

# SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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## EDITORIAL

The phone rings..... Probably an upright, god fearing, law abiding, tax paying member of society, earning an honest living to pay for a crust for the kiddies..... but then come the dulcet tones..."This is an important message about your PPI..." - the hackles rise, the phone goes down, and the perception of the caller takes a nose dive from the previous charitable thoughts.

However, this is but a misguided employee of an insidious organisation trawling the phone network, trying to wrinkle out the handful of people who have not yet heard of PPI in order to profit from the misfortune of others.

Uninvited intrusions like this can be dealt with by slamming the phone down, but how much more satisfying and discouraging it would be, if there were some method of causing the caller a considerable amount of money for their temerity in contacting you. Suggestions welcome.

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## SEILEACHAN REPORT FROM SECC MEETING 28 / 5 / 13

7 members of the public attended the meeting, together with Cllr Elaine Robertson and PC Jeremy Moore.

John Gordon reported progress on the Seil Telephone directory, which is being updated as part of the emergency planning preparations - see separate report from JG.

There are no outstanding issues regarding Scottish Water other than the completion of the wooden fence between the road and the plant area; checks are being made on the status of planning permission to see if it conforms to the plans agreed by the SECC.

The condition of Kilninver Bridge continues to cause concern, and the Community Council is pressing for a long term solution, i.e. a new road.

Concerns also continue over Homecare provision; Cllr Robertson has been made aware of the issues involved and will ensure they are fed into the upcoming six month review.

PC Jeremy Moore expressed his condolences to the family and friends of Scott McAllister following his tragic loss at sea. All agencies involved in the initial search had been impressed by the tremendous response from the local community.

**A new telephone number - 101 - is now available for all non-urgent calls to the police.**

For example, if you need to speak to Jeremy, a call to that number will ensure the message is passed to him and he will respond as soon as possible. Of course, 999 remains the number for all emergency calls.

It was generally felt the 30mph speed limit had made a difference to road safety ; the police would continue to monitor.

The Community Council had been made aware of complaints by a number of Balvicar residents regarding rubble and other rubbish stored in the village. The SECC is seeking to clarify the situation with the landowner and the various agencies involved.

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL –NEXT MEETING

This will be held on Tuesday 23rd July in Seil Island Hall at 7pm.

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### FORTHCOMING HALL EVENTS

Friday 12 to Monday 15 JULY. There will be a "Wedding Pop Up Event" in Seil Island Hall hosted by Blue Garter Bridal. A selection of off the peg and pre-loved wedding gowns, new mother of the bride & occasion wear will be on sale. Photographers, florists and wedding cake suppliers will be available. Phone 07857533757 for more information. Seil Island Hall has a wedding licence for the hall and all the grounds.

There is also a Craft Fair in the offing and I think that there will be the usual Summer Ceilidhs. I do not have details of these events, but understand that Kim Rowswell has more information on these.

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### The House Martin

It takes an amazing amount of strength and character to fly the long and treacherous route from south of the Sahara Desert in Africa to the British Isles and back again, however this is what the **House Martin** (*Delichon urbica*) accomplishes every summer throughout its life.

The house martin, which is part of the swallow family, is a familiar sight within many gardens. It can be recognised by the blue-black body, with contrasting bright white under parts. Its white feathered legs and toes and shorter, less forked tail distinguishes it from the swallow. Although you will probably not see the house martin on your bird table or feeding from the lawn, as they feed on aerial insects whilst in flight, it is quite likely that they may nest within the eaves of your roof or you will catch a glimpse of these beautiful flyers soaring through the skies. They are summer migrants, spending their winters in Africa, then making the long trek back to Britain and other areas of Europe where they spend their time feeding over wetlands, agricultural fields, and woodland boundaries, before returning to their nesting grounds. Eventually, when the insects hide away for winter, they will head back south in September or October, only to repeat the same journey the next year.

House martins hardly ever come to the ground, only when collecting nesting material and to drink will they touch down. Traditionally they nested on cliffs, using mud to make a comfortable and safe enclosure for their young. However they have extended their range by using buildings in urban areas, as their name suggests. Popular nesting sites are the under eaves of houses, bridges and churches and they still tend to use their traditional choice of material – mud, mixed with grass and feathers.

The breeding season runs from May to August, while the insect supply is still plentiful. They usually lay four to five eggs that are incubated by both the male and female for around 16 days. Both the mother and father feed them until they leave the nest at about 3 weeks. Infant mortality mainly depends on supply of food. If there is a period of bad weather and the insects are hard to find then the chicks will suffer. Nests are often returned to in following years, however usually not by the same birds. They are such secure and sturdy structures that building from scratch seems pointless.

## SEIL ROWING

Our Regatta and Ceilidh on 1st June was a great success with visiting boats from Portobello and Mid-Argyll. On the day we were well supported with RIB's by Alastair, Alasdair and Paul. We had good weather and had lots of people rowing. Our boat was rowed to Ellenabeich and back to Clachan Seil. The Ceilidh raised £480 and we would like to thank the Seil Choir, Emily and Graeme for their singing. Booking the boat and training to take the boat out can be arranged on the website [www.seilskiff.org.uk](http://www.seilskiff.org.uk) Sue Fenton is training people to row and cox or to take the boat out with their own crews. We have received funding for a trailer and hope to take the boat to Ullapool for the World Championships in July 8-14th. Anyone who would like to row should let us know. We are keen to get as many people rowing as possible. Kilmelford will have a skiff ready soon and Oban plan to build one.

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### Seil and Easdale Telephone Directory

The Community Council is currently revising the directory as a contribution to a Seil and Easdale Emergency Plan. The introductory pages will be revised with this in mind. The major change to the main directory will be the addition of postcodes. If you are not in the present directory and would like to be included please contact John Gordon ([gordonjdm@hotmail.com](mailto:gordonjdm@hotmail.com)) or leave a note in the box provided in Balvicar Stores. Similarly, if you notice any errors/omissions in the existing directory please inform us. Nobody will be included without their permission.

As in the current directory we will be including information on local businesses, with a separate section for holiday accommodation. To help cover the cost of publishing the directory there will be a nominal charge of £5 for advertisements.

### Seil and Easdale Emergency Plan

We are trying to compile a list of residents who have skills or equipment that would be useful in an emergency. E.g. qualified first aiders, 4x4 owner, portable generator, VHF radio, chainsaw etc. If you can help please contact us as above.

Seil and Easdale have poor mobile coverage but we all know locations where a signal can be obtained. It has been suggested that a map of public access locations might be produced. Please drop a note into the shop giving the location and service provider.

The preponderance of house names and numbering systems unrelated to a street such as in Balvicar, Ellenabeich and Easdale Island often causes confusion for delivery drivers etc. Maps of the some localities would be a useful addition to the emergency plan. Help with this would be appreciated.

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### HALL LOTTERY RESULTS

MAY		JUNE	
£50	Rollover	£75	Andrew Danskin
£10	Ian Galloway	£10	Brian Mitchell
£10	Nancy Gardn	£10	Gill Cadzow
£10	Murdo Baxter	£10	Eileen MacFarlane