



Welcome to the **3rd** 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

AARROCHAR & TARBET COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST – UPDATE

Email Addresses

The Trust has over 200 members, and just about the same number of associate members. We want to keep in touch with everyone, with updates about what's on and what's planned for our community.



Using email as our main means of contact is good for the environment – saving paper. Email also saves the Trust money (which can then be directed to other community benefits). And it means members will get our regular e-Newsletters – like this one!

If you're getting this e-Newsletter directly, it means we have an active email address for you in our records. That's great, but we don't have email details for quite a large number of our members. We are gradually contacting these members by post to ask them to switch to email – but that's quite a time consuming and costly exercise.

*So, we're looking for Trust Members to help out. If you know of a friend, neighbour or family member who is a Trust Member, ask them if they're getting this e-Newsletter. If they don't, It's easy to fix – they just have to send an email to the **Trust Secretary, Jen Little: jen.little33@btinternet.com***

Thanks for your help.

New Members

The Trust is also keen to involve as many people as possible from our community. People come and go in the area – and it's been a while since we looked to recruit new members. So, if you know of newcomers – friends, neighbours, family – please let them know about the Trust. It only costs **£5 for a life membership** and it's a great way to keep up to date with what's happening.

Anyone who would like to join should send an email in the first instance to the **Trust Secretary, Jen Little: jen.little33@btinternet.com**

AGM

The Trust is required to hold an AGM (Annual General Meeting) to report back on what we've done during the year, elect office bearers, get the accounts ratified, and so on. We're planning to hold the 2019 AGM on the morning of **Saturday 7th September in the Three Villages Hall**. The timing is still to be finalised, but it will be alongside the usual Saturday 'Coffee Morning' so there's a chance to fortify yourself with cake beforehand! It's a bit of a way off – but worth putting the date in your diary to make sure your views are heard.

DESTINATION ARROCHAR ALPS!

'Destination Arrochar Alps' (previously known as '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.

DESTINATION
ARROCHAR ALPS

Local businesses recently held a meeting at the Tarbet Hotel. The group had a great evening discussing the way forward for the area and agreed the following:

- The name of the working group going forward will be 'Destination Arrochar Alps'. Strapline: "Where the mountains meet the sea"
- The group will be formally constituted and active members will be sought
- The area the group will cover runs from Ardlui through Tarbet and Arrochar across to Cairndow. All feeder areas will be encouraged to participate
- A membership fee will be applicable, to allow working capital for projects going forward, and currently estimated to be in the vicinity of £10 per month (tbc)
- Following an informative talk and demonstration, Smart Village (<https://smartvillage.scot/>) – a central, online hub giving visitors instant access to relevant information on local communities, accommodation, things to do, and much more – was agreed by the group to be an asset worth pursuing. More information to follow

Should you wish to join the group please contact **Jane Gauld: Slanjrestaurant@mail.com**



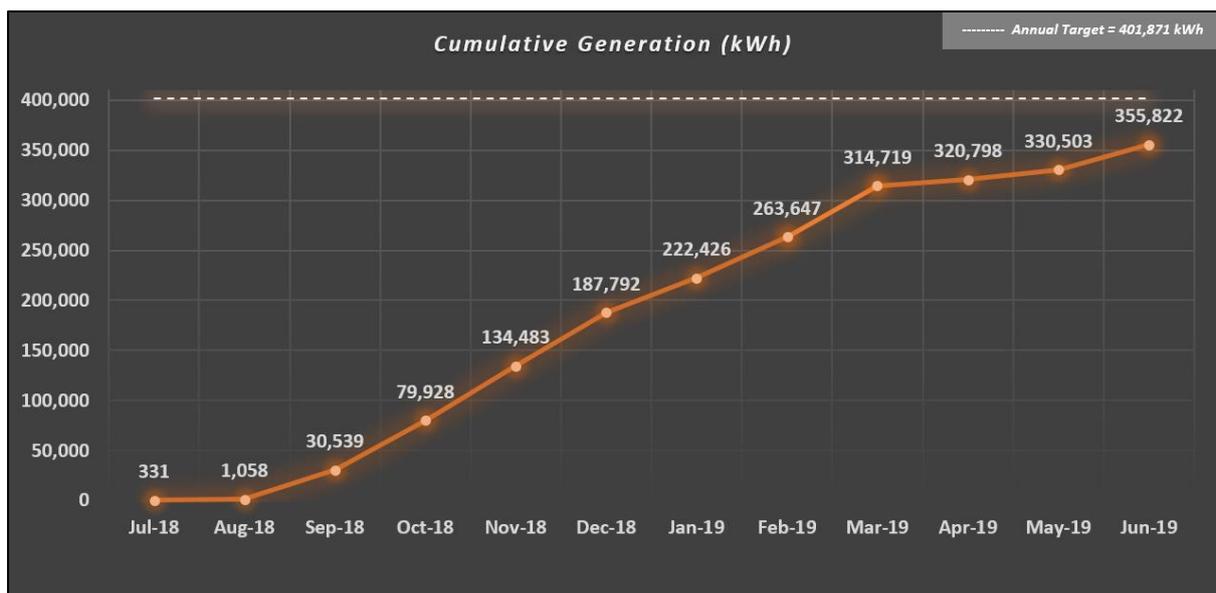
<https://www.facebook.com/destinationarrocharalps/>

2018-2019 Financial Year Close

Having commenced operations on 9th March 2018, our Hydro Scheme has now completed its first full financial year (June 2018-July 2019), and we're very happy to report that we generated an impressive 355,822 kWh during that period. Had it not been for last Summer's unusually hot climate and a comparatively drier Winter and Spring 2018-2019, we would have comfortably surpassed our projected target of 401,871 kWh.

To put that figure of 355,822 kWh in perspective: were we in the business of directly powering the average household, this would have covered the annual electricity needs of well over 100 local residents!

*All of the individual ethical investors who made our Scheme possible should now have been informed by Energy4All of this year's share interest. Per the rules of the Scheme, the communities of **Luss and Arden and Arrochar and Tarbet** will benefit from a financial return next year ('Year Three').*



Ofgem Visit

*On 25th June, **ACHS Director Martin Semple** hosted a visit from **GEMA, the governing board of Ofgem** (the regulatory body of the UK's gas and electricity markets).*

"These visits are extremely important in helping shape Ofgem policy and can offer invaluable insight into the lived experience of consumers across the UK. This year we would like to take the chance to show the board [...] some of the most interesting and innovative projects in the country."

- **Ofgem Scotland**

On a gloriously warm and sunny day, after a tour of the 3V Hall (courtesy of Stephen Mackenzie), Martin Semple guided our guests on a topographical, historical and community-focused tour from the Hall to the Hydro Scheme. Thankfully, there was just enough water level to allow the turbine to power up – quite literally ‘on cue’ – as our guests arrived at the turbine house!

It was a pleasure to have Ofgem select us for a visit and we’re pleased to report that they thoroughly appreciated their time with us.



Ofgem’s ‘GEMA’ board members at the ACHS Turbine House

*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*

ARROCHAR PARISH CHURCH – OPEN DAY & SUNDAY SERVICE



***The Arrochar Parish Church is open to visitors on Wednesdays
between 1pm and 3pm.***

Sunday Service: 10am.

Minister: Rev. Dr. Louis Bezuidenhout

Telephone: 01389 763317

<http://lusschurch.com/arrochar.html>

POST OFFICE CLOSURES



Regretfully, we must report that our local Post Offices are closing, both in Tarbet and in Arrochar.

The Tarbet Post Office has terminated as of 2nd July, after many years of valued service from Janice MacDonald, who has now retired.

In Arrochar, the Trust has been operating a Post Office from the Three Villages Café since late 2016. Unfortunately, it has been costing the Trust a considerable amount to operate – money that could otherwise have been used to support the 3V Hall or other activities within the community.

The Trust has debated long and hard over this situation and has reached the conclusion that it cannot continue to subsidise the Post Office. Thus, we've had to give notice to terminate the Post Office contract.

*We do recognise how valuable a Post Office service is to our community and are therefore examining options to provide a single Post Office service at a central location **servng both Arrochar and Tarbet.***

We'll keep you updated and provide more detail as that thinking moves forward. In the meantime, the termination of the Post Office contract for the Pit Stop will take some time to complete (timetable to be confirmed), and services will continue as normal in the interim.

LOOKING BACK AT OUR ORIGINS: THE THREE VILLAGES HALL & THE TRUST



With the outdoor centre closure in 1997, the villages of Arrochar, Tarbet and Succoth were left without a community meeting place. A public meeting was held in Arrochar Church and from that meeting the Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust was formed.

Among the aims of the Trust was to increase social interaction, cohesion and quality of life by providing a meeting place or educational and recreational activities. During 2002 to 2006 a support team was formed to assist with funding applications, general information and advice.

Bruce & Neil Chartered Architects from Oban were appointed as our architects. There followed a consultation phase when opinions of the villages were sought as to what we would have in the Hall.

Argyll and Bute Council were persuaded by the then Provost, Billy Petrie, to give us the land occupied by the obsolete public toilets. The next phase was to produce a business plan. Application for planning permission followed and this was granted in 2006.

We then began the funding applications! The Big Lottery confirmed they would provide £567,000 on condition match funding could be attracted. This was achieved from Argyll and Bute Council, the Gannochy Trust, the Robertson Trust, the Fraser Foundation and the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

By 2008 we had secured the £1.15m and could start building. The contract was awarded to MacLeods. They were on-site in January 2009 and the project was completed on time and on budget, with the Hall in full community use by 2010!



***L*OCH LONG PONTOON AND VISITOR MOORING – OFFICIAL OPENING**

LOCH LONG JETTY ASSOCIATION Invites YOU

**to join them to celebrate the opening of the
Arrochar Pontoon at 4pm on the 27th July 2019
at the Pontoon and afterwards for refreshments in the 3V Hall.**

Please park at the 3V Hall and walk to the Pontoon where possible.

For any information please email: lochlongjettyassociation@gmail.com

ARRROCHAR-TARBET PATH – UPDATE

Since our last newsletter, **Trust Director Martin Semple** has met with **Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS)** – the rebranded ‘Forestry Commission’ (as of April 2019) – regarding recent concerns about the delay to the re-opening of the **Cruach Tairbeirt path**, and the announcement of its apparent ‘decommissioning’.



This was a cordial, informative and positive meeting and, as a result, the Trust notes the following communications from FLS:

- **Tilhill Forestry** (the harvester), together with **Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS)** local staff onsite, will be prioritising the uplift of the timber stacks adjacent to the link path that is currently shut; the stacks should be gone within the next 2 months (commencing end June 2019), depending on the uplift to the sawmill
- **FLS** has discussed how they will re-open the link path as soon as possible once the timber stack is moved, what the signage and controls will be like to keep the path open as the harvesting work and construction of the new road line further along the forest road continues, in addition to the mounding/restock of the site which is adjacent to the path
- **There will be ongoing, active liaison with the local community on the need to consult and inform on what is happening**

Hopefully, we are moving in the right direction. We shall see what comes to pass. In the meantime, lines of amicable and constructive communication remain very much open...

BRUCE COURT, SUCCOTH – OFFICIAL OPENING

We're a little late to the party on this one, but Dunbritton Housing Association's most recent development of new homes was formally opened at Succoth on 1st May 2019 by the Trust's very own Melanie Tonks.

As many will know, Mel has played a hugely active role within the community in a range of roles over many years. She currently manages the day-to-day running of the Three Villages Cafe and Pit Stop Takeaway in addition to the local Post Office.

The development's name – 'Bruce Court' – was chosen by pupils from Arrochar Primary School.



'Mel T' at 'Bruce C'



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... **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



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:

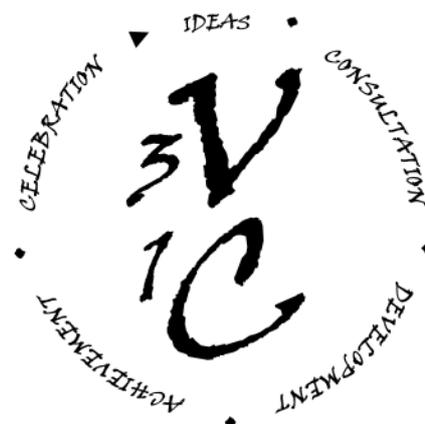
- *We'll only hold personal data that's directly necessary for the effective running of the Trust. So, we will hold only a member's name and one method of contact. Ideally this will be an email address – that's more cost-effective for the Trust. But we will hold and use a postal address for any member 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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