Copy for the next issue should be sent to the editor, Sue Fenton, by 31 May: scwfenton@gmail.com
Just tell Sue if you would prefer an email version. If distributors are going to be away for the first week of the month (June), then please let Sue know so that a substitute/s can be found.
The Seileachan is available on the web: http://seil.oban.ws where full minutes of community council meetings are also published, and also on the Slate Forum, http://the-slate.freeforums.net

COMMUNITY COUNCIL (CC) ELECTIONS
Only three people stood for election for the eight places on Seil & Easdale CC, and had been duly elected: Seumas Anderson, Julie Ferris and John Gordon. This was not sufficient to constitute the CC and so a by-election will be held in May. If you want the community to continue to have a voice in our democratic system, please consider standing.

SECC MEETING 27 March, draft minutes
It was wonderful to welcome more than 130 members of the public, three Argyll & Bute (A&B) Councillors and a reporter from the Oban Times to the meeting. With all members of the CC and Drs Miranda Barkham and George Hannah on the stage, the Main Hall was absolutely filled to capacity.

New GP Contract
Dr Barkham provided an overview of implications for Easdale Medical Practice. Dr Hannah then outlined proposals on Community Teams which had been unveiled at a meeting the previous week. A number of questions from the floor and the excellent turnout demonstrated how much everyone cares for and appreciates our surgery, and the community’s determination to do everything possible to protect it. From the reassuring reply the CC had received from Mike Russell it was clear that the volume of letters already sent had raised awareness of our concerns with ‘the powers that be.’ But as the Chair pointed out, with all due respect to our elected representatives, when it comes to our surgery we trust our doctors! Everyone was urged to continue expressing their views – copies of contact details and key points to be raised were distributed, and are available by email from Uta Binnie (ian_uta.seil@btinternet.com) The deadline for responses is 28 July.

It was gratifying that 61 members of the public remained for the rest of the meeting.

Scottish Water
The Chair read out the latest update received from SW regarding site inspections at Seaview and ecology surveys in the area identified for the proposed new treatment works.

Roads
The Chair thanked Charles Struthers, who is stepping down from the CC, for all he has down to forge excellent relations with the Roads Department and achieve so much on our behalf.

Planning - full details are on the A&B C website: List Old Coach House, replacement windows, Oyster Bar signs etc. Re the latter, the Chair noted the onerous planning requirements needed to basically replace like for like, and the burden this places on small local businesses.
There was discussion on the proposal to place a skip in the back car park at Ellenabeich. It was clear that further consultation was needed, and the Chair confirmed that A&B C had placed this on hold until then.

Forward planning
The formation of a Community Development Company for Seil is to facilitate community needs and projects. Forms were distributed to ascertain community interest and support – additional copies are available in Balvicar Stores. An Open Meeting will be held on Thursday 26 April at 7.30pm

Ellenabeich & Easdale Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan
Thanks were given to all who had drafted a joint response from The Community Council, Eilean Eisdeal Community Trust and The Slate Islands Trust. This paper forms part of our formal objection to the Draft Appraisals; a joint meeting is to be arranged with the Conservation Officer and A&B Planning Department. Everyone was urged to respond to the document via a form available on the A&B website – deadline 30 April.

Bus service at Ellenabeich
The Public Service Bus (and coaches) to the centre of Ellenabeich will function as present to 1 October 2018. A&BC are progressing plans (copies were distributed or available from Uta) for a new bus turning and coach parking facility at Ellenabeich. In the event of delays to these works, Seafari has kindly offered to assist maintaining this service until October.
Communication
A show of hands indicated that less than a dozen of those present use the two community websites as their primary source of information, while there was resounding support for the delivery of the Seileachan to all households. The Chair pointed out that there is no such person as ‘the CC’ but a group of eight who must consult before responding to issues. Any constructive suggestions to improve communication would, the Chair suggested, be welcomed by the new Community Council. NB CC information is always posted at key sites, including Seil Hall, shop, surgery, ferry sheds and bus stops.

Phone directory
The 2018 directory, complete with colourful cover designed by pupils of Easdale School, is now available. It was agreed to donate £100 from the proceeds of sales to the school as a thankyou.

Defibrillator
Easdale Island has raised money for a new defibrillator and formally handed over their original one to Seil. As previously agreed, this will be located at Balvicar Stores.

Date of Next Meeting will be on 24 July tbc, if enough members are elected at the CC by-election.

SEIL ISLAND HALL
March Lottery winners
£50 Richard Marshall
£10 Maureen Mitchell, Janet MacColl, John Nicol

April Lottery winners
£50 Duar Fleming
£10 Sue Moss, Barbara Mason, Michelle Cameron

SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA on tour, Seil Island Hall, 27 June. Tickets from Balvicar Stores.

ARGYLL COMMUNITY SENDS LIFELINE TO REMOTE AFRICAN COMMUNITY
This could well be the headline as it is exactly what has been achieved in the last 12 months.
We have sent out funds in excess of £12,500 – raised here on a local basis – to a community called Bemvu in Ntcheu Province, Malawi. This has given aid to around 1,800 individuals, including the feeding of over 1,200 primary school children. This is a sustainable, self-help feeding programme, the aim of which is to assist in alleviating food poverty in one of the poorest countries in the world.

Seed for Life, Feed for Life SCIO ((Charity no SCO48172) is now an independent organisation not formally linked to the church and is an incorporated charity overseen by OSCR, the Scottish Charity register. We would welcome members of our community to become Trustees of this organisation. If you would like to participate in a very worthwhile programme, which has been proved to work and is giving practical assistance directly to the people that require this essential help, then please contact Dave Alsop on 01852 300393

TSI (Third Sector Interface) Healthy Villages Project
TSI works in partnership to bring people in rural Argyll together, to share knowledge, learn new things, and help reduce loneliness. Have some fun with people you know, and people you don't know. Tea, coffee & cakes.
Monday 30 April Teacup Flowers
Monday 28 May 'Where in the World' Quiz
Monday 25 June Truffle Making
All events are at Seil Hall, 2.00pm to 3.30pm.
Further details from Maggie Dougall: 01631 564839

SEIL ENTERTAINS (AGAIN!)
The Drama Group is performing A Mystery Tour, fresh from both the Lorn and Appin Drama Festivals, together with some tunes from Seil Sound.
Seil Island Hall, Friday 27 April. 7pm. Tickets £3 from Balvicar Stores

COASTAL ROWING
The Isle of Seil Coastal Rowing Club has been awarded an inaugural Green Flag from the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association. Over the past few years, the club has been collecting marine litter from hard-to-reach beaches, both on the island and further afield. Convenor Sue Fenton was presented with the award, on behalf of the club, at the Scottish Fisheries Museum in Anstruther, home of the St Ayles skiff project.

• The club now has greetings/postcards of Selkie for sale in Balvicar Stores. The original painting is reproduced by permission from renowned Glasgow artist, Paul Kennedy. The oil painting was commissioned by Dr George Hannah, who kindly allowed the club to photograph it.
• Evening rowing has now resumed. See www.seilskiff.org (book a rowing session tab); find us on facebook – @seilskiff – or phone Sue on 545

These photos say it all!