

Community Newsletter – March 2014

Edition No 22



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

An-t-Sreang Hydro Project Proposal Gets Off the Ground

In a joint collaboration between the Arrochar / Tarbet and Luss / Arden Community Development Trusts a major project has been instigated and is currently going through a feasibility stage. A steering group comprising local representatives from all the communities in what is a relatively small scale scheme have a modest budget and overall capital cost, a small percentage of which will be raised locally in order for the communities to maximise the potential benefit from any derived income stream.

Luss Estates, as the major land owner, had undertaken feasibility studies for hydro schemes in the surrounding area and as the estate has an interest in working with and supporting both the communities of Luss and Arrochar it was agreed that the opportunity of developing the An-t-Sreang hydro project be given to the Community Development Trusts on the basis that income emanating from the project be divided equally between the two communities. The CDT's are voluntary groups managed by a Board of Directors and as they both have charitable status are undertaking this project with the aim of supporting projects for the benefit of the local communities. The Trust's have managed a number of successful and beneficial projects in the past few years but there is a number of large projects identified in each community's Action Plan that would benefit from the financial gain of the Hydro Scheme.

So where is the watercourse? Well the river runs North from **An t-Sreang** (between Arrochar and Glen Douglas) with supply from tributaries between Ben Reoch and Tullich Hill to **Arrochar**. Another description would be if standing on the site of the proposed BAR (old Torpedo Range) and looking South across Loch Long, it is the watercourse running out of the hanging valley above the Village Inn that drops down under the railway to outflow between the Village Inn and Mansfield House into Loch Long.

The Steering Group successfully submitted an application for loan funding of £70,000 from **Community Energy Scotland** to have a Feasibility Study carried out which will include all the necessary pre-project design and developments. The funding has enabled the recruitment of a consultant who will pull together the various surveys, while also hopefully taking the project through to a successful planning application with the National Park Authority. More updates will follow as this exciting development progresses.

Burns supper - 2014. A rousing evening was experienced at the Three Villages Burns Night Supper on January 25th. A truly enjoyable evening experienced by folks enjoyed culinary creations accompanied by local theatrical and musical talent performed by both young and old. The evening was compered by Trust Cairman Duncan MacLachlan who commenced proceedings with the Selkirk Grace. The Address to the Haggis was competently undertaken by Bobby Kelly, The Immortal Memory by Eileen Kay, Toast to the Lassies by Tom Jackson and the Reply to the Toast to the Lassies by Finola Owen. The evening ended with the traditional rendition of Auld Lang Syne. The meal was wonderfully prepared by Martha Kelly and Melanie Tonks and better tasting chappit neeps and tatties you never will have. And the wee dram or two was also appreciated of course!

The Top Table — A warm round of applause follows the Address to the Haggis given by Bobby Kelly as proud mum Martha looks on



Pictured on the left are Members of the YOUTH project who volunteered to serve the meal on Burns Night — and very competently served it was.

And many congratulations go to **Stuart Murray, Luke Harris, Shannon McVey, Emma Gibb, Ryan Murray, Ryan Gibb** who successfully completed their Activate course. They had to complete a community investigation which they did on transport and received great praise for their efforts. They will have a graduation and certificate ceremony at Glasgow University in May.

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Three Villages Hall - Coming Events

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Arrochar Alps Real Ale Festival



The first Arrochar Alps Real Ale Festival takes place at the Three Villages Hall on **Saturday 29th March**. The theme is *Highlands and Islands*, showcasing at least ten real ales from craft breweries in the Scottish Highlands and Islands. Wine, cider and soft drinks will also be available and Food will be available to purchase. Live entertainment provided by local musicians and **FREE children's films will be running throughout the festival**.



Tickets cost £4 for CAMRA members and £5 for non-members. Family tickets (2 adults and under 18s) cost £10. Entry fee includes free souvenir glass and a catalogue of ales with tasting notes. A shuttle bus between Helensburgh Central Station and Arrochar will run throughout the day in addition to the regular scheduled services run by Garelochhead Coaches and City Link. A share of the proceeds will be donated to the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Showcased breweries include:

[Spey Valley Brewery](#), [Orkney Brewery](#), [Black Isle Brewery](#), [Windswept Brewing Co.](#), [Loch Lomond Brewery](#), [Fyne Ales](#), [Loch Ness Brewery](#), [Cairngorm Brewery](#), [Oban Bay Brewery](#), [Isle of Skye Brewing Company](#)

A group of ladies from the villages are now meeting in the hall between 2pm - 4pm on Wednesdays. If you would like to join us for a chat and tea or coffee, please come along. If you knit, sew or embroider or have some other hobby, bring your work along with you. We will be pleased to see you – the more the merrier and we have a good laugh!

And also remember to come along with your friends for a blether and a refreshing tea or coffee at the regular **Saturday Coffee Mornings - 10 to 12 am**

Join in the **Hidden Heritage Conference** Saturday May 10

This is a free conference to hear the results of the archaeological investigations with help from volunteers and school pupils; also including speakers from the Scottish Government, National Park and Luss Estates. And on **Sunday May 11th** come and join the **Hidden Heritage guided walks** with flint knapping demonstrations and other experimental archaeology on the isthmus.

The Budapest Cafe Orchestra June 13

Comprising four fabulous players we are very pleased to confirm that the band are definitely 'back again by popular demand!' The Budapest Cafe Orchestra play powerful and driving folk-based music from Eastern Europe inspired by the music of European gypsies. They've been described as a '*music-driven phenomenon, a specialist performance-entertainment outfit, certified to enthral audiences everywhere. The infectious energy of the BCO will sweep you off your feet and stay in your heart forever. You will journey from one emotional pole to another: from a desperately tragic evocative heart-rending ancient Jewish melody to a dance from Romania or Russia and all the fiery exuberance that goes with it.*'

And definitely one for the diary - to celebrate the long days of summer you are invited to join a grand

**** Summer Community Ceilidh ****

on **Friday June 27th**; doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start. 'Hae a birl wi your girl' (or ma, pa and the bairns) to a Brilliant Ceilidh Band. Full bar facilities will be available as well as light refreshments. Entry will be by ticket only and details of availability will be published in the June edition of the Community Newsletter.



CINEMA @ the 3VH — FANTASTIC FREE BLOCKBUSTER FILMS IN 2014

- APR 5th and MAY 24th ALL FILMS START AT 7.30PM.

ENTRY ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS. CHECK 3V HALL NOTICEBOARD FOR INFORMATION

For details of **all** the Hall activities just check at the Hall, phone 01301 702 669, or email Stephen McKenzie at admin@threevillages.org.uk. And finally can we ask if anyone has any events etc that they want included on the community website (<http://threevillages.org.uk/>) to please let **Sue Furness** know at: sue.cnoc@gmail.com. We would be delighted to have a diary of local events or celebrations that your club, group or even family are holding or celebrating at the Hall.

'A community hall for the community'

