

# SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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June 10

## EDITORIAL

### REFLECTIONS ON THE ELECTION

Democracy doesn't come cheap. Fortunately the cost and effort of the recent junketing is largely borne by the party faithful, and the financial backers, who despite the denial of lobbying, must have an axe to grind. In these days of cutting expenditure on even essential services, it does seem ludicrous that large sums of money and effort are expended in littering the whole country with (hopefully) temporary signs urging us to vote for one or other of the candidates. And I am sure that it makes very little difference to the outcome of the election. This is probably one of these situations where each party does it, because they have got to keep up with the Jones's. Here is a suggestion for the next administration—make it an offence to advertise, visually in public, any party or candidate—transgressors to be fined pro-rata and the resultant fines to be donated to Mary's Meals, or other worthy cause. Rosettes might be an exception, but are probably more in keeping with the Pony Club.

Apologies again for this issue to the purists among us. Owing to the differences in arrival time of the various contributions, things are not in their normal progression, as has been the hallmark of previous issues. Hopefully, the Community Council problems will soon be sorted, and normal service will be resumed.

## HALL NEWS

The Seil Island Community Hall and surrounding grounds now has a Period Approval Licence for Civil Weddings and Civil Partnerships (so you can book your next wedding now). Further details can be had from Mary Norris.

## LOTTERY WINNERS

April	May
£50 Janice Stewart	£50 Jill Cadzow
£10 Donald Melville	£10 Alastair Macfadyen
£10 James Mellor	£10 Diane Howie
£10 Sheila Hunt	£10 Denise Whyatt

## DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

If this is something that gives you cause for concern, or if you have any queries on the subject, there will be a "drop-in" event in the Small Hall on Wednesday June 2nd from 2-6pm, when experts will be on hand to answer your questions. (*Editor—apologies to those of you who get notice of this option after the event has taken place.*)

## AUTUMN CLASSES IN THE HALL

The popular Art class under Ian Gowdie will be resuming in the autumn on Thursday afternoons (more details later).

The Community Education people are interested in hearing whether we would like any classes on crafts, healthy eating/cooking, or computing at various levels on either an afternoon or an evening. If any of these suggestions tickle your fancy, please register your interest with Mary Norris on 300339 or [mary.norris@virgin.net](mailto:mary.norris@virgin.net)

If interested in attending meetings to learn about photography please contact Paul Anfield 300368

## ISLE of SEIL GOLF CLUB

Put Forward the Clock Charity Tournament 28-3-10

Every year the Club has a Put Back The Clock competition at the end of October. But the weather was so horrendous that the event was abandoned in 2009, not before a number of hardy souls braved the elements. So Put Forward The Clock was born.

Seven members competed and Gordon McColl won the coveted Slate Clock pipping Ian Galloway by one stroke. Donna Campbell was the first Lady. As is the custom, the winner chooses the charity and this year the gross proceeds of £80 have been remitted to the Children's Playgroup Project at the Hall. Iain Fullarton

## Kilbrandon, Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers, & Cubs

These various organisations held a Bring & Buy Sale on Saturday 1st May. Despite the terrible weather we managed to raise £457 and 10% of that will go to the RNLI. We would like to thank everyone who donated items to sell, home baking and raffle prizes, and to those who gave donations of money. Also, thank you to everyone who helped out on the day. Last but not least, thanks to Ken Lacey and Gian Bovey who came along with their canoes for people to have a go at canoeing.

Anyone who lost a set of 3 keys—2 with coloured tops—red and green—should contact Aileen on 300329

## OUR NEW MINISTER – CONTACT DETAILS

In the last Seilachan, there was news about our new Minister, Ken Ross, coming to Kilbrandon Church and the neighbouring churches in Luing and on the mainland. Unfortunately, we forgot to give his contact details, so here they are.

Ken's address is the Manse, Kilmelford, PA34 4XA, and his phone number is 01852 200565.

Apologies for not including this information in last month's issue.

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## Corncrake (*Crex crex*)

Corncrakes are secretive birds which are easier to hear than to spot. They used to be relatively common birds across the British Isles, but they now survive in only a few remote locations mainly on the west coast of Scotland. This secretive bird is extremely difficult to see because of its skulking behaviour and due to its well camouflaged brown colour and preference for long vegetation. The Corncrake is best seen in late spring and early summer before the grass grows too high.

These light brown birds are found mainly on lowland areas and tend to creep lowly through the grassland. The birds favour tall grass which provides excellent camouflage which makes them extremely difficult to observe. Look for the types of habitat where the Corncrake likes to lurk such as hay pastures and fields. Fortunately the male has a very distinctive call "Crex Crex" a rasping noise which resembles a squeaky gate. Pick the correct season; the Corncrake is a migrant which arrives from mid-April and stays until August or September. Good places to see Corncrakes in Scotland include: Colonsay, Islay, Iona, Tiree, Coll, Outer Hebrides and Orkney.

Scottish Natural Heritage have a Corncrake management scheme on Tiree, Coll, Colonsay and Islay to encourage landowners financially, to farm in a way to help the birds. This has led to an increase in breeding pairs and it is hoped that this may improve the local population. It is always possible that Corncrakes will expand their range again so any records are extremely important to assess the changing population. Please report any sightings to Seil Natural History Group, Argyll Bird Club or directly to the RSPB. Richard Wesley - SNHG

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## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (Scotland) Easdale Branch

### SUMMER SALE

This year's Summer Sale will take place in the Seil Island Hall on the afternoon of SATURDAY 31st JULY.

There will be the usual stalls which will include a book stall, home baking, bottle stall, produce and bric-a-brac. There will be a raffle and teas will be served.

The sale will be opened by Colonel Sir Clive Fairweather OBE of the charity Combat Stress.

If you would like to help in any way or donate items for sale, please contact Jim Watson (300307) or Stuart Reid (300311)

Further details will be advertised on noticeboards nearer the date..

## SEIL & EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Public meeting in Seil Island Hall on 25th May 2010

Nine Community Councillors were present at the meeting, also attended by Jane Nichols, Secretary, 16 members of the public, Inspector Julie McLeish of Strathclyde Police, and Councillors Donald MacDonald, and Neil Mackay. Apologies were noted from Tina Jordan, Chief Inspector Glen Bland and Councillor Elaine Robertson.

The Chairman welcomed Jane Nichols, who had generously volunteered to serve as Secretary to the Community Council.

Inspector Julie McLeish conveyed apologies for Chief Inspector Bland who was unable to attend, and reported that one crime and two road accidents had been recorded since the last meeting. She urged members of the public to share any concerns they might have with officers at the Oban Police Station. On current police shift patterns, she explained they were designed to make best use of police time, but would be reviewed in late summer. She undertook to suggest that, at the review stage, a questionnaire might be circulated within the community. On a question about long road closures after accidents, she explained the importance of evidence gathering, and it was suggested that a later meeting might be addressed by an officer of the Traffic Department. On a question about the disposal of old distress flares, she agreed to report back.

A report on Health matters noted that Palliative Care is now seen as essential in many cases other than cancer, and that the NHS staff were being trained accordingly across all wards and departments. An item that suggested a TeleHealth study on Bute was producing valuable results, was coolly received by the two doctors present.

6 planning applications were noted in respect of 3 existing buildings, one current project, an access track in Clachan Seil, and a play area at Seil Island Hall. There was no further information about the proposed wind farm at Raera.

The generally poor state of local roads was discussed, and the CC undertook to make further representations about the surface at Loch Seil.

Stuart Reid reported on a recent meeting with Scottish Water, who had admitted serious problems with the new waste water scheme, and promised a further walk round the project, together with members of the Community Council. There had been no undertakings given about the scenic degradation resulting from the scheme, and it was resolved to take the matter up with the Chairman and CEO of Scottish Water.

Thanks were expressed to all who had participated in the FOLI survey, and it was noted that £500 had been lodged with the CC in recognition of their help.

There was deep discussion about the proposed wind farm for Clachan Farm/ Duachy. Numerous members of the public had serious concerns on the environmental, health, and other aspects of the proposal. It was held that any official response from the Community Council must await more detailed plans, and a serious attempt to ascertain the Community view. It was resolved to discuss the matter with Luing CC before determining the next step.

The date for the next meeting, which will be the AGM, was fixed for Tuesday 27th July in Seil Island Hall.