

# SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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

June 14

## EDITORIAL

Through the mailbox comes a questionnaire (complete with reply paid envelope) . It is not an official one—but one of the optional variety. There are varied responses to this situation.

Firstly there is the immediate response to fill the thing on the spot - put it in the envelope and leave it out for posting.

Secondly, it can be put to one side and then filled more leisurely and thoughtfully after the rest of the mail has been dealt with.

Thirdly, if the return date is requested by about 3 weeks later, it can be put in a location to be dealt with nearer the time. In this case it may come to light several times and either be shelved or completed. Cliff-hangers delight in leaving things to the very last minute (and this also applies to bills)

The true rebel discovers the thing about a fortnight after the closing date, but delights in filling and sending it anyway.

There is one final approach and that is when the thing first arrives it is given a quick perusal and then consigned to the waste bin.

We are all in there somewhere unless I have missed out on a really novel approach to the situation.

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## Seil & Easdale Community Council – Public Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014

At another very well-attended meeting of the Community Council, 16 members of the public, A&B Councillor Elaine Robertson and Mr Jim Smith, Head of Roads and Amenity Services joined the SEC Councillors to discuss issues of local interest.

## Seil & Easdale Islands Resilience Plan

An updated edition of the Directory would soon be available in the shop – please continue to notify John Gordon [gordonjdm@hotmail.com](mailto:gordonjdm@hotmail.com) of any amendments/additions. Please keep the emergency contacts list, distributed to each house on the island with this newsletter, in a safe place.

## Scottish Water

Charles Struthers reported as follows:

Main pumping station – a request has been made to reduce the fence height, more shrubs will be planted to screen the site, and the top band of the shower unit will be painted to make it less obtrusive.

The new notice board at the shop is in hand.

Scottish Water will do a general tidy and cut back of verges and attend to any knotweed on their ground.

## Health

The defibrillator has been installed outside Seil Island Hall. A number of training sessions will be arranged.

## Roads

The Chairman introduced Mr Jim Smith of A&B Council who spoke about:

### General issues/problems

Routine maintenance is carried out within existing budgets, but there is no current provision for additional improvements. The 30mph signs will be repaired. There had been an enquiry about delisting part of the Balvicar road. A number of objections had been received, so it is proposed to maintain the status quo.

### Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE)

Static parking offences are now a civil issue enforced by A&B Council. The aim is to ensure safer traffic management and better turnover of available parking spaces.

### Kilniver Bridge

It was confirmed that the bridge is now stable, however a Contingency Plan is being written should the bridge become unavailable.

## Police Report

A general reminder again to guard against online, telephone or postal scams, and to keep properties locked.

## Planning

### Still pending

### Site for the erection of 20 dwellinghouses, Land South East of Oban Seil Farm

The Community Council would comment once more detailed plans were submitted

### Change of use of land for the siting of timber shed, installation of petrol storage tank and erection of associated fencing, Land adjacent to Public Car Park, Ellenabeich

There was considerable discussion of this application, with a number of concerns raised. The Community Council has submitted its response (available on the A&B Planning website), and all parties now await the outcome of the planning process.

### New applications since last SECC Meeting

### Installation of electronic barriers (retrospective) Highland Arts Ellenabeich

Ref No 13/02604/PP Status: Pending Consideration  
**Alterations and erection of single storey rear extension 38 Back Street Ellenabeich**

Status: Application Permitted

### Erection of wind turbine (34.4 metres to blade tip) and formation of associated access track Land North East of the Coach House Dunmor

Status: Pending Consideration

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014, 19.00, Seil Island Hall**

The waters around the west coast of Scotland are one of the most important habitats for whales, dolphins and porpoises. 24 different species have been spotted in these waters from the huge and very rare Blue Whale to the small and more common Harbour Porpoise.

The best time of year to spot these creatures is between mid-June and the end of September. Try to choose a day when the sea is relatively calm so that you can focus on any surface disturbance, and a dull day will reduce the amount of glare reflected from the water. A view over a large expanse of water from a cliff or headland will give you a greater chance of seeing something. Alternatively a boat trip can provide a good opportunity.

The whales you are most likely to see around the coast are Minke whales. Up to 10 metres in length these creatures will often hang around the same feeding spot for half a day or more. Their dives are interspersed with a small puff from their blow hole which is useful for alerting you to the first sighting or watching their progress if they are on the move. Often solitary, they can sometimes be spotted in small family groups. Watching for feeding sea birds can sometimes alert you to the presence of whales and other marine mammals feeding on the same shoal.

Bottlenose dolphins are usually seen in social groups of three to ten animals, although larger group sizes are not uncommon. These dolphins are usually fairly slow swimmers, travelling at about 2 mph, but can reach speeds of over 30 mph for brief periods. Famously inquisitive, active and playful, they are often seen bow-riding, and leaping clear of the water. The smallest cetacean in British waters, the Harbour porpoise, can often be seen in groups sometimes surfing in breaking waves.

Two local wildlife operators run boat trips from Seil, Sealife Adventures and Sea Safaris, providing the opportunity to see a variety of natural history.

Richard Wesley

**Hall Committee – Seileachan Report June 2014**

**Lottery**

**May**

- £50 Brien Dickey
- £10 Danny Nee
- £10 Pat Hines
- £10 Andy Johnson

**June**

- £50 Kimbra Barrett
- £10 Rowan Davison
- £10 Fiona Gully
- £10 Buffy Lacey

The Hall Committee would like to thank everyone who renewed their membership(s) of the Hall Lottery for 2014/15. Also, a warm welcome and thanks to those who have joined for the first time. There are 308 numbers in the monthly draw this year. The approximately £3000 generated provides a reliable and steady income which enables the committee to maintain low and affordable rents.

For anyone who has missed out on joining it is not too late. It would cost you £9 for the remaining 9 draws (July to March inclusive) this Lottery year. If you would like to join contact John Gordon (300332) or Brian Mitchell (300348) or any member of the Hall Committee.

**Defibrillator Training**

The first sessions have been held – please look out for notices of further training.

The joint social and prizegiving for Easdale Carpet Bowls Club and Isle of Seil Golf Club was held in Seil Island Hall on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April. After an excellent buffet prepared by Barbara and David Nathan, assisted by Isobelle Smith and Ann Cunningham, Brian Mitchell presided over the bowls club Prizegiving. The singles and handicap singles competitions were both won by Graham Campbell, who, partnered by Carol Hetherington, also won the doubles competition. Mary Blackstock retained the Ladies singles cup, and she and Brien Dickey won the handicap pairs competition. Colin Campbell won the Fletcher Cup, and was also the skip for the top club rink, which included Mary Blackstock, Malcolm MacInnes, Gordon McColl and John Nicol. This rink also won the MacGregor Cup, a knockout rinks competition among the top rinks from all seven carpet bowling clubs in the Lorn League.

The golf club captain, Colin Campbell, then took over for the presentation of the Isle of Seil Golf Club Trophies for 2013. The winners of the medal competitions were as follows: The Curly Cup and the Highland Arts Burns Crystal Open were both won by Geo Adam. The Salmon Centre Trophy was won by Gordon McKenzie, the JR Trophy by Donna Campbell, the Captain's prize by Gordon McColl, and the monthly medal final by Kyle Gilroy. The Captain's 'away day' competition at Killin Golf Club was won by Mary Phillips, and the Ian Fullerton Charity competition was won by John Morgan. Several stableford events were held during 2013, including the ne'er day trophy won by Brien Dickey, the Winter League won by David Nathan and the Wednesday Stableford Competitions, won in the summer by Geo. Adam, and in the winter by John Taylor. The matchplay champions were Mark McDougall (singles) and Mary Phillips and Donna Campbell (doubles).  
John Blackstock

**SECOND ANNUAL SEIL REGATTA 31st May/1st June**

The race plan for Seil's gathering of skiffs was to be a two leg race around the island. Skiffs from Carrick, Pittenweem, Isle of Mull, Mid Argyll, and Isle of Luing joined us for the weekend. Luing also brought along their second boat, a renovated Fair Isle skiff, *Virida*. Leg one of the race was delayed because of haar at Ellenabeich—the skiffs eventually set off to catch the tidal gate at Cuan, sandwiched between two safety boats. The sun eventually broke through at the north end of Torsa. The race was then shortened and adapted to a multi-lane start from the planned processional time trial and a new start line set up. The race over 3.8km instead of 8.8 km from Ellenabeich was narrowly won by the Isle of Mull from the Isle of Luing, Pittenweem, Isle of Seil and Carrick. The skiffs had a gentle row up to Clachan Bridge to inspect the lack of water beneath it. Leg 2 reversed the morning's row—as one of the visiting crews said "We didn't see the Island because of fog so it doesn't matter going back the same way" Over 8.5 km the race was won by Isle of Mull (52.40) from Seil (53.45), Luing (55.32), Pittenweem (57.46), Mid Argyll (58.36), Luing 2 (59.12), and Carrick (63.50). A BBQ and Ceilidh rounded off the day. Sunday saw a more gentle cruise in company around Easdale Island in choppy conditions than Saturday's mirror calm before folk headed off back home and Seil's third crew rowed Selkie back through the Cuan to HQ. Thanks to Neil Kennedy for providing the music. Luing have been in the water for just one week and Mull only since March—both obviously forces to contend with!  
George Hannah.

**DRAMA GROUP** John Colston and Wendy Dugdale will be holding a meeting on 24th June at 7pm at John's house—Traigh Mhor, Clachan Seil for all who are interested in forming a drama group. For more details call John – 300076 or Wendy 300737.

Editor's note—Due to circumstances beyond my control, this issue of the Seileachan is a bit later than normal.

