



Welcome to the **2nd** edition of **3V1C**, the *Arrochar & Tarbet Community Development Trust* monthly newsletter.

The newsletter is intended as a platform to promote all local news and activities that will be of interest to both Trust members and the wider community alike. Please feel free to pass it along to anyone you think might be interested.

For information on the Trust, how to join, and how we use members' data, please see the articles at the end of this newsletter.

To contribute to the 3V1C newsletter, please contact Martin Semple: martinsemple@btinternet.com

ARROCHAR YOUTH



ARROCHAR YOUTH UKRAINE 2019

Arrochar YOUTH are booked to leave for Ukraine on the 8th August 2019 where they will initially head to a training camp for two days before travelling by train to their project destination for two weeks. The region or school that they will be supporting has yet to be confirmed.

They have fundraised for some of the trip and some youngsters, together with Angela McKell, have opted to pay their own way. There will be 6 team members going out to volunteer in Ukraine: Ryan Stone, Adam Carmichael, Erin and Sophie Craig, Catherine Macleod (not from the village, but attends Arrochar YOUTH), and Angela McKell. They will be teaching the students their normal lessons in English, supported by their usual teacher, and each team member will have a class of their own.

The team has been asked to do a Scottish cultural lesson during week two which should be interesting! All are very excited and flights are already booked. Pre-departure training will start next week and be done by the time the team leaves. Arrochar YOUTH hope to feed back to the community once they return and share stories of their experience. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase our young people and contribute to making them global citizens!

WALK IN THE PARK – ARROCHAR & TARBET

The National Park's 'Walk in the Park' has launched a new Arrochar and Tarbet Group.

WHEN: every Tuesday morning @ 10.20am

WHERE: outside the Pit Stop Diner

Joining is a free, fun and easy way to get fit, feel better and discover the benefits of walking. Walk in the Park's weekly health

walk programme in Arrochar & Tarbet will provide you with the opportunity to explore the beautiful and nurturing surroundings of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, become physically active, and improve your health and sense of well-being.

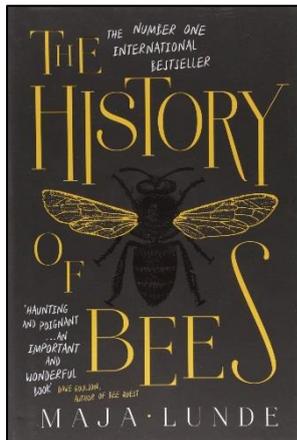
Walking routes are all on good walking surfaces, lasting between 45-60 minutes and are led by trained Volunteer Walk Leaders who provide a safe, supportive and enjoyable walking experience. Walking is done at your own pace and ability.

For more details contact: cathy.scott@lochlomond-trossachs.org, or just come along on a Tuesday.

<https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/things-to-do/whats-on-events/walk-park-arrochar-tarbet-group-launch/>



3V BOOK CLUB



Do you enjoy reading? Did you know about the 3 Villages Book Club?

We meet at 7.30 on the last Wednesday of the month in one of the local hostelries to share discussion of the designated book and some general chat over a glass or two. It's all very easy going – there's no deep intellectual or literary discussion!

Our book for the end of June is **The History of Bees by Maja Lunde**.

If you fancy giving it a go, new members are always welcome. For further details and venue information, please contact Anne Watt:

wmwatt@btinternet.com

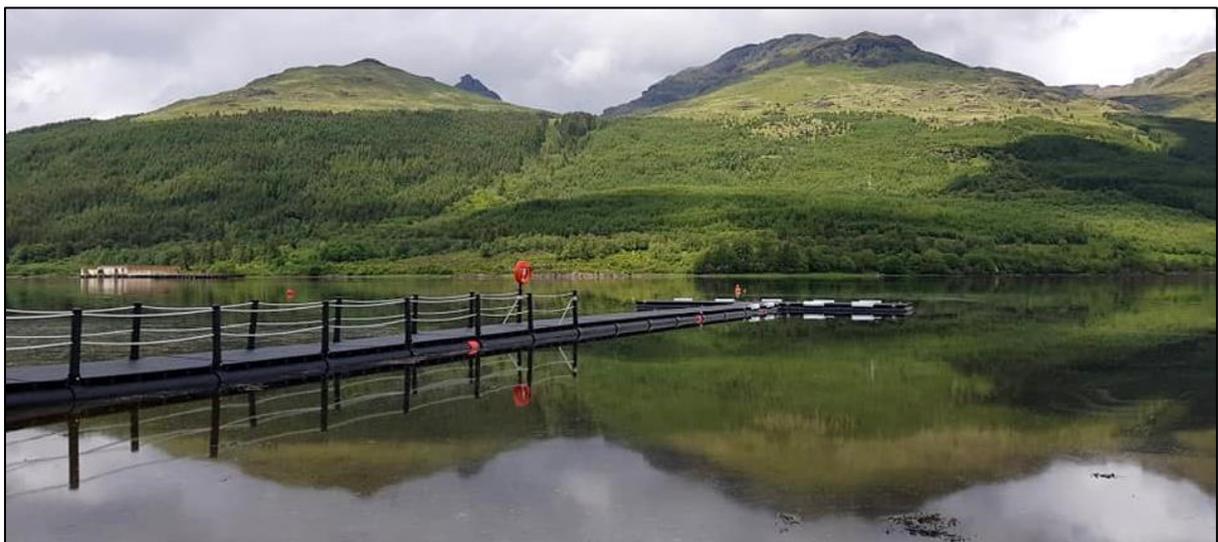
Calling all business owners in the Arrochar Alps area! The Arrochar Alps Business Group aims to make all villages within the vicinity of the Arrochar Alps a destination and not simply a drive-through to other parts of Argyll.

**ARROCHAR ALPS
BUSINESS GROUP**

By leveraging dedicated and specific support around tourism and advertising, the group's mission is to entice and convince visitors to stay and enjoy all of the diverse and vibrant attractions that the Arrochar Alps area has to offer: walking, climbing, cycling, heritage, and so much more.

*If you would like to get involved, the group will be meeting in the **Tarbet Hotel at 7.30pm on the 19th of June.***

LOCH LONG PONTOON AND VISITOR MOORING



DAWN GOURLAY writes: Our project to install a pontoon and visitor moorings started off as an idea at the Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui Community Council in December 2015. We soon realised that this project would take a lot of work and began by setting up our own charity, the Loch Long Jetty Association (SCO47932).

It seemed ludicrous to us to have a beautiful marine asset, Loch Long, around which Arrochar was built, and have no safe pedestrian access to it. The only way into or out of a boat was at the edge of the water and usually resulted in wet feet! We were also amazed at the number of boats that would make the long journey up Loch Long and then see them turn around and go back down as there was nowhere for them to moor safely.

We went through all the necessary steps in securing planning permission, checking out different types of pontoons, applying for a Marine Licence and having discussions with Crown Estate Scotland (Interim Management) for a lease for the sea bed, and Luss Estates for a lease for the foreshore area. We also at this stage were applying for any grants we could.



We struck very lucky in October 2018 with two large grants, which meant we then had enough money to implement our project – we couldn't quite believe this and we were 'over the moon'. So now, the Loch Long Jetty Association is proud to announce the completion of the new marine facilities for our village. We have a Fusion Marine Pontoon measuring 46.1m with a 12.6m hammerhead installed, attached to an existing slipway. The depth of water on the sea side of the hammerhead is 3m at low tide and 2m on the shore side.

We had intended that two visitor moorings would be installed at the same time, but there has been a bit of slippage time on these, but they will be installed within the next few weeks, that is by mid-June, and they will be able to take visiting vessels up to 15 tonnes. They will be identified by white buoys.

These facilities have been made possible with grants from the following organisations, for which we are extremely grateful: -

The Garfield Weston Foundation 60th Anniversary Fund, the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, Argyll and Bute Council Supporting Communities Fund, Co-op Local Community Fund, Waitrose Community Matters, Argyll Community Housing Association Community Action Fund and Dunbritton Housing Association Community Support Fund.

We are also extremely grateful for the donations from the Hannah Stirling Loch Lomond Charitable Trust, Forest Holidays, Norman Gourlay, Judy Orr, Cruise Loch Lomond, Ardmay House Outdoor Centre, Ben Arthur's Bothy, Arrochar & Tarbet Community Development Trust and the Arrochar, Tarbet & Ardlui Community Council.

A special thank you is to be given to the Secretary of Strachur Bay Moorings Association, Ian Arnold, who has shared his wisdom with us and held our hand throughout the different stages of this project, and guided us away from potential pitfalls.

As we are a registered charity, we do not intend to make a profit but we do need to cover costs such as insurance, lease fees and maintenance. We will endeavour to keep our charges to a minimum. Visitor moorings will be £10 for up to 24 hours with free use of the pontoon. For other boats berthing on the pontoon there will be a fee of £5 for up to four hours. Payment for the present time is via the Honesty Box. There will be no overnight berthing on the pontoon without prior agreement. Fishing permits at minimal costs will be available from the Three Villages Hall and Three Villages Café.

Pedestrian access to the pontoon is free.



We look forward to seeing many yachts and pleasure crafts livening up our loch and to welcoming the Yachting Community to Arrochar. For the sake of tranquillity, we are not able to facilitate jet skis.

For any information please email: lochlongjettyassociation@gmail.com

CHANGE WORKS IN ARGYLL

Change Works in Argyll – helping the community heat their homes and businesses for less.

Change Works in Argyll is a new pilot energy efficiency project intended to help homeowners, private landlords, businesses and community groups in the west Loch Lomond and Loch Long areas to improve the energy performance rating of their properties, in line with Scottish Government guidance, while helping them save on energy bills and reduce their carbon footprint.



Change Works in Argyll

Significant change is needed to transform Scotland's buildings to be warmer, greener and more efficient. The Scottish Government published the Energy Efficient Scotland Route map in 2018 which proposes clear long-term energy efficiency standards that buildings will need to achieve by 2040. It sets out the pathways that different building sectors will take between now and then to achieve or exceed that standard.

Change Works in Argyll can help householders and businesses decide whether they need to invest in their property's home energy efficiency. The project can give impartial advice and also help plan any home improvements, identify a reputable installer, source funding (where applicable) and provide quality assurance checks on work carried out, making the process as simple as possible.



Change Works in Argyll helps householders and businesses with simple tips to save on fuel bills and smart monitor technology is available on loan to allow the community to understand their energy use and identify where savings can be made.

Donna Marshall, Senior Project Manager with Changeworks, said: “We’re looking forward to working together with the community to support householders and businesses to make energy efficiency

improvements, cut carbon emissions and reduce heating bills. We want to help the community improve the warmth and comfort of their homes and buildings and contribute to a reduction in CO2 emissions. The area will benefit from the support of our partner organisations providing free and impartial advice to help people find practical ways to cut their heating and energy bills”

The project is funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by award -winning social enterprise Changeworks, in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council and Home Energy Scotland.

Keep up to date with events and activities at: www.facebook.com/ChangeWorksInArgyll

Access free and impartial home energy advice by calling Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 or contact the project team direct on 01301 707183 / email: argyll@changeworks.co.uk.

GALLOPING TOWARDS GALAFEST

Plans are really firming up for this year’s 3 Villages Galafest on 28 September.

*The music for the day is all confirmed now, with local performer **Norrie McGregor** kicking things off. The up and coming Cajun-influenced **Jennifer Ewan Band** fill the afternoon slot, and perennial favourites the **Camans** will wind the event up in rousing fashion.*



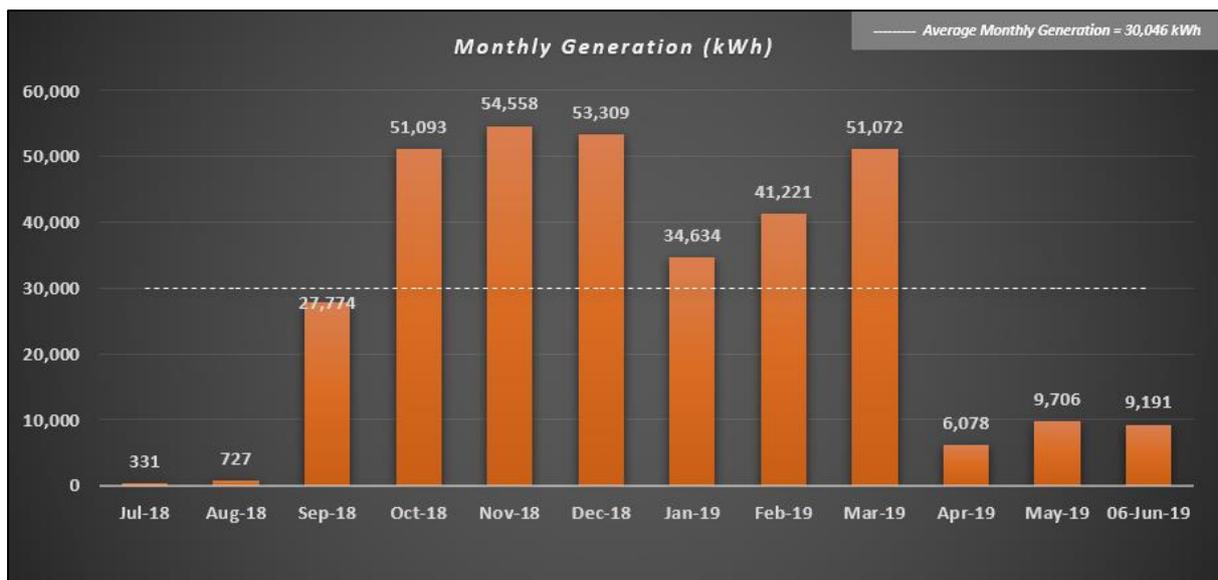
There will also be activities for the kids – of all ages! – as well as food, drink and stalls. Admission is free, so get the date in your diary!

*We’re always on the lookout for volunteers to help out on the day. If you would like to get involved, please contact **Tom Jackson:** tomjackson@morelaggan.fsnet.co.uk*

A relatively dry and sunny May has led to another month of low energy generation, but what a change come June! As always, not great news for those hoping for decent summer weather, but a boon to all of us with a vested interest in our hydro scheme.



Typical An t-Sreang water levels at Hydro Intake: May 2019 (left) vs. start of June 2019 (right)



Looking at our Monthly Generation chart, we can clearly see that in the first week of June we have easily surpassed the energy generation for the whole of April and are already close to matching the output for the entire month of May!

More rain, anyone?

*If you have any questions about the scheme, or would like to request a guided tour, please contact: **Duncan MacLachlan**: mac155@aol.com and **Martin Semple**: martinsemple@btinternet.com*

Beach Cleans and Recycling Programs

We had another 'scrape and remove' of the rubbish at the Head of the Loch on 26th May, which gave us an opportunity to really do a deep clean of smaller items of waste.

We found literally thousands of plastic cotton bud stems, straws, feminine hygiene products, wet wipes and dental floss. These are actually worse than the larger pieces of debris we normally pick up because they can be ingested by birds and fish, potentially killing them.



We had over 20 volunteers on the day, from Geocaching Scotland, the National Park, and even families from Edinburgh and Glasgow. From the 3 Villages, Shonny Paterson came along with his son, Coll, and Fiona Jackson.

Thanks to everyone who comes out for these cleans, and we would encourage everyone to adopt a patch of our villages. Even if you can't come out for the big cleans, anyone can borrow the litter picking equipment free at any time and do their own clean, be it on the beach or around the village streets and paths. The equipment is held at the Pit Stop.



CITY TO SEA
connecting our actions to our oceans

If you're interested in learning how you and your family can make small changes to help in the Marine Litter battle, please visit:
<https://www.citytosea.org.uk/>

We also have a new recycling program: thanks to Helensburgh's oral health team you can now recycle toothbrushes by dropping them off (double-bagged, please) at the Victoria Integrated Care Centre, 93 E King St, Helensburgh G84 7BU. Why not save your toothbrushes up and hand them in when you have 10 or more, or get your school involved? Perhaps even help to set-up a local drop-off point?



ARROCHAR-TARBET PATH – UPDATE

The Trust has contacted **Forestry and Land Scotland** regarding recent concerns about the delay to the re-opening of the **Cruach Tairbeirt path**, the announcement of its 'decommissioning' by the Forestry Commission, and the apparent dropping of the **Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardgartan** area in recent Forestry Commission promotional material.



We now have a response from Forestry and Land Scotland's **Area Visitor Services Manager**, and it's worth quoting the relevant sections in full.

On the apparent dropping of the Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardgartan area by the Forestry Commission:

'We are currently reviewing and looking to improve the standard of the trails in Ardgartan and at Tarbet Isle. The "Arrochar Trail" between Arrochar and the Station continues to be managed and promoted. The Cobbler will continue to be managed and maintained as a significant hill access. We have 'explore further options' [sic] around the Ardgartan peninsula as well as the two long distance trails passing through this area.

Additionally we are looking to lease the former Ardgartan Visitor Centre with an interested party but we need to resolve some water issues first. We received approval last week to undertake the upgrade required to the water system. We are aiming to get this resolved this summer.

After a national review of our trail network we have rationalised our national trail offer. So in relation to your question, much of our future plans for the Argyll Forest Park are focussed in the Ardgartan, Arrochar and Tarbet area.

I would really welcome the chance to discuss what is promoted in your next reprint of your leaflet in relation to our future plans.'

In part, a welcome commitment, but certainly not a straight answer to the notable absence of our area in recent Forestry Commission promotional material.

On the announcement of the 'decommissioning' of the Cruach Tairbeirt path:

'The route has been decommissioned for three reasons. Firstly, after a national review of our trail network where all our trails were graded, this route was graded as a poor experience. There has subsequently been a substantial amount of windblow of trees, and as future forest operations are planned in this area it was decided that the route in its current form would be decommissioned, with the possibility of a review on completion of our forestry works. The final reason for the decommissioning of this trail is a local one. It was featured in our Argyll Forest Park map but unfortunately we received complaints as when visitors parked, they were told they could not park in that location and that they should walk somewhere else. So there is some local resistance to the promotion of this path...'

Sadly, this is a somewhat odd and unsubstantiated response. Why has the route been 'graded as a poor experience'? By whom, and by what standards? And while many readers of this newsletter may recognise what is meant by 'some local resistance to this path' with regards to parking, is it really acceptable that the Forestry Commission considers the unauthorised behaviour of one local resident a prominent factor in its decision to no longer promote the Path?

The Trust, along with other interested parties, is now seeking a face-to-face meeting with Forestry and Land Scotland's Area Visitor Services Manager to discuss these issues in more detail.

Watch this space.



For information on what's on in the Hall please visit:

<http://www.threevillages.org.uk/events/whats-on-in-the-hall/>

For information on community events please visit:

<http://www.threevillages.org.uk/events/>

THREE VILLAGES, ONE COMMUNITY... **J**OIN US!

Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust (A&T CDT) was formed in June 2003. It is a community charitable organisation intending to promote & respond to the needs and interests of our community, for the benefit of all residents. Its potential role is wide and includes provision of social and community facilities, environmental improvements, youth development, preservation of local heritage, and support to local people and businesses.

Joining as a member of the Trust is a way of supporting its aims and work: to make Arrochar, Tarbet and our whole loch-side area a better place to live and work for everyone.

Full members will have:

- *Information about Trust activities*
- *An opportunity to contribute to events and longer-term plans*
- *An opportunity to influence what is being planned*
- *A vote at Trust general meetings*
- *The opportunity to be elected as a Director of the Trust*

All types of members are welcome to attend General Meetings but only full members are eligible to stand for election as Directors. Associate and Junior members are non-voting.

Your membership is very important and valuable to the Trust. More members mean more influence with outside agencies and a better chance to receive external funding for our plans and objectives.

If you would like more information, or if you know anyone who might be interested in becoming a Trust member, please contact Jen Little: jen.little33@btinternet.com



Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust, like most organisations, keeps a certain amount of data about its members. Thus, we're affected by the new EU General Data Protection Rules (GDPR) which recently came into force.

<https://eugdpr.org/>

Our approach to data protection has 3 main strands:

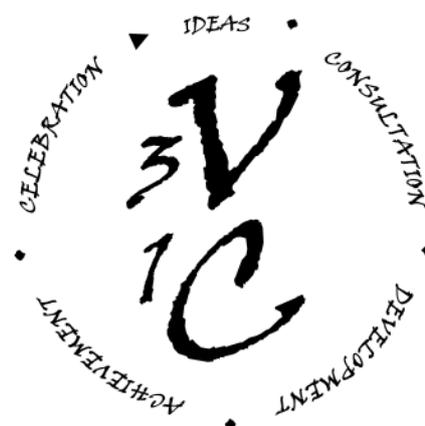
- *We'll only hold personal data that's directly necessary for the effective running of the Trust. So, we will hold only a member's name and one method of contact. Ideally this will be an email address – that's more cost-effective for the Trust. But we will hold and use a postal address for any member who prefers that*
- *We'll keep the personal data that we do hold safely and securely. It will be accessible only for Trust purposes and with the agreement of a Trust management meeting*
- *We will actively look to ensure that the personal data we hold is up to date and accurate – including periodic exercises to update and 'cleanse' the data we hold*

To help us meet these objectives, we're looking to update our records. That's 'good housekeeping', as well as ensuring we meet data protection standards.

Over the coming weeks we will be contacting each member, asking that you look at the data which we currently hold about you – and update it where necessary. Your help with this exercise will be much appreciated.

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