

Apologies to our previous Editor, Neil Black, who did a great job in producing a regular Newsletter, this one has taken a while and won't be to his standards. We miss Neil and Stephanie, who were stalwarts in Village activities and wish them well in future ventures.

3 Villages Hall & Events

The main hall has continued to be extensively used this year which has been good for business and entertainment. In addition to the usual clubs and groups, numerous events and celebrations have been staged, including the return of the acclaimed Mull Theatre Group and the Budapest Orchestra, amongst others.

We recently staged a very tasty "**Three Villages Bake-Off**" in October followed by the **GALAFEST** which featured the popular and talented 'Simple October' who went down well with all attending and benefitted **Gala Charity Funds**.

On 5th November we again saw a **spectacular fireworks** display with some great hot BBQ fare. This was at the playpark, behind Arrochar Parish Church. We were amazed at the show put together by Douglas Murray of **LomondSpas**, which he helped provide along with **Lochs and Glens Holidays**, who generously donated the fireworks. Collection buckets circulated to help fund next year's extravaganza, which has become a regular spectacle in the skies above Arrochar! Some even said it was better than those in Helensburgh *!#! So well done Douglas and his team.

On the 14th November, Arrochar Parish Church hold a **Quiz Night** at the 3 Villages hall. Masterminds and supporters attending a great evening.

The 3 villages community hall will always welcome **volunteers** who can assist with these and other functions.

Hall Volunteers always welcomed

If you can spare even just a couple of hours per month, please speak to Stephen (your Hall Administrator).

Also contact Stephen if you are planning a party to enquire about availability and **local hall hire rates**.

Arrochar Development Trust

The Trust and its different working groups continue to develop new initiatives, whilst maintaining contact with groups within the community and external organisations, including the National Park, local and National Voluntary, Charitable and Third Sector organisations.

Despite changes in Trust personnel over the past year we have committed groups involved in various projects. Others though would be welcome to join and help keep this dynamic going.

This includes a successor to the current Chair who has held the role for 15 years – having agreed to fill the role at first, while someone else was found!

The Trust welcomes and appreciates it's support networks: Directors; Members; Volunteers; and others interested in its projects within the local community council, Argyll & Bute Council; the National Park and a number of smaller specialist and National organisations.

On reflection, the trust has had another successful year of stable operation. This has been due to the efforts of the Hall Management Group and staff.

Additionally the **Community Café and Pitstop take-away** have been re-organised and refurbished to meet changing market needs and demands, for a wider range of quality products.

The cafe held a series of successful theme evenings which were much appreciated and everything "went down well" with those attending !

The proposed An t-Sreang **hydro generating scheme** above Arrochar has been granted planning permission and completion of other preparatory activities, and project development continues to be made. This will concentrate shortly on sourcing the necessary funds to progress towards the detailed design stage and if successful, future construction and electricity generation for community benefit.

Another group of Trust Directors and others, known as the "GFG" - **Going Forward Group** – is actively pursuing future plans for the community campus with a view to developing the café into a multi-purpose centre and a quality visitor attraction.

Looking ahead we also have the AGM on **Sat. November 21st** at 12.30pm in the 3 Villages Hall, following Teas, Coffee and Cakes starting at 10.00am. This will be an opportunity to hear of the work of the Trust in more detail and perhaps others will see an opportunity to become involved.

In accordance with the Trust Mem & Arts., two Directors will stand down, allowing other interested community members willing to serve as Directors to come forward.

Applications are sought from motivated individuals representing community groups and interests, or individuals committed to support community development and willing to share their skills and experience, to help and progress agreed actions for community benefit and improve the quality of life in our area.

All nominations will be considered and providing applicants conform to a code of conduct criteria, positions can be filled. Should the number of suitable applicants exceed available places a simple election ballot will be conducted at the AGM.

So, Roll up, Roll up and strive to make a real difference to your future community in the short and long term.

Present Directors will be pleased to share information and advice with those wishing to take up the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Info and application forms are available at the Hall or on the 3 Villages website: www.threevillages.org.uk

The Trust is presently in discussion with the **Big Lottery Fund** concerning future support and assistance, with progress on its various responsibilities and ambitions, for projects and developments that our volunteer group struggle to progress in a realistic time.

Arrochar Parish Church

The church has also had a busy year with lots of interesting activities being held, including a Ladies Pamper Evening. They also embarked on a very successful boat trip on Loch Lomond, which was really enjoyed by all, despite some inclement weather!

On a more traditional note, seven new Elders were Ordained during a special Service in August. The new Kirk Session will be very involved over the coming months in the process of attracting a new minister to serve the joint charge of Arrochar and Luss. Both church communities will be working very closely together to take this process forward.

In addition to the quiz night mentioned earlier, church members are planning arrangements for future events, including the organisation of a **Christmas Fayre** – watch out for details on notice boards shortly.

Other special events included the well attended but very wet Remembrance Day service. With the traditional services over the Christmas period to look forward to, why not join in a Sunday service or any of the church events mentioned above ?

You'll always be assured of a warm welcome and interesting activities !

As with all community activities :
Three Villages – One Community – **Join us**, whenever you can.