



NEWSLETTER No.12 - Autumn 2017

Access Route Improvements

Despite poor weather we have managed to complete the improved access route, as many will have noticed going over the hill past the picnic table and information panels, down to the rear gate, and on to the orchard.



Tarbert & Skipness Community Trust, Paths For All, and Tesco Plastic Bags have funded the project, and our thanks go to them. Despite an application to the improved environment fund, A & B Council did not participate.

The new surfacing will greatly improve safety, and has eliminated the muddy areas which made it difficult for the elderly, prams, and visitors in lighter footwear.



New project outline description

WE will be using the following to apply for funding from various sources estimated to be about £20K:-

TARBERT : OUR CASTLE OF KINGS

The Royal Castle of Tarbert is a Scheduled Monument of national importance community owned since 2004. www.tarbertcastle.info

In the intervening 13 years some £1 M has been donated or sourced from numerous grant giving organisations which together with many hundreds of hours of volunteer time has been invested in consolidating the ruins, clearing the site, interpreting the structures and opening up public access. Volunteers including families and young people have a maintenance program in place with regular working parties supported by the community and part of the village community plan.

In 2013 a detailed desk top historical investigation and non invasive survey of the monument was carried out guided by Archaeologist Roderick Regan with the participation of community volunteers. This documented evidence forms the basis of the current proposals for further Archaeological investigation.

Tarbert Castle Trust has commissioned Roderick Regan to take this exploration further by preparing a detailed project design in discussion with Historic Environment Scotland with the proposal that a limited Archaeological dig be carried out with a number of partner organisations to achieve the following broad aims:

- To investigate the ruined structures further and add to recorded information currently available including early beginnings of a fort on the site.*
- To train and involve community volunteers in the techniques of Archaeological investigation.*
- To introduce young people to historical research and archaeology through local schools, and visiting youth groups.*
- To add information to existing site interpretation for the benefit of the wider public who as visitors to the area now access the site in increasing numbers.*

We are confident that, this further exploration of our community asset will benefit those who directly participate both adult and young people, increase community respect for our local heritage, and add to the accumulated historical record of our castle's royal history.

Annual General Meeting

Notices should shortly go out for our AGM - to be held with TSCT on Tuesday the 24th of October - and we should have an update on Roddy's progress for that evening. Please come along if you can.

Our Orchard Bees

We will shortly also have a beginners bee keeping evening which should be of interest to anyone who might be considering keeping them or is just interested in finding out about how they are cared for and what equipment is needed.

Our bees at the orchard are looking good and hopefully will survive the winter those who wish to get some experience of hive inspections etc. next spring.



Volunteering

Volunteer work parties as usual on the first Saturday in the month from 10.00 am, if weather reasonable. All welcome.