

Community Newsletter – March 2012

Edition No 14



www.arrocharandtarbet.co.uk **Your Community Website** www.arrocharandtarbet.co.uk



Kyle Mayers is pictured having a break from planning his **Fund Raising Ceilidh** in aid of the Urology Department at Yorkhill Hospital. The event will take place on the **18th March from 2pm to 6 pm** at the 3V Hall and will include a pocket money stall, Teas / Coffee and home baking; raffle and a licenced bar for the adults. **So do**

Stephanie joins as new Hospitality/Catering Assistant

A warm welcome to Stephanie Johnston (pictured below) who moved to Succoth from a small village herself two years ago and so is used to country living. With a retail and childcare background she recently completed Levels 1 and 2 in professional cookery at Motherwell College. In her spare time Stephanie enjoys ice skating, badminton and socialising.

Stephanie's role in the 3VH team is primarily providing a range of sandwiches, soups and baking for events while also covering reception and welcoming and helping Hall customers.



'Vikings to Torpedoes Project'

Following the interest in the community's heritage demonstrated by the High Morlaggan Project, Fiona Jackson has been commissioned by Northlight Heritage (northlight-heritage.co.uk) to scope out the possibility of applying for funding for a project that could help to transform and regenerate our communities. Fiona has presented her ideas to both the Arrochar and Tarbet Community Council and Community Development Trust who have given their broadscale backing to the scoping phase. While Phase 2 (replacement of the old Pit Stop)

of the Campus plan continues, Trust directors are keen to see the potential of other proposals explored and considered for a fully integrated campus development offering maximum community benefit in future operations.

The 'Vikings to Torpedoes' project could include building a state-of-the-art heritage-based visitor attraction with a gift shop and café.

Through exciting interactive displays, media and sound, it would tell the colourful stories surrounding the history of Loch Long and the Arrochar Alps: the dragging of Viking boats from Arrochar to Tarbet, cattle rustling and clan warfare, the steamship trade, Victorian tourism, the West Highland Railway Line, mountain climbing, and the Navy's Torpedo Range.

The project would also involve local volunteers working alongside professional boat builders to reconstruct a Viking long boat that could then be sailed up Loch Long and pulled from Arrochar to Tarbet – perhaps ending in a Viking Festival! There would also be opportunities for training and research in surveying, recording, mapping and excavation, all aimed at unearthing any historical features on the area of land between Arrochar and Tarbet. There are also hopes of creating a circular heritage trail between the two villages. To round off the project, the ambition would be to support the installation of the floating pontoon near the old pier in Arrochar, to create marine access to the area.

While things are just at the proposal stage, it is an exciting new venture that combines many things that the community has already identified as desirable plus much more and the tourism market is certainly ripe for this type of initiative. This is a major project that has already received in-principle support from a number of local and national organisations, but it won't be cheap! A great deal of effort will be required to achieve the organisation, planning and fundraising required to develop and sustain this ambition. However, the benefits to both locals and tourists could be huge and long-lasting.

If anyone would like to become involved in helping to get this project off the ground, or if you have any thoughts on the proposal, please contact Fiona Jackson at Morelaggan Cottage, on 01301 702259 or email her at fionaejackson@gmail.com. Results of the Morelaggan digs, including all the specialist reports, will be available on the project's website, www.highmorlaggan.co.uk.



News from the Three Villages Hall . . .

Saturday Coffee Mornings - All caffeine addicts and home baking fans will be glad to hear that the Hall Coffee Mornings have resumed and are proving as popular as ever.

Want Help with Your Computer ?

There will be a Drop In Session supported by David Burley, who has recently come to live in Arrochar, for any one who wants help with their computer. The sessions will take place at the **Hall on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 11:00-12:00**. The first session will be on Wednesday March 28th. All are welcome. If you want you can also E-mail your questions to David at david@locomotive2go.plus.com.

New Classes for 2012

Pilates Classes - commenced in February and are held on Thursdays at 10am. Bring a mat, hand towel and comfortable clothing. Please ring 01310 703628 / 07796830691 to book your place.

Yoga Class - We have the opportunity to bring a yoga class to the Hall at weekends, but need a minimum number of people before we go ahead... so if you are at all interested please contact **Max Scott on 01852 300 174 or 0782 431 8012**

Carpet Bowls Club - is being held every Tuesday from 7.30—9pm. Contact 01301 702100 for information

New Digital Camera Classes Group - Starts March

Most of us have taken photographs that have been disappointing in one way or another. The digital photography courses that start at the beginning of March will show you how you can correct some of the problems that creep into everyone's photos from time to time. The course is being run on Monday mornings 11-12.30 and Wednesday evenings 19.30 - 21.00 but there are only a few places left on Mondays. No equipment is required, you can borrow digital cameras, but if you have your own so much the better (and please bring the manual if you have one). Each session will last an hour and a half to allow time for photography. Once you have taken your photographs we'll use computer software to improve them in one or more ways. Progress from *Point and Shoot* to using different features of your digital camera. **Sign up at the hall or phone Rhona 702495**

Computer Club

"Starting From Scratch" - these popular computer classes for the over 60s have now finished for this session further starter courses will be arranged if there is a demand, so please contact us if you are interested. The Computer Club continues to meet on Thursdays and we haven't forgotten that several people showed an interest in learning about basic spreadsheets and they will be contacted in due course.

If there is anything about computers that you are hankering to learn why not let us know by speaking to Stephen at the Hall, or phoning Rhona (702495) or Caroline (702588) or by mailing rhona.macfarlane@gmail.com

And things to look forward to

Concert Season Kicks Off - The 3VH experienced an entertaining 2011 with performances by popular Scottish band **Skerryvore**, and the **Mull Theatre Group** who entertained us with their production 'Singing Far into the Night'. The great news is that Skerryvore were so impressed with their reception that they have added the 3VH to their autumn tour and included us on their official tour advertising, so tour T-shirts will have Arrochar and Tarbet - a first for the Hall! And the Mull Theatre have also added the 3VH to their Spring 'Pop-Up Theatre' tour - '*a new and complete theatre experience*' on **9th March** consisting of a double-bill of plays - '**Waterproof**' by Andy Duffy and '**From Paisley to Paulo**' by Martin McCardie. Watch the website for details.

Puppet Animation Festival - 2012. Scotland's National Puppetry Festival are presenting two animated films at 11am on **24th March** and the at 11am on 14th April. The programme is aimed at 3 -12 year olds groups (and mums and dads of course !)

Scottish Hill Race - 250 competitors will be participating in this strenuous 22km Arrochar Alps challenge, which was created in 1987 when the course record was set at 3 hours, 7 minutes and 38 seconds !! Come and support them on 25th June.

**** As part of the web site development we are compiling a directory of local goods and services so do email us at admin@arrocharandtarbet.co.uk if you'd like to be included in this listing ****

WE ARE A REGISTERED CHARITY SUPPORTED BY:-



Martha Kelly and her famous 'raffle' welcomes visitors to the 3VH Saturday Coffee