

SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Vol. 15 No.3

www.seil.oban.ws

June 11

EDITORIAL

In past issues it has been an objective to start the ball rolling in this spot with a bit of light hearted humour before all the serious stuff that follows. However, for this issue a break with tradition -here is a disquieting thought for your consideration. A few days ago, I had occasion to visit a filling station. I like to fill the tank up when it gets down to about a quarter full—this saves any nail biting coasting down hills with the gauge reading empty in the hope of getting to a supply before fuel runs out completely. My bill for this particular top-up came to £52.21. This particular sum was only 21p (4shillings and two pence) more than my ANNUAL salary when I started work in 1948.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

We held our AGM and an ordinary public meeting on 24th May, attended by just 9 members of the public, one Argyll & Bute Councillor and 2 Strathclyde Police officers. There were no elections, although it was noted that we have lost Tina Jordan from amongst our ranks, due to her recent move to Kilmore.

The convener gave a succinct report of the past year's activities. He was pleased to note the improvement in the state of the roads, although work is not yet fully complete. The year has seen one proposal for a wind farm unanimously rejected by the County Councillors, and application for another about to be lodged. The Community Council (CC) has continued to make submission on these and other important planning issues, such as the Easdale Island wind turbine proposal. Pursuance of Scottish Water executives on the snagging is beginning to bear fruit, with the resolution of many outstanding issues, and thanks were given to Charles Struthers for his persistence in this matter.

The following topics were debated during the ordinary meeting:

LOCAL ROADS. Many will be interested in the apparent narrowing of the road by the new TSL house in Balvicar, following construction of the boundary wall. The concern is that there is now no escape for pedestrians from passing traffic, as the grass verge has disappeared. The CC has joined the ongoing debate on whether or not the location of the wall is according to plan.

POLICE REPORT. In what seems to be an annual event, PC Jeremy Moore introduced the new Area Commander, Chief Inspector Brian Auld. Chief Insp. Auld expressed his aim of regular attendance at CC meetings, in order to assess the community's policing priorities. These could include the recent phone calls by bogus representatives of Microsoft or Sky, who attempt to obtain valuable account details from unsuspecting members of the public. The police hope to be as visible as possible in the area, in order to pose a deterrent to potential criminals 'on the ground'.

PROPOSED CLACHAN WIND FARM. This has still not reached the stage of a planning application, although as soon as this happens, the CC is poised to conduct a survey to gauge the community's opinions, to allow a proper submission to be made on our behalf. It is worth bearing in mind that this questionnaire can only be distributed using the edited electoral roll, which omits anyone who ticked the box on their form to be excluded from direct marketing campaigns, or around 30% of the population. Anyone who does not receive a questionnaire, or indeed anyone who does, is urged to make their own representation directly to the planning department

CHANGES TO BUS TIMETABLE. There is considerable alarm at the Council's stated intention to reduce the 418 bus timetable to its state of 3 years ago, in order to make essential cost savings. This would exclude all journeys not linked to school services, and we would potentially lose the daytime shopper services as well as the 5pm workers' return from Oban. Individual members of the community are urged to address their concerns to the four Argyll & Bute Councillors for our area, and to Douglas Blades. But meanwhile the CC is also compiling suggestions for compromise, for example reducing the number of days per week on which the shopper buses operate.

Next Meeting. Tuesday 26th July, Seil Island Hall.

The 2011 Luining Cancer Research UK Sponsored Walk through the Lairig Ghru mountain pass.

Saturday, 28th May from Coylumbridge near Aviemore to Linn of Dee near Braemar

The total distance of the walk was twenty miles.

Thirty five participants started off from Coylumbridge at 0720 hours after enjoying tea and hot filled rolls provided by supporters.

The weather conditions throughout the walk were intermittent sunny periods, between rain, hail, and snow showers. The wind fortunately was behind the walkers for most of the way. All walkers completed the journey within twelve hours. The youngest was twelve and there were several over seventy years of age. The majority had never walked such a distance before.

In addition to miles of boulder fields there were burns and a river to be crossed.

From pledges given the projection of total donations may reach over £5,000. The costs including transport, food and accommodations have all been met by the walkers and their supporters.

Thanks must be extended to John & Sue Blackwell whose organisation was superb.

The two Seileachans who completed the walk wish to thank all their sponsors and will shortly be redeeming the pledges received.

7 Spot Ladybird (*Coccinella septempunctata*)

It is universally known as the gardener's friend on account of the prodigious number of aphids it consumes, both in larval and adult form.. The Seven Spot Ladybird is a small round red beetle that has its name 'Seven Spot' because it has seven spots on its body. It can be found almost anywhere in gardens, woodlands, meadows and hedgerows where there are plant lice called 'aphids'. The adults hibernate over winter and become active from April onwards, depending on weather conditions. The resident UK population is also supplemented by migrants from the continent. Not quite the largest of the ladybirds at 8mm, but probably the best known.

The Seven Spot Ladybird is divided into three distinct parts: the head, the thorax and the abdomen. Its head is black and quite small and its thorax, which is the middle part of the body, is black with pale yellow patches at the front. The thorax also holds three pairs of legs and two sets of wings. The hind wings are soft and are used for flying and the front wings are red and quite hard. The front wings are called 'elytra' and they cover and protect the soft wings used for flying.

The female can lay up to 200 eggs. From birth the larvae predate on aphids and in their three week larval state will account for hundreds - and grow to some 13mm, much larger than the adult. Female Seven Spot Ladybirds lay little yellow eggs in small groups on leaves. Black larvae with quite long legs hatch out of the eggs and almost immediately feed on aphids, like their parents. Seven Spot Ladybirds hibernate in large groups over winter in garden sheds and under vegetation. They can often be seen piled up on top of each other when they are hibernating and they do this to keep each other warm.

Richard Wesley

Species of the month on website : - www.snhq.org.uk

SOME HALL STUFF

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The wind and brass sections of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra will be giving a concert in the Hall on Wednesday 6th July, beginning at 8pm. Ticket prices are adults - £12, Senior citizens—£8, children and other concessions—£5. Tickets are on sale online at www.thebooth.co.uk and nearer the time will be available from Balvicar Stores.

A Craft Fair will be held on Sunday 21st August—preparations ongoing, and further information in next issue.

THANKS

Firstly to Wendy Dugdale for organising the Easter Egg Hunt, which raised £113 for play park funds.

The SWRI Open Evening on 5th April was very successful—57 people attended and we raised £296 for the charity Combat Stress. Thanks to all who attended and helped to make the evening such a success

LOTTERY RESULTS

APRIL

£50 Alisdair Currie

£10 Robert Howie

£10 Janice Stewart

£10 Jean MacFarlane

MAY

£50 Rollover

£10 Iris Bell

£10 Elsa Mellor

£10 Diane Howie

JUNE

£75 Rhona Munro

£10 Pat Hines

£10 Colin Campbell

£10 Margaret Brown

The SUMMER CEILIDH Season in the hall will be held this year on

WEDNESDAY 27th July

WEDNESDAY 3rd August

WEDNESDAY 10th August

FRIDAY (yes Friday) 19th August

SUPER SUNDAY SUMMER FUNDAY

The Super Sunday team from Kilbrandon Church are holding a Summer Funday on Monday August 1st in the Seil Island Hall. There will be activities for "tots to teens" so whole families can come, and visiting children are welcome too. If anyone would like to help us, please get in touch. Watch out for more information—planning is still in progress. Maggie Thorpe Tel. 300058

JUST A REMINDER

If you have recently come to stay on these fair shores and would like to be in the swim (socially), or alternatively a shrinking violet who would like to bloom, and are not yet listed in our local Telephone Directory, please repair the omission, by supplying your details to jimcee6@hotmail.com or to Jean at Balvicar Stores. There is absolutely no charge for this excellent service.
NEXT SEILEACHAN OUT EARLY AUGUST