

# SEILEACHAN

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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October 15

## EDITORIAL

An observation on fashion as applied to the male of the species. In my formative years when being attractive to the opposite sex was probably of the utmost importance, we tended to follow the example of those on the silver screen who were successful in this respect—clean shaven, suave, and courteous—a hard act to follow, but we tried. Since then, the role model has changed somewhat, the female of the species seem now to go gaga for members of boy bands, and this means that the unkempt, designer stubble, possibly with an earring, and an unsmiling, almost supercilious look is the in thing. It will be no surprise that I think this is a retrograde step having spent a lifetime cultivating the former.

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## SECC MEETING ON 22nd SEPTEMBER

Over 30 members of the public, Cllr. Elaine Robertson and representatives from Kilmore, Kilninver, and Kilmelford and Luing CC attended the meeting of SECC on 22nd September in Seil Island Hall.

## BOUNDARU COMMISSION PROPOSALS

Graeme Forester, of Argyll & Bute Council's Governance & Law Department was present to explain the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) for Scotland's Review, and to answer questions on its implications for our Ward. That so many people attended, despite the short notice given to Mr Forester's attendance must reflect the deep concern felt by many in the community. Under the proposals, Seil and everything South of Kilmore on the A816 would become part of Mid-Argyll, severing links with Oban and covering a massive area running from Lochgilphead in the South to Bridge of Orchy in the North. The logistical problems are obvious to anyone not sitting in a distant office with a large scale map. In addition we would have a diminished voice in such a vast area and would have no representation in our natural regional centre—Oban, and completely disrupt local ties. Community Councils will be writing separately, and in unison to register the strongest objection to these proposals, as should anyone who feels that this would be a retrograde step. Responses are needed **BY 22nd OCTOBER**. You can make your views known—go to the "Have your Say" button on the LGBC's website—[www.consultation.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk) email [lgbcscottishboundaries.gov.uk](mailto:lgbcscottishboundaries.gov.uk) or write to Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terr. Edinburgh EH12 5HD

## SCOTTISH WATER –NEW WASTE

**PROPOSALS FOR SEIL.** The Chair read out the Community Council's response (available on request to [ferrisjef@aol.com](mailto:ferrisjef@aol.com)) to Scottish Water's latest communication. It presses for information on any alternatives to the scheme proposed, and for further engagement with the community.

**ROADS** Thanks were given for the speedy and effective repair to Clachan Bridge following the recent accident. A "Blind Summit" sign is under consideration to reduce the likelihood of further crashes. The Community Council has been calling for a contingency plan for Kilninver Bridge for some time, and has asked that both bridges be included. A&B council say a plan is forthcoming—watch this space,

**POLICE REPORT** PC Moore was unable to be present, but had sent a report. This included the good news that the theft of property has been resolved in Clachan Seil, with it being mislaid rather than misappropriated. The unmarked car had returned to Clachan Seil with a speed gun, one warning was given—you have been warned.

## PLANNING

New applications since last meeting—  
Non Material amendment for minor change to footpath of dwelling house Plot 1 Cnoc Fennaigh house, Balvicar—permitted.

Renewal of planning permission, erection of two dwellinghouses, Land at Barnafeochaig Beag, Clachan Seil—pending.

Alterations and extension—Craobh Dearth, Clachan Seil—application permitted.;

Still pending/decided since last meeting—

Erection of decking and modifications to windows, Fasgadh, Clachan Seil—application permitted.

Erection of fence (retrospective), Old Engineering Works—awaiting decision.

Site for the erection of 20 dwellinghouses—land SE of Oban Seil Farm—application refused.

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission to remove the requirement for sound attenuating material to be applied to the whole of the interior of the building—Land W of Am Bruach, Balvicar—pending.

## 20mph Flashing lights –Easdale School

Are supposedly about to be fixed. The CC will continue to press for action in the strongest terms, if this does not happen soon.

## **STREET LIGHTS IN ELLENABEICH**

All now completed, with very positive feedback.

**VODAFONE RURAL OPEN SURE SIGNAL** Is progressing, with Vodafone installing a dedicated line to each of the properties. They will not be offering any special deals to sign up with them.

## **OUTSIDE TAP AT ELLENABEICH**

A&B Council confirmed that the hose connection was removed to avoid any contamination of the water main.

## **PARKING IN OBAN**

The Community Council will submit feedback to A&B Council having consulted both local residents and visitors who all felt the latest proposals were counter productive and gave Oban a bad reputation.

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL BY- ELECTIONS** The Chair reported that there had only been one nomination for the Community Councillor vacancy and that Julie Ferris had been duly elected—from 8th October.

## **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 24th November 2015 7pm in Easdale Island Hall

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### **The Red Deer Rut.**

The Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*) is the largest land-mammal in the UK. The summer coat is reddish brown to brown and the winter coat is brown to grey. Stags have large, highly branched antlers and the number increases with age, up to 16 points in the wild. Red Deer are a native species, having migrated to Britain from Europe 11,000 years ago. Whilst preferring woodland and forest habitats in England and southern Scotland, Red Deer can adapt to open moor and hills as they have here on the West Coast and are common in the Scottish Highlands.

When the days get shorter and temperatures sink, and the autumn paints the bracken on the hills brown, the Red Deer rut starts. The rut is a period when the biggest and strongest male (stag) rounds up a group of females (hinds) for mating. They live separately for much of the year but come together rather vocally in the autumn at the start of the rut. Hinds are only fertile for a day or so each year, so the competition to mate is incredibly high. Of course every other stag wants to do the same, but there's only so many females to go around. In order to maintain control over a group of females the stag must constantly drive away rivals, as they engage in fierce mating battles. The stag announces his superiority over other males by constantly bellowing out an echoing roar which can be heard from over a mile away.

On an island like Jura, with almost 7,000 deer, the rutting deer can't be missed, both by vision and sound. Small groups of deer which usually consist of a stag and several hinds, can be seen almost anywhere. The mating season starts late September and ends at the end of October which makes this one of the best periods to visit the island. One of our members was on Jura last week and sent me a lot of beautiful images of the landscape and the impressive stags and hinds. This event can also be witnessed on Scarba and Lunga, but not with the same numbers as on Jura where the Red Deer vastly outnumber the human population. Richard Wesley (Lorn Natural History Group)

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## **SEIL HALL LOTTERY RESULTS**

September

£50 Sheila Brown

£10 Jim Cunningham

£10 Mary Blackstock

£10 Liz Munton

October

£50 Margaret Lauder

£10 Mike Shaw

£10 Mary Phillips

£10 Tracey Fleming

## **KILBRANDON CHURCH—COFFEE MORNING and GIFT DAY.**

Saturday 14th November 10.30-12.30

At the church.

You are warmly invited to our Coffee Morning & Gift Day—please come along and see the active role Kilbrandon Church is playing close to home and further afield. Fabulous home baking guaranteed.

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## **ART CLASS—UPDATE**

We now have a date for the resumption of the Art Class—this will start again on Wednesday 28th October at 2.30pm in Seil Island small hall. Please note the change in day and time from last season.

Anyone interested in exploring their possible artistic talents will be welcome to join—no previous experience necessary.

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## **SEIL DRAMA CLUB**

Further to the intimation in the last issue of the Seileachan, the Drama Club have confirmed that auditions for the forthcoming pantomime will take place in Seil Island Hall on Tuesday 20th and Tuesday 27th October on both occasions at 6pm or shortly thereafter. Anyone who would like to participate either on stage or behind the scenes will be given a warm welcome.

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## **EASDALE CARPET BOWLING CLUB**

Play for season 2015-16 will commence on Thursday 29th October at 8pm 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 six 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 remained "rubbish" (6th in the league out of 7). The club would benefit from a larger 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 this season. Come along on the 29th and give it a try!

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## **MORE HALL STUFF**

Reminder—all hall bookings(including dates when clubs restart) should go through the Booking Secretary—Janet Scott—jes.janetscott@btinternet.com or 300483. Date for your diary—The Christmas Fair will be on Sunday 6th December—look out for the posters for full details.