



Welcome to the first 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.

**To contribute to the newsletter, please contact Martin Semple: [martinsemple@btinternet.com](mailto:martinsemple@btinternet.com)**

## THREE VILLAGES, ONE COMMUNITY... JOIN 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](mailto:jen.little33@btinternet.com)***

## KEEPING OUR DATA RIGHT



**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.***

## THREE VILLAGES HALL

***Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May sees classic rock band Under Wraps play the Three Villages Hall, Arrochar. Tickets £6 each. Pay at the door on the night, or contact:***

[admin@threevillages.org.uk](mailto:admin@threevillages.org.uk)

***For information on events at 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/>

**Classic Rock Band**  
FREE, THIN LIZZY, THE CULT, ZZ TOP, T. REX, AC-DC, QUINCY JONES, PRINCE, BLACK SABBATH, THE SNAKE, LED ZEPHULIN, JUDAS PRESTON, GARY MOORE, ZZZY OSBORNE, RADIO BASTARD, LENNY BRIDGEN, GUN, STEVE NICHOLS, CRAVITZ, BRIAN AUGER, BOB MAC  
**Under Wraps**  
Keepin' Rock Live  
*Live at*  
**The 3 Villages Hall Arrochar**  
**Sat. May 25th**  
Doors Open 7.30pm for 8pm  
for tickets contact us via the website or pay at the door on the night.  
[www.threevillages.org.uk](http://www.threevillages.org.uk)

## GEARING UP FOR GALA

**One of the events which brings many members of the community together is of course 3 Villages Galafest and this year's event will be held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September.**

Planning is already well underway – with some interesting bands booked to provide the musical entertainment, and activities for all ages in the pipeline. So, get the date in your diary!



If you would like to get involved with planning or running Galafest, please contact **Tom Jackson:** [tomjackson@morelaggan.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:tomjackson@morelaggan.fsnet.co.uk)

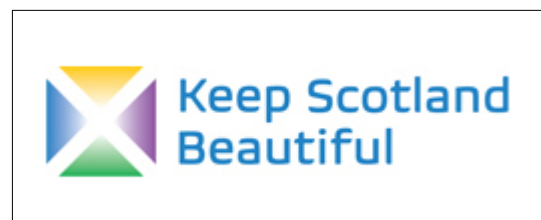
## BEACH CLEANS



On 28<sup>th</sup> May, **Eastwood Divers** (a branch of the Scottish Sub-Aqua Club, based in Giffnock), attended the head of the loch for a very successful and much appreciated beach clean. Final total was 439.25kg of litter in 63 bags. Add in larger, un-bagged items, and the complete weigh-in was closer to half a tonne! Many thanks to Eastwood Divers and also to local residents, random volunteers, National Park Rangers, Aquatron, Sea Shepherd, Slanj Loch Lomond, Arrochar Gulf Garage and the Marine Conservation Society.

(Information and photo: [Eastwood Divers/Arrochar Community Clean Up](#))

The next scheduled clean-up is on **Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup>** as part of the **Keep Scotland Beautiful Big Beach Clean**. We hope to have media coverage, as well as support from Grab Trust, Marine Conservation and the National Park, so a **huge community presence for this event would really be appreciated.**



To sign-up, please contact **Cristina Sanchez-Navarro:** [csnstartin@yahoo.com](mailto:csnstartin@yahoo.com). While we will be more than happy to have any number of volunteers on the day, a sign-up email in advance will help us to ensure we have enough equipment available.

[www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/local-environmental-quality/clean-up-scotland/clean-up-events/](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/local-environmental-quality/clean-up-scotland/clean-up-events/)

**With felling activities having recommenced on Cruach Tairbeirt and the continued closure of the path for safety reasons, some questions and concerns have been raised regarding Forestry Commission Scotland’s decision to no longer support this popular route.**

The notice (pictured, right) can be seen at the Arrochar and Tarbet station underpass: **“The Cruaich [sic] Tairbeirt Loop is no longer one of our promoted routes”.**

This is all very disappointing given that the path forms part of the hugely popular Three Lochs Way to Arrochar, not to mention the investment from the Friends of Loch Lomond & Trossachs in forming the track and, more recently, the Paths leaflet printed by the Trust.




A similar announcement is to be found on the Forestry and Land Scotland website (<https://forestryandland.gov.scot/visit/forest-parks/argyll-forest-park/cruach-tairbeirt>), noting that the Cruach Tairbeirt Loop Trail has been ‘recently decommissioned’.

## 🔊 Arrochar Forest Notice

Due to ongoing works, there is no access to the former Cruach Tairbeirt Loop Trail (recently decommissioned).


Please help us to keep the forest a safe place by following all on site safety signage and instructions. Thank you.





### 1 Arrochar →

Start your hillwalk up The Arrochar Alps

**Facilities and activities**

  
Walking

  
Parking (charge)

  
Mountain access




### 2 Cruach Tairbeirt →

Follow the path of 13th century Viking raiders

**Facilities and activities**

  
Walking


Distance from 'arrochar': 0.76 miles





### 3 Ardgartan →


Endless trails through an area of vast natural beauty

**Facilities and activities**

  
Walking

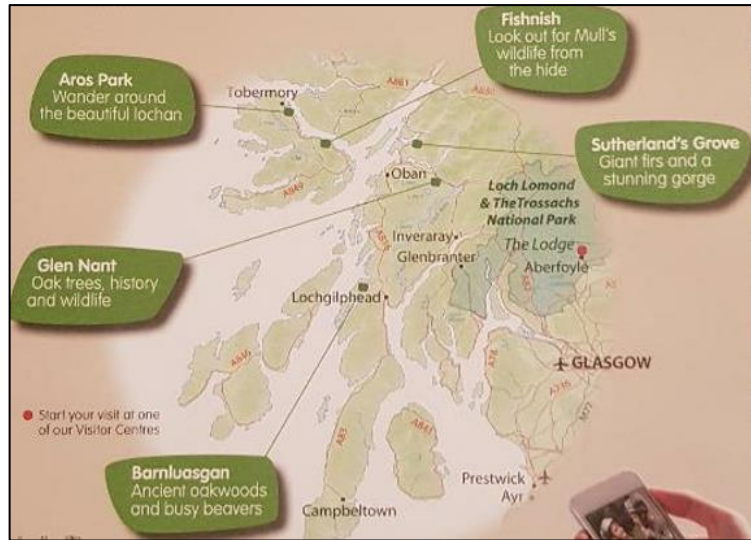
  
Toilets

  
Parking

  
Cycling

Distance from 'arrochar': 1.20 miles

It has also been noted that, although Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardgartan walks continue to be promoted on the Forestry and Land Scotland website (see screenshot, above), they remain curiously absent from recent Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) printed promotional material (pictured below).

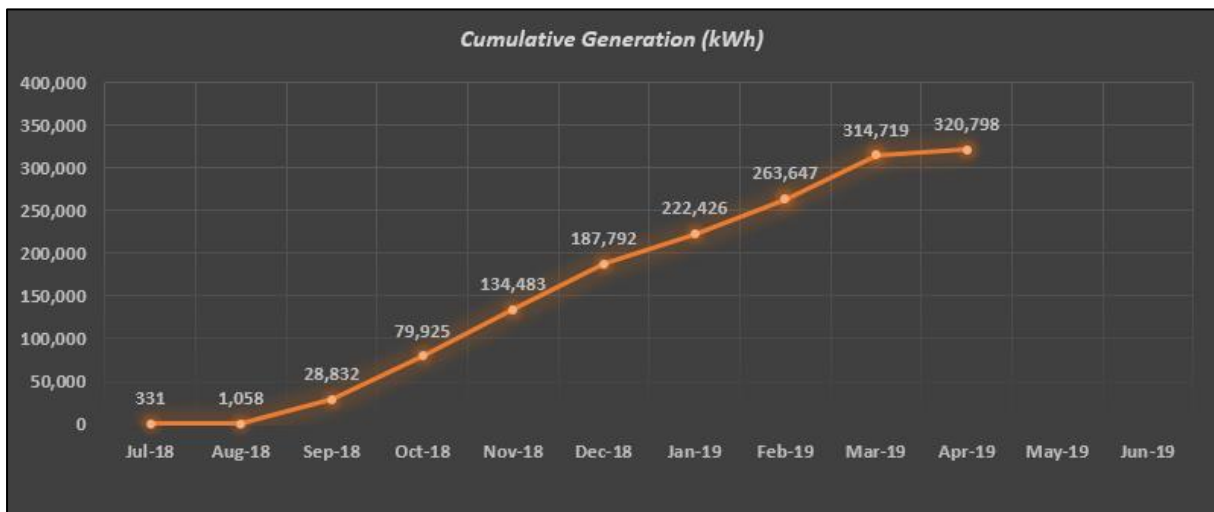
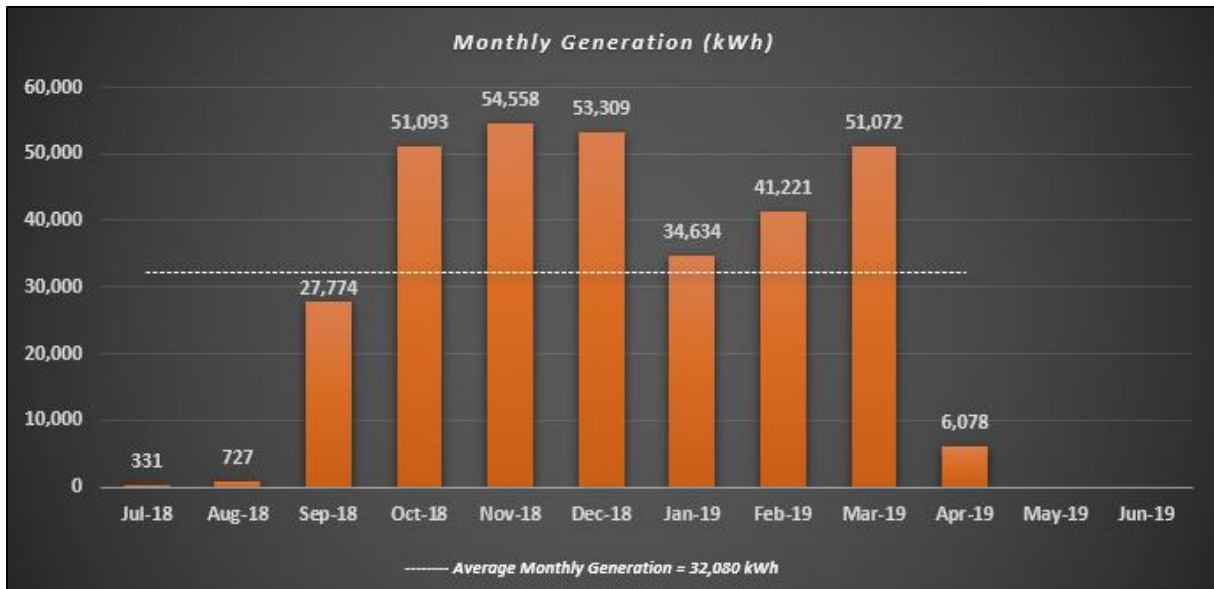


As a visitor area which is dependent on a variety of promoted paths and outdoor activities, to see FCS apparently 'dropping' Arrochar and Tarbet in favour of other centres is something that needs to be highlighted and addressed. More to follow.

In the meantime, we also await an update on the continued Arrochar-Tarbet path closure, which FCS have recently stated as being 're-opened', despite clear evidence to the contrary, per the photo below, taken at the Arrochar end of the path on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019.



*Unfortunately, it was not a very productive April for our community hydro scheme, as the uncharacteristically warm, dry weather led to increasingly lower water levels which in turn caused a downturn in generation, culminating in two weeks of turbine 'Idle' status.*



*Ironic, of course, that at a time of year when we look forward to some extended periods of sunshine and higher temperatures, those of us with a vested interest in hydro schemes find ourselves fretting over the consequences for power output!*

*On the upside, however, recent activities based around the scheme have been far from idle...*

## Hydro Scheme Visitors



***Argyll & Bute councillor Richard Trail (above, right) with ACHS director Martin Semple***

*Commenting after his enthusiastic tour of the Arrochar Hydro Scheme, Councillor Trail said: "I found the concept of these micro hydro stations fascinating. The big hydro stations are awesome and will always have their place. But a distributed system of small power generators will improve resilience for small rural communities. The generator housing is not out of place in the landscape."*



***Daichi Yoshioka, Universities of Freiburg and Warwick exchange student***

*Daichi Yoshioka, originally from Japan, is studying 'Global Sustainable Development' as an undergraduate. He spent three weeks in April travelling across Europe to learn from a variety of renewable energy projects, including our very own Arrochar Hydro Scheme, in pursuit of his "dream to transform Japanese energy system into 100% sustainable and 100% self-sufficient by the power of people".*



***Natasha Hoare, Lancaster University Masters by Research student***

*Natasha Hoare, BA Anthropology at the University of Sussex, is currently working with Energy4All and the Centre of Global Eco-Innovation at Lancaster University to produce a 30,000 word thesis on the potential of community-owned renewable energy, with particular focus on "how communities operate and how they exercise power [...] crucial and often overlooked in the tackling of environmental issues". Natasha was based in Arrochar from 30th April through 3rd May and, in addition to learning about our local community hydro scheme from directors Duncan MacLachlan and Martin Semple, she was also afforded an extensive tour of other renewable schemes in the area, in addition to meeting and interviewing many members of our local community.*



***Members of Denmark's EBO Consult, with ACHS director Duncan MacLachlan and Energy4All's Jim Lee***



*EBO Consult, Energy4All's sister organisation in the European network of renewable energy co-operatives (an organisation called Rescoop), was in Oban to visit Argyll, Lomond and the Islands (ALI) Energy, and the team was keen to visit a community energy project whilst in Scotland. CEO Erik Christiansen is considered to be one of the foremost experts in renewable energy deployment and co-operatives in Europe. High praise indeed, then, that EBO Consult members were fulsome in their praise of Arrochar Hydro during their visit!*

### **West of Scotland Dry Stone Walling Association**



*Over a hot and sunny weekend in April, the fabulous West of Scotland Dry Stone Walling Association were finally able to put their significant talents to work on the construction of a long-planned walled bench seat at the Hydro Viewpoint.*



**Members of the team take a well-earned break in the sun, including Tarbet's very own Russ Liddell (right)**

Overlooking Loch Long and the Arrochar Alps, and using stones donated by Luss Estates, it is an impressive edifice which, though borne of ancient tradition, nevertheless manages to sit in near-perfect harmony alongside the wooden exterior that houses our modern-day renewables technology.



**A reminder of our Viking heritage**



**Plinth for 'Interpretation Board'**

To complete the project, we now need to design and add an 'Interpretation Board' to the plinth in the viewpoint wall. Funding for this vital final element is currently under consideration.

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

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