

The Lochside Kirks'
LANTERN



The Parish Magazine of
Luss and Arrochar

— Autumn 2019 —

“Shining a light on our communities”



The Minister and Kirk Session of Luss Church — Summer 2019

*From left to right: James Lumsden Mike Palmer Neil Buchanan Nick Voigt Lindsay Voigt
Rev. Louis Bezuidenhout Christine Buchanan Ray Thomson Donald Hardie
May MacDonald Rosemary McMillan Janine Smith Stewart Aitken*

From the Editor

Rhona Dick

Thank you to everyone who responded so positively to the first issue of The Lantern. I can claim no credit for the very professional layout; the publication was the result of team work, so I'd like to acknowledge the contribution made by everyone on the Editorial Team.

One or two people wondered about how the costs of the magazine are being met. The first edition came about as a result of a generous sponsor; this and subsequent editions will be financed solely through advertising and donations, and by the sale of copies to outsiders (parishioners - free!). There is thus **no** cost to our church funds. Please contact me if you would like to advertise or make a donation, every little bit helps. I'd also like to hear from you if you would like to contribute an article to a future edition.

I was particularly interested in Fiona Paterson's Generational Project. You may have watched 'Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds' still available on Channel 4 online. This explored the benefits to both young and old alike of closer links between the two age groups.

I was unaware that the first such intergenerational collaboration actually

took place as early as 1976 in Tokyo before the idea reached the USA and more recently spread to Europe. Apart from being fun, research indicates that intergeneration projects result in a marked decrease in loneliness amongst the elderly, which is a major issue in many communities. Older people have been shown to stay mentally alert for longer and there may be positive benefits to physical wellbeing, too.



The children involved in the various projects benefitted from the attention they were able to receive from people who had more time to listen to them and to share stories with each other. They also developed greater awareness of and consideration for the needs of their older friends.

Many of us will have happy memories of spending time with our grandparents, and what we learnt from them, and of time spent with our own grandchildren and what they can learn from us. Fiona's article is a valuable reminder of how precious this contact is.

I hope there is something in this edition to appeal to everyone.

Rhona

The Presbytery of Dumbarton

LUSS AND ARROCHAR PARISH CHURCHES

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The photograph on the front cover is of some of the ancient gravestones in Luss Parish Church, some of which date back to the 14th century, and beyond

Luss and Arrochar Parish Church Directory

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Walking barefoot - an introspection from our Minister

Rev Louis Bezuidenhout



While I am writing this paragraph, it will be one of the hottest days on record. It is one of those rare occasions when one can remove ones shoes and walk barefoot. It takes me back to my childhood

in Africa. In those days, children walked barefoot throughout most of the year. Walking barefoot was a unique sensation – you could feel the surface below your feet. You were exposed to thorns and sharp stones as well as hot and cold surfaces, but you could also enjoy the pleasant sensation of walking in puddles of water and mud when the summer rains put an end to prolonged periods of no rainfall.

There is a sense of ‘immediacy’ in walking barefoot. You can feel that you are making contact with the ground on which you are walking. You become one with your environment. As convenient as it is to wear shoes and socks, it deprives us of a sensation of being one with our immediate environment.

Is there a lesson to be learnt from this example? Is it possible to ‘walk barefoot’ as opposed to ‘wearing shoes’ on our journey through life?

Making contact with one another and with our natural world is becoming increasingly difficult. Some people will not agree with this statement: Have we not developed ways to make contact? Programmes on television bring nature into our living room. The media make us aware of what is happening all over the world. Facebook, whatsapp, email and twitter enable us to make contact with

one another. Giving money to charities allows us to support good causes. Telephone and online banking help us to make contact with our banks and other financial institutions.

However, as much as some of us appreciate the convenience of technology and communication devices, we have lost the ‘immediacy’ of ‘walking barefoot’ through life. Artificial ways of communicating cannot replace genuine personal contact.

‘Walking barefoot’ in nature means that we should not just sit and watch programmes on the TV, but go out and walk on one of the beautiful paths along Loch Lomond or Loch Long or walk up the hill towards the Cobbler. It means to grow our own vegetables or flowers, feeling the texture of the soil with our fingers.

‘Walking barefoot’ among people means to make real contact with one another: To make friends and to become a genuine friend. It means to laugh together and to cry together. It means to share in one another’s joy and sorrows. It means to open ourselves to the other in spite of differences.

‘Walking barefoot’ among those who are suffering means more than giving advice and sharing wisdom. People do not care how much you know unless they know how much you care. It means more than giving a donation – it means to make yourself available to them as a genuine friend.

What is the life of Jesus other than that of the Divine walking barefoot among us?

What the Range gave the Village – the story of the Arrochar Range, Part 2

By Mary I Haggarty

In the first part of this article Mary explained how Arrochar changed as a result of the torpedo range being sited there. In the second part of her article Mary details how the village continued to develop and thrive in the ensuing years until its closure came in 1986.



The Ross, The Arrochar, The Loch Long at Tighness and any large house were requisitioned to billet the officers from these ships boosting the economy of our villages to a level it had never experienced before. There were no idle hands in our villages over these years.

At the outbreak of WWII the true importance of the Range's existence became evident. Again the economies of the villages benefited by the level of employment, not only now for male workers, but females also were being employed to work on the munitions side of the business. Women were being taken on to run the various offices required to keep the paperwork side of the war effort functioning, the cleaning of offices and all the work involved in the catering of a workers' canteen. The basin at the Head of Loch Long was used by surface ships as a safe harbour and while they were at anchor all the hotels,

The war over, the Range continued to support a high level of employment. BY 1956 the last of the Mk17 torpedoes had been tested and with the introduction of the Mk20 and Mk23 a boost in manpower took place and saw the second phase of families seeking housing. So in 1956 Glenloinn Crescent was built by the Local Authority but these twelve houses were only allocated to Range workers.

Although Glenloinn Crescent saw the last of the housing directly provided for Range workers, the establishment itself continued to support the village



in various ways. You could always get your bicycle repaired, your wireless batteries charged, sledges made and various household goods produced; for example, fire-set utensils with brass handles. One of these items can be seen in the display cabinet in the Village Hall foyer – the small trophy that was made out of a disused brass shell and given to the winner of the first cross country race held in Arrochar in 1946. This cup was instrumental in the resurrection of the race in its present form - the Annual 10k race.

During the busy days of the Range there was hardly a house in the village that didn't have gunmetal grey paint on the doors and skirting boards, and there were also very few workers who alighted from the Range lorry in the evening not carrying something including, perhaps, two or three freshly caught

cod hanging on the end of a string. This was part of the 'bread basket' brought to the village by the Range that the locals benefited from.



The Cross-Country Cup

30th November 1986 was a sad day for Arrochar when the Range lowered the flag and closed its gates for the last time. With it went an important chapter of our local history that had served our village well for three quarters of a century.

So there you have the story of the 'Heap of Rust' that you see from the door of the Parish Church. It is widely agreed that it is now a mess and has to be cleared up, but spare a thought for the ghosts who would have more tales to tell if the rusty walls of the Range could whisper.



The Old Kirk of Luss

Ian Maceachern – Luss historian

It is believed that Saint Kessog settled in Inchtavannach, an island in Loch Lomond about a mile south of Luss around 510 AD, introducing Christianity to the locality. It is not known if he built any form of church building. The name of a mound on the south-west side of the present glebe, Tom-na-Padre (Hill of Prayer) suggests that services were originally conducted in the open air. John Cameron, Bishop of Glasgow, had built a theekit (thatched) church at Luss in 1430 dedicated to Saint Kessog.

The present Luss Church was built in 1875 by Sir James Colquhoun in memory of his father who was drowned in Loch Lomond. It involved demolishing the existing church which had been built in 1771. The picture above (in the National Gallery of Scotland) that bears the inscription "View of the Kirk of Luss 1765" shows the church that was presumably demolished shortly thereafter to make way for the 1771 church. The remains to be seen in the background could well be that of the "Theekit Church", and the remains of an even earlier church still exist in Luss Church Yard.

It has been suggested that the "View of the Kirk of Luss" may have been a copy of an etching of Luss Church by Paul Sandby, 1780. It's certainly possible that both pictures are of the

same church, but difficult to agree that the one in the National Gallery is a copy. Sandby's etching is dated nine years after the successor church was built. The likelihood is that the etching was made some time after Sandby visited Luss and sketched the church.



A view of Luss Kirk, 1765 – Scottish National Gallery



Luss Church by Paul Sandby 1780

Today we accept that prominent people may be laid to rest in places of worship such as Westminster Abbey. More difficult to accept is that formerly the floor of the church was dug up and people buried there. This procedure must however have been

widely followed in Scotland because an Act of the General Assembly in 1643 stated that the burial of persons within the kirk where people gathered was forbidden.

Certainly this occurred in the Old Kirk of Luss. The records of the Presbytery of Dumbarton contain the following minute pertaining to the Laird of Camstraddan*.

*"19 March 1644
Colquhoun of
Camstraddan confessed
the burying of his dead
in the kirk of Luss.
For the present the
minister and session*

*of Luss are ordained to design
unto him a convenient place of burial in the
kirk yard, and the said Colquhoun to give band
and security to abstain in time coming".*

**Formerly Camstraddan, just south of Luss, was a
separate estate owned by a branch of the Colquhoun of
Luss family and existed as such from 1395 to 1826.*



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Arrochar Parish Church Graveyard Project

Rhona Dick



In Spring 2018 a group of us undertook to record all the headstones within the Arrochar Church graveyard.

It was clear that many of the oldest stones were in poor condition; the inscriptions were degrading as a result

of our wet climate and the very nature of the stone on which the memorials were inscribed. Some stones had fallen and the inscription was no longer visible; on others part or all of the inscription was irrevocably damaged but some stones provided a few tantalising details.

It was essential that we did no further damage to the stones, by, for example, removing lichen and moss which are protective, so a range of non-destructive techniques were employed to decipher as many of the inscriptions as possible.

Looking at the stones at different times of day and in different weather conditions revealed some inscriptions that had seemed lost. Strong sunshine is particularly good for this. Where stones are north facing and don't get direct sunlight, we tried to replicate the effect using a very powerful torch, which proved particularly effective in lower light. This has the advantage that the torch can be moved to different positions to highlight different parts of the stone. This is the basis for photogrammetry – a technique that uses a powerful computer program to make unreadable stones legible.

If you download photographs to a computer most programs will allow you to zoom in to examine small areas of the picture. Other more sophisticated programs allow you to manipulate colours in a variety of ways. Sometimes a simple black and white picture shows more detail than a coloured one. You'd be surprised what a difference altering the colour



One of 3 identical crosses marking the graves of John Davin, Patrick Fitzgibbon & Duncan Gordon

channels even on a black and white photo can make.

Three identical crosses, side by side, that bear no inscription other than a name: John Davin, Patrick Fitzgibbon and Duncan Gordon, intrigued us.

Some investigation on Scotland's People <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk> showed that these three men died as the result of an explosion caused by blasting operations between Tarbet and Ardlui on 24th January 1923. Their ages could only be guessed at and in two cases there was no information about parents. Duncan Gordon died instantly, while the other two men passed away within two hours of the explosion.

One can only wonder if their families ever learnt of their fate.

There are now three lever arch files containing plans of the three sections of the graveyard, plus photographs of all the headstones and typewritten copies of the inscriptions where these cannot be easily made out on the photographs.

“Ping Pong for Parkinson’s” - 17 August

Sue and Colin Williams organised a fundraising event, held at the Three Villages Hall, Arrochar on 17th August.

The theme was Ping Pong for Parkinson’s. Colin is a member of the Table Tennis Club which meets every Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Three Villages Hall.

Over 100 people of all ages attended the event, including MSP Jackie Baillie who bravely took on Ross Little at table tennis admitting afterwards that ‘Ross took no prisoners.’ Councillor Iain ‘Shonny’ Paterson and his family also supported the event.

Local bakers helped to provide refreshments for everybody and crafters were also to the fore selling some of their wares.

Sue and Colin aimed to raise £1000 to help combat Parkinson’s. They more than surpassed this as proceeds from the event alone raised more than £1200.

If you would like to support them Sue has set up a Just Giving fundraising page. You can donate at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sue-williams40>

Colin and Sue would like to thank everybody who helped to make this such a successful fundraiser.



What's been happening in Arrochar . . .



Arrochar Church Spring Fair

Saturday 30th March

The weather was kind to us and a good crowd turned out to support our Spring Fair. In fact there were so many people that Margaret and Irene, who were serving the refreshments barely had time to take a breath. Thank you, both, ladies.

As usual the Home Baking table was very popular and sold out quickly. Crafts also saw good sales, particularly the little knitted chickens 'sitting' on creme eggs, just the gift for little ones at Easter.

The fair raised £1300 for church funds.

Plant Sale

Saturday 1st June

This year saw more plants than ever outside the Three Villages Hall and we were delighted to welcome people from other areas who came to look at and buy the plants. Although the weather was not as good as last year the rain held off and a gentle breeze kept the midges at bay.

The plant sale raised over £800 for church funds.

A very big thank you to everyone who supported both these events which are major fund-raisers in the calendar.

Organ restoration

The organ in Arrochar church has now been restored and is played every Sunday. It's lovely, once again, to hear the rich resonance of its sound.

Although the restoration has been completed we are still raising money to pay for this. Any donations will be most welcome. Please contact Rev. Dr Louis Bezuidenhout or Dr Norman Gourlay if you would like to contribute.

Arrochar Dates for your Diary

Coffee mornings are held every Saturday in the Three Villages Hall between 10.30 and 12.30. Enjoy freshly brewed coffee and home baking.

Do you enjoy baking? Would you be willing to bake occasionally for the regular Saturday Coffee mornings? If so please speak to one of the helpers on a Saturday morning or email Gill Dunbar (dunbar@care4free.net)

Arrochar Guild

The AGM will take place on Thursday 5th September at 2pm in the Church Hall. This is a very important meeting at which the future of our branch of the Guild will be discussed. If you are a current member or are interested in finding out more about the Guild please come along and be part of the decision-making process.

For more information contact the President, Mrs Irene Cameron, 70irenc@gmail.com

Galafest

The Galafest will take place on Saturday 28th September in the Three Villages Hall.

Communion

will be celebrated at Arrochar Parish Church on Sunday October 13th at the 10am service.

Volunteers wanted

Have you got a little bit of time you could offer to help tidy up the garden at the Three Villages Hall? If so please contact Ann Maceachern (ann.mac339@gmail.com).



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Luss Church Guild

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month from October to April in the Heritage room Luss at 7.30pm. Everybody is welcome.



The first meeting of the session will be on Tuesday 8th October

Anybody wanting more details, please contact Christine Buchanan 01389 850278



Luss SWI meets in Luss Village Hall on the third Thursday of every month from September through to May

In May we had our AGM when the new committee were voted on. Helen Gibson is our President for the next 3 years.

At the monthly meetings we have competitions at the end of the session the winners were presented with trophies. Helen Gibson won all 3 trophies

(cookery badge, handcraft Quach and the Points Cup.) The prize for the Novelty competitions was won by Judith McGlincey.

Both the Bulb show trophies were won by Margaret Brown. And the Cameron Cup for the Children's section was jointly won by Ailsa Wilson and James MacKinnon, see the two photographs under. We also had a good entry for the children's competitions.



Sudoku p 30

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| 4 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 2 |
| 2 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| 8 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| 9 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 8 |
| 1 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 9 |

Answers to Crossword p 30

- Across**
- Lattitude 6, Malus 10, Opposed 11, Oarsmen 12, Evtia13, Exorcise
 - Aliment 17, Ikebana 19, Ringing 21, Sceptic 23, Computer
 - Decal 29, Echelon 30, Vamoose 31, Sieve 32, Directed
- Down**
- Amphibian 3, In spate 4, Undue 5, Economies 6, Mirrade 7, Lamas 8, Sino 9, Doge 14, Talc 15, Acre 16, Tightened 18, Artichoke 20, Impulse
 - Endemic 24, Ochre 25, Rover 27, Lees 28, Lens 22.

Summer Rally Luss 2019



On Tuesday 14th May Christine Buchanan, President of Dunbartonshire Guilds Together, welcomed a large turnout of over 230 to the Annual Summer Rally hosted this year in Luss

Parish Church. It was a great opportunity for Guild members and friends to come together on a brilliant summer day in a lovely setting when one could only admire the surrounding hills covered in a carpet of bluebells and be thankful for the lovely Scottish countryside.

This scenery was most appropriate when, following the opening prayer by Dr. Louis Bezuidenhout, Minister of Luss, Celia Massicks read Psalm 121, "I To The Hills Will Lift Mine Eyes". Organist, Andy Ramage accompanied the assembly during the hymn singing and the Guild members are most grateful to him for giving his time.

The guest speaker was Mrs. Karen Gillon, National Guild Associate Secretary, who in a most interesting and informative address spoke of the "twinning" arrangements being set up with churches in Malawi. She was warmly thanked by Ray Thomson, Luss Elder and member of the team, for her contribution. Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir, under their conductor Kirsteen Grant, making a return appearance after performing in 2010 during the celebration of 1500 years of Christianity in Luss, entertained the company again with Gaelic songs and hymns, finishing up with a Gaelic Psalm sung in the traditional manner with Iain Maclean, the precentor, to the tune "French".



Gaelic has especial significance in Luss, as it was a former Luss Minister, Rev Dr John Stuart, who translated the New Testament into the Gaelic Language.

Being the third occasion that Luss has acted as hosts for the Summer Rally, following the first time on a beautiful summer evening and the second held in the manse garden being a wash out fit only for the ducks, to be on the safe side it had been decided to hold the supper in the Village Hall. Sincere thanks are due to Rowena, Mairi and Isobel of The Coffee Shop for the baking and their help in making tea and coffee. Similar grateful thanks are extended to Margaret Dick, Anne Lennix, Margaret MacAdam and her daughter Lorna of the WI, to the members of the Arrochar Guild for all their baking and donation of their time

and to the Luss Guild members for the considerable amount of work involving their time and energy in producing huge amounts of baking and in setting up of the hall.

So many individuals contributed to the success of the day including the Elders who picked up and returned to the car park those unable to walk the distance.

Thanks to Mike for streaming us onto YouTube, and Graham and Jarek of Luss Estates for erecting the marquee.

It was a most successful and rewarding occasion and there have been many expressions of appreciation from the various visitors, from the Guilds for the most enjoyable and memorable day spent with their friends at Luss.

Generation Communities

Fiona Paterson



Small rural communities can be such special places to live in, and be a part of. But being 'a part of', and not 'apart', is the special thing...

For many people the days where families all lived so close together, sometimes all

generations under one roof, is something that rarely happens now.

With many moving for jobs, travel, or family reasons, our society has become more 'age segregated', with people working and socialising within their own age groups.

But as the late Jo Cox MP said, "we are far more united, and have far more in common, than that which divides us."

All generations have so much to learn from one another, life skills, and experiences. Intergenerational activities together not only help to improve physical, but positive mental health too.

Hence the reason behind beginning a community group for all ages and abilities. 'Generation Communities' began last year, enabled by the Arrochar and

Tarbet Community Development Trust, and ourselves gaining a Supporting Communities Fund grant from Argyll and Bute Council. We continue this year after being fortunate enough to receive another community grant.

So by sharing different activities with all generations within our communities means we have more opportunities to be a part of experiences together, rather than experiences apart. We have the time to make connections, share a laugh, and develop friendships.

We meet every month at Arrochar Primary School, where we are always welcomed with smiles, fun activities, and a cup of tea! Everyone has their own superhero or fairy name, ranging from Amazing Thunder to Space Destroyer!

One week we may be throwing and catching a ball which asks us to share some of our favourite memories, or the next we may be meeting the animal man and learning about rabbits, alpacas, and snakes!! We shared a lovely Christmas treat of visiting the cinema, followed by a beautiful Christmas lunch so kindly provided by the Arrochar Hotel.

Two of our group shared their experiences of flying planes in wartime, and how to





tap out morse code messages on a coder machine. For the children to hear, and learn of such experiences firsthand, is something they will always remember.

A music session, team games, art and crafts, first aid, are just some of the other activities everyone has enjoyed.

The positive comments from senior and junior members shows how, from the youngest to the oldest, everyone values the joy of friendship, companionship, having fun, and something to look forward to.

"A lovely idea to bring people together, being a part of, and encouraging the children, for they are our future, I love the companionship."

"Seeing the children encouraged and allowed to express themselves freely is brilliant, compared to my own school experiences!"

"Now that I am alone, this group brings me into the body of activities, and meeting and keeping new friends."

"I have learnt that people have really interesting stories..."

"I have grown in confidence, and made lovely new friends."

"I like that everyone is so kind..."

"I look forward to the group and like being involved with the village and the people."

I heard recently of a wee boy cycling through the village, and upon seeing his 96

year old friend from the group, he called out "Hi Ron!!" This simple act of friendship made Ron's day, and made me proud to be a part of Generation Communities group.

Anyone is welcome to come along and join us, usually the last Thursday afternoon of each month. Transport is available.

Please contact Fiona Paterson for more information – fiona.paterson10@gmail.com 07748 408673.

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Mindfulness in Arrochar

By Phil Startin



Another eight-week Mindfulness Course is just coming to an end in Arrochar, the fourth that has been run so far in the Village Hall. You may have heard of

mindfulness and perhaps asked why is it growing in popularity at the moment? Maybe because our lives are just becoming busier, with more and more demands on our attention and time, and this is leading to more worry, higher levels of anxiety and sometimes even depression. Living with these mind-states is hard anyway, but the mind and body are connected so worry and stress in the mind actually affects our physical health, and stress and depression have been identified as a risk factor in the onset and exacerbation of a number of chronic conditions - including cancer, Parkinson's, dementia, and multiple sclerosis (MS), which is why I started meditating.

It's possible you will have heard about mindfulness on TV or in the papers - and perhaps are very sceptical just as I was when I heard of it. Often journalists talk about how mindfulness is all about "being in the present moment" and this is part of the widely accepted operational definition of mindfulness. But mindfulness is not just about being in the present moment. It is also about improving our attention, so learning mindfulness can really help us regain some control over our minds - and we can do this regardless of age. Or mindfulness can be used just to help us relax, to take some time for ourselves, which given the current pace of life is sometimes just what we need!

Mindfulness has been shown to help us deal with the inevitable stresses and strains that arise in all our lives, so much so that it's now even available on the NHS. The mindfulness here is taught in a secular context, but it does include contemplative practice much like in many religions.

There will be future courses run in Arrochar, depending on demand, and there is a monthly catch up mindfulness session in the village for "graduates" of the course.

Recipe Corner

The very best Drambuie ice cream

175 ml/6 fl oz condensed milk
450ml/3/4 pint double cream
75ml/5 tbs Drambuie

- 1 Combine all the ingredients in a large bowl and chill in the fridge for at least 30 minutes.
- 2 Whisk the mixture until it forms stiff peaks.
- 3 Spoon into freezer trays and still-freeze until firm.

Variations:

- Substitute your favourite liqueur for the Drambuie.
- Use crème de menthe and add chocolate chips.
- Use rum and add raisins.

It's the alcohol that gives this ice cream the 'soft scoop' consistency, but don't be tempted to add extra, which will prevent the ice cream from setting properly.

The beauty of this recipe is that it needs no specialist equipment or any time to soften to soften before serving.

50+50+50 = One Very Special Lady . . . A tribute to Anna Carmichael



On Sunday 26th May Arrochar Church congregation was delighted to be able to share in a special day with Anna Carmichael as she celebrated three 50th anniversaries connected with the church.

The Rev. Dr. Louis Bezuidenhout paid tribute to Anna in the following words.

“Anna has served the Church and the Guild well over the last fifty years. She has played an extremely solid role in the very structure of the running of these two member-led congregation organisations. Anna is extremely reliable – you would never have to ask her twice or remind her that she was to carry out a task. On asking Anna to do something you can forget about it because it would be done with no fuss. She is one of

these people no organisation can do without. The quiet non interfering character that just gets on with what is needed on the day. Always there to help out with the tasks that keep the ‘engines’ running, in fact the very soul of the assembled.

Anna never pushes herself to the front but stands solid in the background giving endless support to what is needed to hold all aspects of the Church life together here in Arrochar and Tarbet.

Of course we can’t forget the endless trays of shortbread Anna has baked and donated to Church Sales, Guild teas, and any other occasion that required a ‘bit of sweetness’ injected into it. She loves pulling the Church Bell on a Sunday morning and listening to it pealing out its sound calling the faithful and reminding the absent God’s house is open. (Yes, it is true to say if there were no Annas about all organisations would suffer in some way from the cog that would be missing from the wheel.)

Anna had been married to her husband David in Arrochar Parish Church on the 31st December 1967, then joined both the Arrochar Parish Church and its Guild in 1968. So they had all happened over fifty years ago.”

At the end of the service Anna was invited to cut a special celebration cake.

Thank you a thousand times over, Anna, for your devoted service.



Arrochar says 'Goodbye'



On Sunday June 2nd Arrochar Church said 'goodbye' to our Session Clerk. Dr David Pollard, and his wife Maria have lived in Arrochar for about five years but now feel it's time to move on. We wish them every happiness in their new home near Blairgowrie.

Dr Norman Gourlay is stepping into David's shoes as our new Session Clerk.

My Wonderful Job Stephen Mackenzie – Three Villages Hall Administrator

How long have you worked at the Three Villages Hall?

The Hall was officially opened in June 2010 and I started working here about two months later.

Initially the position was only temporary and was grant funded, so I feel lucky still to be here nine years later.

What does your role involve?

Officially I am the Administrator, so I deal with paperwork, bookings, Reception etc. In conjunction with Dougie Campbell I set up rooms for meetings and functions, and when Dougie is on leave I cover his job, as well. In fact, I have to be able to turn my hand to anything!

What do you like best about the job?

I enjoy the variety; there's never time to get bored. I've also



enjoyed meeting so many different people and getting to know them.

For me the best thing is seeing people make use of all the facilities on offer and enjoying themselves.

If you could change something about the job what would it be?

I wish the Hall could be used more by local clubs like the Camera Club, Table Tennis, Badminton

and Indoor Bowls. If anyone would like to start a club come and talk to me about how to do it.

Once the working day is over here how do you like to relax?

I love walking with my mate, Alastair, exploring the countryside and finding new routes to go down. We used to walk around Arrochar and Tarbet a lot but it's not quite so relaxing now as we bump into so many people that I know from work and they often want to talk 'Hall' issues; it's a bit of a busman's holiday.

I also enjoy reading and listening to music. My tastes are fairly eclectic but I'm currently enjoying the music of Brad Meldhau and belatedly discovering the worlds of Ursula Le Guin.

Thank you, Stephen.

Arrochar 10K run - 21 September



This very popular 'multi terrain' race is back for the fourth year taking place on the 21st September. Every year so far we have had a waiting list operating and this year isn't any different - the waiting list has already started as the race became full on Sunday 9th June.

This year we are particularly pleased to announce that Portobello Running Club will be using this race to host their Club Championship Race. They said they have chosen the Arrochar 10k as "three of us ran it last year and loved it, great route, well marshalled and an excellent afters in the hall, also in a most beautiful part of the country."



We get comments like because the community, thankfully, gets behind us with so much enthusiasm for which we are extremely grateful. Many marshal the event for us, others bake incessantly for the prize giving and we receive lots of generous donations for prizes from local businesses. Last year the Helensburgh Camera Club were out in force complementing some of the Arrochar Camera Club, all taking fantastic photographs, which were free for the competitors to download.

Sadly for us, Stella Segesdy, our Chief Marshal has left the area, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her

for all the support she has given us over the last three years.

The route this year will change slightly as we have been informed that the bridge beside the Pink House at Ardgartan is unsafe and will be removed before the race. Ardgartan Hotel have kindly given us permission to reroute the race along

the tarmac road towards their hotel, before turning left onto a forestry track to take the runners to rejoin the old route at Forest Holidays. This may make the race even faster as there will be fewer trip hazards on this part of the course. The route will still feature the Succoth Hill and the hairpin bends and undulations of the

mountain bike path, both of which are so much appreciated by the runners!

The Course Records are very impressive and will take a lot to beat - at present they are: Male: Kristian Watson 36.06mins and Female: Simone Charnock 43.20mins.

Although the race is full, you can still join the waiting list (as people do drop out nearer to the date) by logging on to: www.entrycentral.com_Arrochar10k - and please remember we are always interested in more helpers. If anyone else would like to help out on the day please email Dawn at: runarrochar@gmail.com.

New Marine Facilities for Arrochar



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 round 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, however they should be installed by mid June, and they will be able to take visiting vessels up to 15 tonnes. These moorings 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 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



The Three Villages Camera Club



The Three Villages Camera Club was started in 2012, in response to an interest by several members of the local community. It was, and still is, a very informal club that aims to cater for people who like taking all sorts of photos, with varying levels of expertise and very different types of cameras, from phones to relatively high-end digital cameras. The only prerequisite for membership is an interest in taking (and looking at) photos!

The club meets once a month in the Three Villages Hall in Arrochar, when we aim to look at some of the photos taken by members over the past month, and either try out some particular photography techniques, have a presentation about some aspect of photography, or share ideas and expertise. Weather permitting, we might venture out to photograph some aspects of the fantastic landscape immediately outside the front door! As well as taking photos, we like to explore ways of editing and presenting them. Although members

have their own versions of preferred editing software (or not, as the case may be), we're fortunate to also have access to some of the hall's laptops with some pre-installed editing programs. Whether/how to edit photos is generally one of those topics guaranteed to spark a good debate!

We occasionally have outside speakers who come and share their tips and inspire us with some amazing photos, if our finances can stretch to it, and we've enjoyed various presentations on aspects of landscape, wildlife and portrait photography over recent years.

As well as our regular monthly meetings, we try to arrange a few extra outings, though trying to coordinate times and locations with availability and reasonable weather can prove pretty challenging! Nevertheless, we've managed excursions to Glencoe in the snow, Glenarn gardens, Luss, Dumbarton and Inverary, as well as
(continued page 28)

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recently to Millarochy and Benmore, and an excellent visit to a bird of prey centre.

We aim to hold a couple of 'exhibition' evenings each year when we print a selection of members' photos and display them at a social evening for members and their friends/relatives. It gives us a chance

to show off our favourite photos, see what everyone else has been up to, and maybe even attract some new members! The exhibition is then left up in the Village Hall foyer for a week or two for people coming to the hall to browse. This is in addition to a small selection of framed photos in the foyer, which we aim to change on a regular basis.

We bravely agreed a few years ago to take part in the annual, Argyll-wide, Frank Walton Competition, which judges Argyll-based clubs on a submitted selection of photos. As a club that doesn't otherwise 'do' competitions, it's been a steep learning curve, with lots of ups and downs! We were astonished and delighted to come second last year, up against much longer-standing and larger clubs than ours, and rashly agreed to host the competition in March this year. Although our photos didn't score as well as the previous year, we received nothing but praise for our venue and organisational skills! We have to decide if the benefits of constructive criticism outweigh the disappointment when the judge doesn't agree with our opinions, before deciding whether to continue to take part!

Another annual event in recent years has been our competition at the local GalaFest. We thought it'd be a good idea to give people something to do and talk about while they drank their beer and listened to the music, so we printed up some cryptic photos and asked people to guess what or where they were, with a small cash prize for the most correct answers. The challenges have certainly sparked lots of conversation and some friendly arguments, as well as a healthy degree of local rivalry! We're currently working on a theme for this year....

Our membership is small, but we're very friendly and welcome any new members! Check out our Facebook page (Three Villages Camera Club) or details on the Village Hall website for upcoming meetings, or email Sue at sue.cnoc@gmail.com.

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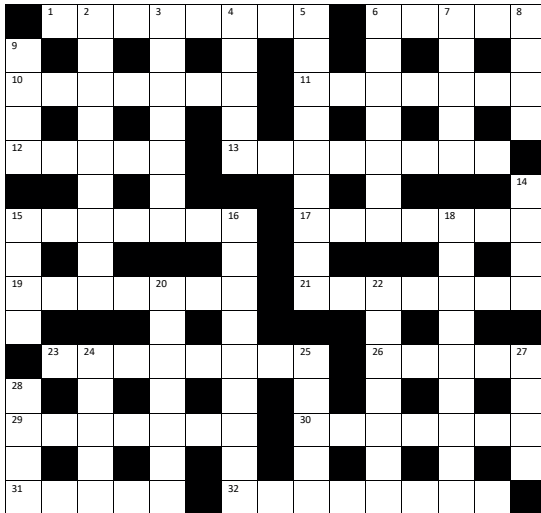
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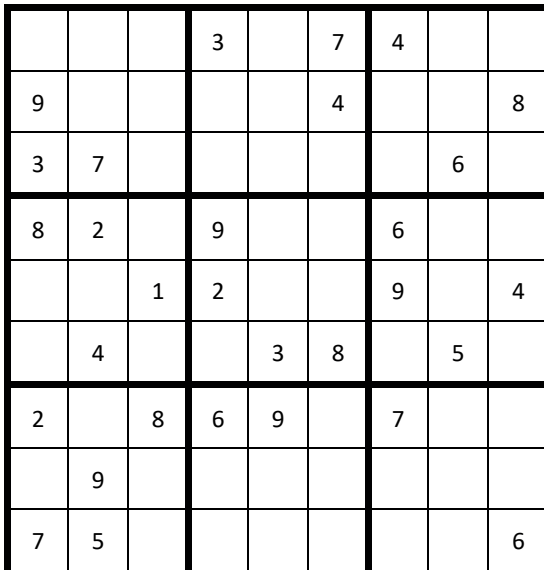
Crossword



Across

1. Angular distance from the Equator
6. Scientific name for apple and crab apple trees
10. Resisted or objected
11. Rowers
12. Eponymous heroine of an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical
13. Drive out (an evil spirit)
15. Provision for maintenance in Scots Law
17. Japanese art of flower arranging
19. Encircling
21. A doubter or disbeliever, member of a Greek school of philosophy
23. An electronic machine that carries out complex calculations, stores data etc.
26. A picture or design transfer
29. A formation or troops, ships, etc.
30. To depart in a hurry (colloquial)
31. A utensil for straining
32. Ordered, pointed towards

Sudoku



Down

2. A cold blooded animal that lives on land or in water
3. Of a river, swollen and fast flowing (two words)
4. Unjustifiable
5. Savings made through thrift
6. An event ascribed to a saint or deity
7. Buddhist priests or monks in Tibet
8. A prefix denoting Chinese
9. Historically the chief magistrate of Venice
14. Silicate mineral; 1 on the Mohs scale of hardness
15. An imperial measurement of land area; a city in Israel
16. Made more taut or constricted
18. Vegetable; globe or Jerusalem
20. Sudden inclination or desire
22. Native to a certain place, often used of diseases
24. A pale brownish yellow colour
25. Old term for a pirate
27. Sediment formed during the fermentation of e.g. wine
28. A piece of transparent glass or plastic with one or both sides curved to correct visual defects

Answers to Crossword and Sudoku on page 16

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