



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

NEWSLETTER No.28

Autumn 2023

RETIREMENT OF SECRETARY AND TREASURER

In March 2023, Robert McPhail, our longstanding secretary and treasurer retired.

It is thanks to his dedicated enthusiasm that we have Tarbert Castle Heritage Park in such excellent condition, as a site that can be enjoyed by many visitors and locals.

Over the years, Robert has been helped by a team of volunteers who continue to keep up the good work that he started.

VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Volunteers continue to meet on the first Saturday of the month for work parties to carry out routine maintenance tasks in the orchard, woodland, and Castle surrounds, as well as looking after our Hebridean sheep, now back up to a flock of fifteen. We have been delighted to welcome a number of new volunteers who bring their many skills to help with looking after the Castle.

VISITORS

The new paths up to the Castle keep are being well used, with many visitors enjoying the easier access. There have been numerous visitors during the year, including a large group from the United States who

enjoyed looking at photographs and hearing about the archaeological digs from one of our volunteers.

DONATION

We were delighted with the kind and generous offer, from Loch Fyne Gallery, to replace the old bench up near the Castle keep.



Removing the old bench

In May 2023 a new bench was installed in place of the old one that was rotting away. It is a lovely place to sit and enjoy the view over the harbour, and out to Loch Fyne.



The new bench installed

SHEEP

In the summer, as usual, the sheep were sheared. Gathering them for this purpose was made easier by improvements to the sheep pen.

POND

A lot of work was done, clearing the pond of excess weed, before the frogs and newts began to spawn. We used a grappling anchor and rakes, and even donned waders, to enable us to dredge weed from the bottom. We pulled fallen branches out of the water, and cut back overhanging ones to give more light and to reduce falling leaves.

STUDENTS

The Castle volunteers have continued to work with a group of young people from Tarbert Academy each week during term time. The youngsters have been developing their understanding of rural matters, as well as learning a variety of skills which will be useful to them in the future, in addition to helping to maintain the Castle site.
