

Scotch Argus: *Erebia aethiops*

As its name suggests, this butterfly is found predominantly in Scotland where it flies in tall, damp grassland. In sunshine, males fly almost without rest, weaving low through the grass in search of a mate. Very dark brown with row of black eyespots with white centre on each wing. Eyespots are surrounded by orange. In poorer weather they perch on grass clumps, flying out to investigate any passing brown butterflies. The females are far less conspicuous and spend most of their time basking.

The Scotch Argus is common and widespread in Scotland but has declined in the southern part of its range, especially in England where it is reduced to just two isolated sites. The main foodplant in Scotland is thought to be Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and occurs in damp, acid or neutral grassland up to 500 m and around the fringes of sheltered bogs, in woodland clearings, and young plantations. August is the best month to see this butterfly on the wing and look out for the double spot figure eight on the upper wing.

Richard Wesley

Isle of Seil Golf Club

The last of the summer 2014 competitions, the Graham Hunt Trophy, was completed on 24th September. The winner was John Taylor (126 points). Second was Bill Clark on 122 points.

The winter competitions are as follows: the Weekly Wednesday Stableford, which commenced on 1st October, and the Winter League (9h Stableford Competition) which will be played fortnightly at weekends from the weekend of 11th-12th October. Members are encouraged to play in these competitions. As the results of both competitions are the sum of the best 8 scores in each there is scope to miss a few games and remain in contention.

From the 1st October all golf on the course must be played from the winter raised mat tees, and fairway mats. The latter are available in the club hut, and must be returned there after play.

The course drains well, and is usually playable during the winter season, and offers a good chance either to keep your 'hand in' or for new members to get started and improve their golf before next spring, when our full schedule of competitions is resumed. For any non-members who would like to play this winter, we offer a 'winter membership', valid from date of joining until 31st March 2015 for the much reduced fee of £50. Our usual application forms can be used, and are available in the club hut, or from the secretary, John Blackstock at 300347 or via e-mail at jblackstock@btinternet.com.

The church at Kilbrandon has installed free Wi Fi For the benefit of visitors to the island. It seems to be well used and appreciated. Coincidentally, there is a good Vodafone 3G signal in and around the building, so it seems to be a comfortable spot for visitors to catch up with their communications on a rainy day & watch the video about Seil

HALL NEWS

LOTTERY WINNERS

September	October
£50 Minette Struthers	£50 Rollover
£10 Julie Ferris	£10 Karen McCoss
£10 Campbell Fleming	£10 John Cotman
£10 Steve Patterson	£10 Minette Struthers

The next CRAFT FAIR will be on SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER—look out for the posters.

Just a reminder to all Club Reps to let Janet Scott, the Booking Secretary know when the groups are restarting and confirm times—contact Janet on 01852 300 483 or email jes.janetescott@btinternet.com

AUTUMN ACTIVITIES 1

The over 50's badminton season restarted on Tuesday 23rd September at 2pm in Seil Island Hall. A warm welcome is extended to anyone who would enjoy a bit of exercise while batting a shuttlecock about—spare rackets available, so that's one excuse gone.

AUTUMN ACTIVITIES 2

If Thursdays and dabbling with paints are more your thing our Art Class resumed on Thursday 25th September at 2pm in the Small hall at Seil Island Hall and new dabblers are always welcome. Lack of experience is no drawback—the current membership make up for this with enthusiasm.

AUTUMN ACTIVITIES 3

Aha! Here is one which has not started yet. SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING classes begin on Tuesday 28th October. Classes are held every Tuesday in Seil Island Hall from 8-9.30pm. We enjoy a light hearted approach to dancing and are always ready to welcome new members. Further details from Maggie Danskin 01852 300313.

AUTUMN ACTIVITIES 4

And yet another one. EASDALE CARPET BOWLING CLUB. Play for season 2014-15 will commence on Thursday 30th October in Seil Island Hall. During the winter season the club will meet each Monday and Thursday at 8pm except for 6-9 nights during the season for Lorn League and Cup fixtures. This 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). The club extends a warm invitation to new members (no former experience needed) to join us this season.

RBLS—EASDALE BRANCH

Remembrance Sunday is on 9th November. There will be a short wreath-laying ceremony at the Balvicar War Memorial at 9.30am followed by a service in Kilbrandon Church at 10am. A wreath laying ceremony followed by a service will take place at the War memorial on Luing starting at 11am. Our members and supporters will start house to house collections for Poppy Scotland on the 27th of October. Our thanks again to all those who supported our Annual Sale in August. The final total raised for Forces' charities was £1650.65.

SEIL PANTOMIME—AUTUMN ACTIVITIES 5

Auditions for next January's pantomime will be held in the Seil Island Hall between 6pm and 7.30pm on Tuesday 21st October and Tuesday 28th October. Adults and children are welcome—whether you are looking to be a star, an extra or a backstage helper. For further details contact Wendy Dugdale at the shop, or call John Colston on 300 076. You can also find "Seil Drama Group" on Facebook.

SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

Why “Old Wives Tales”? Perhaps because it is a genetic fact that the female of the species lives longer than the male, and therefore has longer to gather knowledge/wisdom (possible). Or maybe it's because the female is more observant than the male (doubtful). Alternatively, it might be because the feminine inclination is towards loquacity (plausible).

Whatever the reason, there is a grain of truth in a lot of the pronouncements originating under this banner. However, there is an exception to this rule which should perhaps be aired. If, perchance, there should be a larger than usual abundance of berries on the Rowan tree, come the autumn, this is supposed to signify a hard winter ahead (Old Wives Tale).

The principal beneficiaries of a bumper crop of berries are the birds, and it stretches the bounds of credibility, that the tree knowingly supplies this bounty to it's feathered friends. And secondly, such accurate long range weather forecasting is beyond the ken of even the tools of modern meteorology.

The current rowan crop this year is no more than average, which would suggest a mild winter. We shall see.

P.S. While on the subject of Rowan trees—how about the rather dubious claim that they are effective in keeping witches at bay?

Report of SECC meeting held on 23rd September 2014 in Seil Island Hall

Cllr Elaine Robertson, PC Jeremy Moore and 4 members of the public joined members of Seil and Easdale Community Council at the public meeting held on 23rd September in Seil Island Hall. Kieron Green, candidate for the forthcoming by-election, was also in attendance.

Scottish Water

As reported at the previous meeting, the end does seem to be in sight as far as outstanding issues relating to this project are concerned. The notice board near the shop has been completed, and the contract has been awarded for lowering the fence around the main pumping station. Scottish Water sites have been tidied, and any knotweed has been treated as part of a programme of eradication.

Roads

Apart from ongoing issues with potholes and drainage, the main concern remains the inadequacy of verge cutting this year. Charles Struthers has contacted A&B Council on several occasions to express the Community Council's views, and although the verges have now been cut the Community Council continues to express its disappointment at the effectiveness of the process.

Graveyard Bin

Following requests from members of the community, a compost bin has been requested to add to the small waste bin currently in the graveyard.

Health

Care for the elderly is being reshaped, yet again. Cllr Robertson recognised that there were major issues to be addressed, including problems in recruiting to remote rural areas. Shaun Davidson, lead in the project reshaping care for older people, would be invited to attend a future meeting to update the community on the proposed model of care.

Police Report

PC Moore opened his report by reminding everyone to keep an eye on the elderly and vulnerable in our community, particularly as winter approaches.

There had been further instances of fraud; everyone was again reminded to be vigilant and not give out personal details over the phone, online or in person. Nor should anyone leave car keys “hidden” in their vehicle – such circumstances could invalidate insurance claims.

A number of complaints had been received about speeding. A police officer with a speed gun would be deployed in the area, including at ferry times. **YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!** Overall, the community could be proud of the way the Referendum had been conducted, with only a few minor incidents reported.

Provision of seating in Ellenabeich

It had been agreed to pursue this initiative, and to undertake an initial survey of residents to gauge support for such a scheme.

Vodafone Rural Open Sure Signal

The Community Council has been pursuing options to improve mobile phone reception for some months now. If anyone has any thoughts or suggestions (or technical know-how), please contact any member of the CC. Under the Open Sure scheme, the community could potentially have up to 5 boosters, each covering a 500m radius, and it was agreed that this could be of benefit to residents and tourists alike. Alan Reid has confirmed his support for our application, which would be progressed by the Community Council

Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 25th November 2014, 19.00, Easdale Island Hall