

SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

Even for those people who forget where their car keys or their glasses are, it would be surprising if they cannot remember the very unseasonal gale that we suffered hereabouts in May of this year.

Well, it is payback (or actually non-payback) time for the results of that particular meteorological disaster. It will be apparent to all who have any interest in the autumn harvest of fruit and wild growing produce that this year's crop has been decimated, because of the events back in May.

For all those partial to a drop of Sloe Gin, the good news is that this year's sloe crop has not suffered the same fate as the rest.

Now, it may not impinge on the human population to any great extent, but spare a thought for the wildlife who rely on this source for sustenance in the coming months.

However, I am reliably informed by those who know about these things, that this was something of a one-off and that next year things should be back to normal, unless we have a repeat performance.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

The public meeting of Seil and Easdale Community Council took place on the 27th September in Seil Hall. Argyll & Bute Councillors MacIntyre and MacKay and PC Jeremy Moore were also in attendance.

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SCOTISH WATER The 11 items remaining on the snagging list will hopefully be dealt with in the near future, when the contractor returns after working elsewhere for a month. The new plant now appears to be working smoothly, with discharge into the sea being within SEPA requirements. 90% of remedial work has been dealt with satisfactorily, but community members should phone 0845 601 8855 if they notice any other problems. A landscape architect has been commissioned to design the screening around the compound opposite Mutiara, and the green box outside Balvicar Stores, with solutions including fencing and planting are being considered. Community Councillors have been speaking to Scottish Water about community funding, in particular funding of a new path between the old and new cemeteries at Balvicar. Discussions are ongoing.

PROPOSED CLACHAN WINDFARM

There is no real update, except to say that the proposal is expected to go to a formal planning application by the end of October.

LOCAL ROADS The sharp-eyed amongst you will have noticed the partial white lining of the road edges, this despite the Community Council having been reliably informed that the Council could not afford to do this. Cllr MacIntyre assured the meeting that the work will be completed. Presumably after a visit to the hardware shop for more paint.

Of more concern is the state of Kilniver Bridge, as the wing walls on the Seil side of the bridge are crumbling. The solutions being considered are repair, at a cost of £1 million, or replacement with a new bridge and road spur at a cost of £2 million. The roads department is monitoring the bridge on a fortnightly basis, and to date it is considered safe. The Council's Emergency Officer will be looking at contingency plans should the bridge need to be closed in the future.

POLICE RERPORT The stone skimming competition went off without incident, but was marred the following day when the takings from Easdale Island museum were stolen. Anyone who thinks they might have information about this should contact the police. Cyclists who receive less than considerate treatment by motorists should let the police know, and ideally provide the registration number of the car involved. In response to a question about the road accidents occurring in Kilmore, PC Moore reported that the Scottish Government is looking at the possible standardisation of speed restrictions in villages.

OTHER PLANNING MATTERS Community Councillors are currently considering the Council's Main Issues Report, which will inform the next Local Development Plan. This shows where for example rural development is permissible. The Community Councillors will make a submission by the 19th October, and residents will be able to comment on the draft plan when it appears.

418 BUS TIMETASBLE There is no sign yet of the revised bus timetable. As we must be given 90 days' notice of any changes, this means there will be no change until at least January.

CHORD As well as the usual agenda items, we received an informative presentation from Neil Hackett of AECOM about the CHORD project. The project is currently looking at possible traffic management measures in the town, these being closely linked to the future Oban development road. Other future works could include a transport interchange, and improvements to Oban bay and harbour areas. Neil received plenty of feedback from those present, including suggestions on reducing the impact of Oban High School traffic, and concerns about parking facilities in Oban, particularly for ferry users and workers who live out of town.

The Community Council is still on the lookout for a new secretary. Anyone interested should contact Seumas as below.

Next Meeting The next meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd November, in Easdale Island Hall. Please email Seumas Anderson at avrilanderson@btconnect.com in connection with any Community Council business. A full copy of the minutes can be viewed at <http://seil.oban.ws/cc.html>.

NORTH ARGYLL VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME

We are very pleased to announce that we have a new passenger representative on the car scheme committee. Betty Spalding – on 01838 200369 – will be happy to hear from any passengers who would like to make any comments or suggestions (anonymous or otherwise) for improvement to the scheme.

HALL NEWS

First of all – a big thank you to everyone who helped make the recent Craft Fair a tremendous success. Almost £1200 was raised, with half going to Easdale Primary School and the rest to the Play Area.

LOTTERY RESULTS

September	October
£50 Rollover	£50 Dr.McKerrall
£10 Pat Hinds	£10 Margaret Brown
£10 Tom Metcalfe	£10 Mrs W.Baxter
£10 Ana Bevis	£10 Jean McFarlane

A BUSY DAY ON SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER

First of all there will be a Christmas Craft Fair and then in the evening at 7pm there will be the AGM of the Seil Island Community Hall Charity. The committee comprises 8 elected members, a trustee's representative and representatives of clubs and organisations using the hall. All have equal status. Club representatives should be nominated prior to the AGM.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

On Friday 28th October at 7.15pm in Kilbrandon Church, Robert Rae will be giving an illustrated talk in the subject "A Voyage to Hinba", which will not make you seasick, but will fill you in on a bit of historical conjecture about our island's past.—all welcome. Refreshments will be served and entrance is free although donations will be gladly accepted.

BALVICAR STORES—Thanks 1

Alistair & Jean would like to say a huge Thank You to everyone who came to their send-off in the T&T. We were completely overwhelmed by the numbers who turned up and the amazing generosity of the cheque. We will let you know when we decide on something appropriate to spend it on.

A special thanks must go to Chris & Jim and the rest of our friends who did all the organising—it was a truly fantastic day and one which made us wonder why we were leaving such a place. Then we remembered the long hours and hard work and knew!

For those of you who think you might have seen the last of us, fear not, we shall return for a holiday as soon as we can..

In the meantime we will shortly be taking over a gift shop in Pitlochry (right next to the Post Office to make us feel at home) and we look forward to seeing some familiar faces come through the door.

Once again many thanks to all and missing you already.

THANKS -2

Steve Aldwinkle and Malcolm MacKenzie would like to thank everyone that sponsored and supported them in the Mull Half Marathon, with special thanks to those that cheered them on, on a wet and windy day on Mull. The guys finished in just over two hours and though with still a smile on their faces were very pleased to see the finishing line. Just short of £600 was raised on behalf of Easdale Primary School children, money that the parent council will use for the benefit of all the children in the school, so once again a big thank you to you all.

ISLE OF SEIL GOLF CLUB

The Club had it's Annual prize giving recently in the Seil Island Hall. Mary Phillips was the main prize winner over the season. She triumphed in a number of open ladies and gents competitions, the most notable being the Burns Crystal 18 hole stroke play competition sponsored by Highland Arts.

The Club's winter league competition starts on the first weekend in October. At the end of October the "Put Back The Clock" Charity Competition takes place over 18 holes with a shotgun start. Competitors pay an entrance fee and the winner nominates the charity of his or her choice to receive the gross receipts. Over the years no-one has won the competition more than once and a number of charities have benefited. Non-members are very welcome on the day.

OVER 50's BADMINTON CLUB

This has now resumed for the winter season and meets in Seil Hall on Tuesday afternoons from 2-4pm. New faces are always welcome and even if you are only in your forties we will turn a blind eye to your youthful looks. Just come along—only £1 per afternoon.

Contributions, changes to the Telephone directory, and notices of forthcoming events should be with the editor at jimcee6@hotmail.com for the next issue by the end of November, AT THE VERY LATEST.