

Community Newsletter – March 2013

Edition No 18



www.threevillages.org.uk **Your Community Website** www.threevillages.org.uk

YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR SAY — The New Community Action Plan and Charrette - an all in one Community Consultation

There has been much talk around the villages in the past few weeks about the next Community Action Plan (CAP) and the Charrette, but what are they and what is their significance to our community?. In principle they are separate processes which are being run jointly as an opportunity to discuss, debate and establish the aspirations of our community and to answer questions such as ;

- ◆ What do you think would make our community a better place to live, work and visit now and for future generations?
- ◆ What development do you think is needed, and what benefits could this bring to our community?
- ◆ Do you think that more tourism development in the future would be a good thing for our community?

The National Park Authority would like to know your views by coming along to the charrette events taking place during March. These form part of the Park's early consultation work to gain an understanding of local people's views and aspirations for future development within their community. A charrette (a French term which will be explained at the events) is a process involving community workshops which are designed to bring together people who live and work in a place, alongside land-owners, developers and statutory agencies to make a plan for the future, using designers and experts to help create a master plan for the area. The findings of this exercise will be used to help inform the next National Park local development plan. This plan will show what types of development can take place, and where. It will guide future investment across the whole National Park and within local areas, such as our community.

These charrette events, taking place in the 3 Villages Hall on the 10th and 26th March, are for everyone to take part in and will be informal, fun and action packed. The first event on the 10th is a fact finding session. At the second event on the 26th we will be working with the Community Partnership and a steering group made up of local residents to feedback on the ideas identified at the first workshop in the form of a draft master plan. This will provide the opportunity for you to have your say on the priorities to be included in the new 5 year Community Action Plan. These workshops will be run by a team of independent experts who will use maps and plans to aid discussion. You can input into the discussion in a variety of ways - voice your opinion in small group discussions or write some comments if you prefer. Questionnaires have been distributed to local residents and it would be appreciated if these could be completed and returned as soon as possible to the 3V Hall. During the time between the workshops the Charrette team will take forward your ideas, discuss them with statutory agencies, relevant landowners and the Park Authority and put them into draft proposals for Arrochar, Tarbet and Succoth. Come along to these events and share your views over a coffee and cake.

Please ensure that you have your say; by doing so you are helping to influence the shape of your community for the years to come.

Sunday 10th March 12pm – 6pm

1 - 2pm – Drop in session for families with young children friendly drawing exercises/ or more grown up exercises for older youngsters

3 - 6pm - Community-wide workshop — People are welcome at any time throughout the session, but it should be noted that it's not a drop-in session, so we hope that people can make it along for most of it.

Tuesday 26th March

4pm - 7pm

4 - 5pm - Drop In session for families with young children

5 - 7pm - Public Workshop
View your ideas drawn up into a plan for the local area and confirm if they are right or need more work. If you were in charge what would you do first?





What's Happening In Your Three Villages Hall



Film Club - the new screening capability for films in the large meeting room, has already been put to good use with a number of recently released blockbusters being shown with a positive response from local film buffs. - in fact some films have been over subscribed and waiting lists have had to be organised. Where interest is significant the Film Club will endeavour to show the film again - watch out for details on the Hall notice boards or telephone the Hall on 01301 702669 for the latest information. There is also the opportunity for people to book the facility for themselves and show their own films to friends- maybe for a special occasion or perhaps for a particular film. Key dates for film fans' diaries are March 28th (a great time for a film just before Easter), April 26th, and May 11th. These are subject to change so do check with the Hall. In order to pay for the screening room and the purchase of occasional Blu-Rays/ DVDs, the Screening Sub Group will ask hall users to support fundraising initiatives, including the sale of drinks and popcorn.

We would very much like to gather your views on what films you would like to see. If you'd like to suggest a film/films, please contact admin@threevillages.org.uk, or use the Hall suggestion box.

Garden Workshops - Sunday, 31 March 2013—Hands on practical Garden workshops Workshop 1 - Sow and Grow, Learn how to sow seeds, Transplant Seedlings Grow Bedding Plants from Plugs, Pot on Plants. All workshops run by fully qualified Horticulturist/Teacher.

Celeidh Dancing- Friday 8th March - Come along! Join in the fun and learn how to dance - Ceilidh style! Families and kids welcome for an evening of energy, concentration and a lot of fun and laughter. No experience necessary! £3 per person or £5 for a family of four or more.

Helensburgh Orchestral Society - May (date to be confirmed so please check with the / at the Hall)
Coffee At The Hall - Come and have refreshments and a sticky bun (or two) at the weekly Coffee Mornings every Saturday from 10.00—12.00.



Vikings in Scotland: Myth or Reality?



This year of 2013 is the 750th anniversary of the Battle of Largs, sometimes referred to as the beginning of the end of Viking influence in Scotland. To celebrate this momentous event, volunteers are invited to join our community heritage project which aims to unearth the historic secrets surrounding the strip of land between Arrochar and Tarbet – a route that provided a vital link between Loch Long and Loch Lomond in the 13th century, when followers of King Haco of Norway dragged their boats overland just before the battle of Largs in order to pillage the rich Lomond settlements.

‘The Hidden Heritage of a Landscape: Vengeful Vikings and Reckless Rustlers’ is now well underway. Volunteers living and working around Lochs Lomond and Long have already attended training on Aerial Photography, Geographic Information Systems and website development, while an introduction to using Geophysics begins on March 1st. Internationally renowned specialist and Senior Lectuer at Glasgow University, Dr. Colleen Batey has spent a day with Arrochar and Luss Primary Schools when pupils were able to touch 1,000-year-old Viking artefacts. With the exciting participation of the Glasgow Vikings and the Galgael Trust, our younger pupils will build a Musical Viking Boat and be visited by the Glasgow Vikings and primary and secondary pupils are booked on various survey and fieldwork sessions. A series of workshops have been organised over the next 3 months:

- An evening talk on March 20th by the Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui Heritage Group will explain how our villages have grown and the use of the isthmus in recent years.

- ◆ Dr Simon Taylor will lecture on ‘Place Names and the Past’ on March 23rd. And this is just the beginning! You can get out into the landscape and discover it for yourself by visiting the Three Villages website for a summary of ways you can get involved. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

The project is hosted by Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Argyll and the Islands LEADER, while supported by Luss Estates. For more information, visit the website

<http://www.threevillages.org.uk> or email



hid-

