



*We care for a part of Scotland's history  
which belongs to our community*

## **NEWSLETTER No.26**

### **Autumn 2022**

#### **UPDATE ON VOLUNTEERING**

**Tarbert Castle volunteers spent a productive Saturday morning recently**, as part of the regular work parties held on the first Saturday of each month.

- **Work is progressing, with a new fence around our Hebridean sheep pen.** Having lost a few of the oldest individuals last year, we have four new “girls” - bringing us up to fifteen, which is our ideal number. Volunteers are feeding the sheep daily throughout the winter.
- **Our promotional video for Tarbert's not-for-profit organisations is up and running on screens in the library in Harbour Street, and at the Harbour Authority premises**, as well as a number of websites including our own homepage ([www.tarbertcastle.info](http://www.tarbertcastle.info)). The video is available also on YouTube, with over 2,000 viewings since its launch. Our thanks go to all who helped and funded this project, as we are sure that it will increase visitors' experience of the village.
- **Floodlighting of the Castle's tower house is changing over to LED-type fittings. These will reduce the site's electricity consumption.** We will also reset the time clock, so that - in accordance with recommendations - the floodlights will not be switched on until after 7.00pm (as our contribution to relieving pressure on the National Grid during the hours of peak demand).



- **We are pleased to have four pupils from Tarbert Academy carrying out work experience activities on Friday afternoons;** this not only helps the students themselves, but the work that they do - assisting with sheep care and the orchard, together with scything, strimming, and general vegetation control - is a great contribution to keeping the Castle Heritage Park in good condition.
- **Our volunteer who looks after our website has put in a lot of work registering the Castle Trust with the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF Bank).** CAF has arranged for us a dedicated donation page which is linked directly from our website. The page offers a safe and secure way for visitors and friends of the Castle to give financial support, and for the Trust to manage received donations. CAF has also issued to us a unique QR Code, which we will, shortly, display on discreet signs at our on-site interpretation point and elsewhere. Scanning the QR Code with the camera of a smartphone allows a donor to find quickly the donations page.

- **Here's a copy of the QR Code**, in case you wish to try it out with your own smartphone, in the comfort of your own home:-



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### **“OUR CASTLE OF KINGS” COMMUNITY DIG**

The final report for our 2019 *“Our Castle of Kings”* Community Archeological Dig is now complete, and is available to view via our website homepage ([www.tarbertcastle.info](http://www.tarbertcastle.info))

### **FURTHER ON-SITE IMPROVEMENTS**

We have submitted a Scheduled Monument application to Historic Environment Scotland (HES), and, if permission is granted, we will carry out more path improvements, giving better safety to visitors accessing the site. With **over 40,000 visitors per year**, wear and tear on unsurfaced areas is considerable. HES is resistant to these path works, and has refused in the past, but our proven visitor numbers and obvious ground conditions in some areas might, on this occasion, secure their approval. We really hope so.

While we were photographing the proposed path areas, showing their condition on a windy and wet November morning, two visitors from Staffordshire appeared, praising the village - and the Castle as a visitor attraction - and kindly gave us a donation towards the new paths. The following very wet photograph shows just how extended the visitor season now is:-



**WE'RE GRATEFUL.....**

**On behalf of everyone, residents and visitors, I would like to thank all our volunteers, who contribute a great deal in different ways to everything we report, to make the Castle the popular visitor attraction and local leisure area which it has become.**

**WORK PARTIES**

**Our work parties are on the first Saturday of each month, from 10.00 am. All are welcome to pay us a visit, and to consider whether they could contribute to our much-loved local asset by volunteering to assist with general maintenance and projects.**

**All the best,**

**Robert**

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**Tarbert Castle Trust  
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Charity No. SC043056  
Secretary & Treasurer: Robert McPhail, MBE, Sonamarg, Ileene Rd, TARBERT, Argyll, PA29 6TU  
E-mail: sonamarg@btinternet.com, Tel: 01880 820643**

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