

# SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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October 13

## EDITORIAL

When Henry first started producing his model T Ford (you can have any colour you like as long as it is black), he never bothered to worry about the fickle car buying public and the variations on the theme that the future would demand. Probably first came the sports car for the sport of picking up dolly birds, swiftly followed by the estate car for those who aspired to have an estate—or to keep the dogs away from the passenger seats. Then there was a brief dalliance with bubble cars which were really just motorised umbrellas. This was it for a long time until the advent of the hatchback, which combined the saloon and the estate, and still looked good. Not content with these manifestations, we were then offered the SUV (sincerely ugly vehicle) and the MPV (many people version) which was just a glorified minibus. Just when we thought we had seen it all, along comes the Crossover—whatever that is? - the stripey bit of road which pedestrians can traverse safely?. The mind boggles—what will they think of next?

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

for the next four year term will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013. Nine nominations were received for the 8 council positions:

Anderson, Seumas  
Bruce, Graham  
Colston, Eileen  
Dugdale, Christopher  
Gordon, John  
MacFadyen, Alan  
Struthers, Charles  
Rae, Robert  
Robin, Anne

Postal ballot papers will be issued to voters in our area on 17<sup>th</sup> October and MUST BE RETURNED BY 4pm ON 31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER.

9 members of the public attended the public meeting of Seil & Easdale Community Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> September in Seil Island Hall.

## EMERGENCY PLANNING PREPARATION

John Gordon reported that work continues on the updated Seil Telephone Directory. There had been little progress as he had been away from home, and the appeal in the Seileachan for missing entries and advertisements had been very disappointing. Cllr Elaine Robertson said that an emergency pack would soon be distributed to each CC area on completion of their emergency plan. Seil Island Hall is the designated emergency centre for SEEC. A pack was also requested for Easdale.island

## FERRIES

Management and maintenance of the Easdale and Luing ferries was now being undertaken by ASP Ship Management on behalf of Argyll & Bute Council. There would be no change to timetables or staff conditions of employment. The Scottish Government report on the review of ferry services was due to be published in November.

**NEXT SECC MEETING** Tuesday 26th November

## SCOTTISH WATER

Charles Struthers updated on three points:

1. The promised new notice board at Balvicar had yet to appear.
2. The sewage smell at the shop had been investigated and no problems had been detected with the system. Lids had been fitted at the treatment plant and smell and noise had been reduced. A pit had been excavated to lower the levels of waste water.
3. The plans to be implemented for the wooden fence are not those submitted by SECC. It was suggested that representatives of Planners and Environmental Health be invited to a site meeting. It was reported that Japanese Knotweed had been seen at the north border of pump station 3.

## ROADS

There were minimal problems with the roads since the major resurfacing of 2013.

Until there was statistical evidence for frequent speeding through the Clachan Seil restrictions it was unlikely that a speed warning device would be installed.

Kilninver Bridge continues to be monitored.

## HEALTH

The defibrillator offered to Seil Island Community Hall by Dr Hannah will be sited outside the hall. Plans to use the Easdale Island phone to store the Island's defibrillator are in progress.

## POLICE

Inspector Julie McLeish was present to answer questions. Most of the discussion centred on the Stone Skimming event following the car parking problems of 2012. The police were fully aware of the situation and would do their best to assist. Cllr Robertson suggested that Argyll & Bute's Events Committee should be involved for future events.

## PLANNING

There were five local planning applications extant: Erection of croft house at land south east of Ardshel-lach Farm Ardmaddy.

Retrospective, for erection of shed and fence, The Old Inn – Ellenbeich. The original application was withdrawn and a revised version resubmitted. A representation had been submitted on behalf of SECC about the Ellenabeich shed on conservation issues. To date there had been no response.

Erection of dwelling house Plot 4 land north east of Cnoc Fennaig House, Balvicar.

Erection of electricity pole Winterton Road (retrospective).

Decking at Dunmarrock House, Balvicar.

The SECC's efforts to ensure continued access past the old engineering factory on Engine Brae are ongoing.

There was discussion on the possible provision of alternative access to the track through the old Achnahullin Croft (behind the T&T).

## MARINE PARK CONSULTATION

Alan MacFadyen had attended a meeting on Marine Parks in Oban and gave a brief report.

## Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)

Rowan is a fast-growing pioneer tree and is characterised by its brilliant red berries at the end of summer. This autumn, there has been an abundance of these red berries which some say is an indicator of a hard winter to come.

Rowan berries are an important food source for many birds, especially fieldfares, redwings, blackbirds, finches, mistle thrushes and waxwings, which in turn disperse the seeds in their droppings. The foliage and bark is eaten by red deer, roe deer and mountain hares. Known as the 'wigen tree', Rowans were once planted to protect farm cottages from roaming witches and can still be seen around many farm yards.

Rowan grows in most parts of Britain, but is more common in the north and west, and is found throughout Scotland. It grows at a higher altitude than any other tree in the country and occurs at elevations of almost 1,000 metres in parts of the Highlands. This attribute, together with the similarity of its leaves to those of the ash tree (*Fraxinus excelsior*), gives rise to its alternative common name of mountain ash. At higher elevations it survives as small saplings which are frequently stunted in form.

In Scotland today, rowans are often found growing in inaccessible locations, such as cliffs, steep stream-sides and on top of large boulders. However, these are not the preferred locations for the species, but rather are the only places where it has been able to grow out of reach of herbivores such as red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) and sheep.

Richard John Wesley

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## SEIL HALL NEWS

### JUST A FEW REMINDERS FOR USERS:

All users should leave the hall clean and tidy. It is every club's responsibility to keep the hall looking good, which is why the rent is so reasonable.

Every user group should be represented on the Hall Committee. This enables all groups to have a voice and talk over any concerns, and aids the smooth running of the Hall which is all done by volunteers. Please let Mary Norris know who your Hall Rep is.

### CRAFT FAIR

The summer craft fair was again a very successful event – thanks to all who helped. The Christmas Craft Fair will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> December – more details to follow.

### LIVE MUSIC EVENT

**2<sup>nd</sup> November 8pm till late BYOB**

In memory of Scott MacAlister, Easdale Rocks presents The Anticks, The Lush Puppies & Mudslide. All proceeds to the Fishermen's Mission.

## KEEPING FIT IN THE WINTER MONTHS (1)

Scottish Country Dancing will keep you in good shape (even with two left feet) and the opportunity to indulge in this activity will resume for the winter season on TUESDAY 5th NOVEMBER at 8pm in the Seil Island Hall. All are welcome along to try their hand (or rather their feet).

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## KEEPING FIT IN THE WINTER MONTHS (2)

If wielding a racket is more your cup of tea, (and there is a break for this in the proceedings) you can still indulge in a bit of exercise on a TUESDAY AFTERNOON at the Badminton club between 2 and 4pm—rackets available if you want to give it a try. —

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## KEEPING FIT IN THE WINTER MONTHS (3)

### EASDALE CARPET BOWLING CLUB

Play for season 2013-14 will commence on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 8 pm in Seil Island Hall. During the winter season the Club will meet in the hall each MONDAY and THURSDAY at 8pm, except for 6-9 nights during the season for away Lorn League and Cup fixtures. This fixture list comprises home and away matches against 6 other village teams in the area from Benderloch to Ford, offering opportunities to get to know people from other villages (and some very nice teas and sandwiches). Our performance last season was 'rubbish' (6<sup>th</sup> in the league). The club would benefit from a larger (and better?) pool of players (a match team requires 12-16 players), and extends a warm invitation to new members (no former experience needed) to join us t h i s s e a s o n .

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## HALL LOTTERY WINNERS

### SEPTEMBER

£50 Annie Roberts  
£10 Ewan Warnock  
£10 Irene Fleming  
£10 Jean Bisp

### OCTOBER

£50 Rollover  
£10 Kieran Gordon  
£10 Kneale Smith  
£10 Aiofe Danskin

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**A PREMATURE APOLOGY** Any owner of the renowned SLATE ISLANDS CALENDAR for 2013, will find that when it comes to December of this year, that although the days go in chronological order from 1-31 the actual days of the week are out of kilter, so please do not have your Xmas turkey on the wrong day of the week.