



## NEWSLETTER No.10 - Spring 2017

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2017

### Tarbert Castle Community Orchard, etc.

The volunteer work party on the first Saturday in March saw a big turnout of 16 working hard to complete this years orchard planting with Blueberries and Blackcurrants. Welcome to [the](#) new members who came along we look forward to seeing you again



Further safety fencing was erected and a general tidy up of the site in preparation for the growing season.

We began preparing rootstock and have taken and stored scions from local apple trees. Our very youngest volunteer prepared labels for the potted rootstock.



Drone view by Theo Andrews

We intend experimenting with apple tree grafting in April - keep your fingers crossed we hope to produce " Tarbert Castle Apple Trees "in the next few years.

### **Regular Volunteer sessions**

Our regular sessions working on all aspects of the Castle property are *the first Saturday morning in each month.*

### **Forest School**

Tarbert Academy pupils are regularly using the woodland to explore the woodland environment and have been helping by weeding and replacement planting in the willow area..

The Youth Worker at the School has worked through the winter with youngsters at the castle planting some 70 trees as a shelter belt for the orchard and taking their turn on the rota to feed the sheep on a weekly basis. This is a great help to us and we are sure the pupils benefit from community project involvement.

### **Fundraising**

We continue to work on this aspect of the care for the Castle with help from visitors and local individuals through our donation boxes and larger gifts on which we can claim charity gift aid from HRMC.

We have an application for a grant to help us install , train volunteers and care for bees to pollinate our orchard. This should go forward to the next round of co op local funding so please watch out and vote for us.

We are meeting "Historic Environment" (successor to Historic Scotland) next week to discuss again the formation of a path over the smooth grass area linking the existing paths to the Kintyre way route. This gets slippery in the winter and we hope that we can change their minds on this as they have refused in the past.

HE chairwoman who visited the Castle with the Castle Association this year informed us that staff had been instructed to work more closely with community groups who looked after monuments!

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