and erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage with septic tank and associated drainage, land 130m west of Kilbrandon House Balvicar – interest declared by Mike Shaw ; installation of hydro power and construction of a rockfill dam to create storage reservoir, land south of Ardmaddy Castle – interest declared by Charles Struthers; erection of 2 dwellinghouses (redevelopment of derelict cottages), Carnan Dunmore, Isle of Seil. Further details on all planning applications can be found on the Argyll and Bute website.

Dr Hannah reported that his concerns regarding evacuation from Easdale have now been escalated to Nicola Sturgeon. Clarification has been requested regarding the criteria for making the service acceptable for the Scottish Ambulance Service. It was agreed that this is now a political issue which continues to be pursued but that there was little progress that could be made with the meeting.

The redesign at the Lorn and Island Hospital is ongoing. Significantly, two consultants (Dr Henderson and Mr Yadav) will retire in the coming months.

The Inglis family have offered to sell their land at Ellena-beich to the Community. This would bring both responsibilities and opportunities. It was suggested that the Kilbrandon Trust would be a good organisation to take this forward. The next step, should the community be interested in taking this further would be for the Inglis family to instruct a lawyer to check titles. Your opinion is sought. Please contact any member of the Community Council.

SECC have applied on behalf of the community for the Vodaphone Initiative which would see an improved signal in the local area. The application has been acknowledged by Alan Reid (MP).

A number of dog walkers have asked that the decision that dogs be kept on leads on the golf course be raised. As this is in line with the Scottish Access Code, the Community Council feels that it is not in their remit to pursue.

SECC Councillors attended a meeting on Luing late 2011 about tidal energy generation. Grants of approx £120,000 are available to research and design a project with the money only repayable if this leads to a profit making concern. The Community Councillors are now looking for members of the public to help investigate options.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 27 March, 19:00, (7pm), Seil Hall.

Jays and Pine Martens

This autumn and winter has seen the influx onto the west coast of a large number of Jays and numerous records of Pine Marten, both commonly seen in deciduous and coniferous woodland. Although not directly connected, the common factor is probably food, and both have been recorded here on Seil by our members for the first time

Irruptions of birds from the continent often occur because of bad weather or shortage of food. As this autumn was particularly mild over western Europe, it is thought that the extra numbers of Jays have possibly been due to the shortage of acorns. Jays are normally fairly common further inland eg around Loch Awe, but uncommon along the coast. Whether they are Scottish birds or from the continent, they could stay until their breeding season kicks in which is late April, early May. For whatever reason enjoy these beautiful birds and their raucous calls, for they will eventually return east in the spring.

Pine Martens have also been recorded throughout Lorn from Ballachulish in the north to Lochgilphead in the south. An individual here on Seil has been seen from Balvicar down to Ellenabeich hunting both magpies and chickens. Another recorded at Kilmore visits a members garage for food and shelter. They will readily come if food is provided and are often advertised to attract visitors to stay.

With the help of the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) we have set up a SNHG user group on Bird Track (<http://www.bto.org/volunteery-surveys/birdtrack>) for anyone to record their own bird records e.g. Jays. Please let SNHG know if you wish to participate in this worthwhile project, access can be provided.

Seil Natural History Group – Richard Wesley (Chairman)

HALL NEWS

LOTTERY WINNERS

JANUARY

£50 Rollover
£10 Colin Barr
£10 R. Campbell-Walters
£10 Billy McInnes

FEBRUARY

£75 Rollover
£10 Barbara Smith
£10 Frances Hill
£10 R. Robinson

The Lottery runs from April to March, so subscriptions of £12 per number will be due next month for 2012/13. As usual a team of collectors will call on members to collect payments. The Lottery is very well supported and in the current year there were 305 numbers in the monthly draw. Income from the Lottery provided a significant proportion of the running costs of the Hall so the Hall Committee would be very grateful if memberships can be renewed.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

RBL(S) BOOK SALE

The Easdale branch of the Royal British Legion (Scotland) are holding a Book Sale with refreshments in the SEIL ISLAND HALL on **SATURDAY 3rd MARCH from 10am to 3pm**, to raise funds for our various charities.

We look forward to seeing you there.

1st KILBRANDON GUIDES

Following on from our successful Back Pack project—collecting useful things to donate to MARY'S MEALS to assist with their worthwhile cause, the Senior Guides would like to invite everyone to a short talk with slides on the wonderful work MARY'S MEALS carries out in numerous poor countries. This will be followed with tea and cakes served in aid of MARY'S MEALS. Please join us on **MONDAY 20th FEBRUARY at 7pm** in SEIL ISLAND HALL.

We also are having an appeal for a new leader to take over the Guide Unit in the autumn. If you have any interest in helping these girls or know of anyone who might be interested, or would like more information, please contact Mary Norris (300339) ASAP or email—mary.norris@virgin.net

PLAY PARK FUNDING

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt and Bring & Buy Sale on **EASTER MONDAY, 9th APRIL**, in aid of Play Park funds, in SEIL ISLAND HALL. Tables will be £5 each—watch notice boards for further details, or contact Wendy Dugdale for more information, on wendydugdale@yahoo.com

SPEED LIMIT SIGNS

Argyll & Bute Council are proposing to introduce/amend 3 new speed limits -

- 1) Reduce the existing 40mph to 30mph through Kilmelford.
- 2) Introduce a new limit on the B844 Kilniver to Easdale road from 81 metres on the mainland side of Clachan Bridge to approximately Nick Hunter's pier gate—a distance of 1769 metres.
- 3) Introduce a new 40mph limit on the A816 at Kilmore from 219 metres south of the Connell/Muasdale turn off to 1065 metres north of the same—Dunach farm road end approximately.

The Community Council has to make comments before 24th February. Please let any member of the CC know your thoughts.

CLACHAN WIND FARM—The planning application has now been validated. All the documents can be seen on the A&B website—Application 11/02447/PP. The CC survey will be delivered to everyone on the amended voters roll soon. Anyone not on the amended voters roll can still make their opinion known to the Community Council directly. This will help to inform their submission to A&B Council.