



NEWSLETTER No.11 - Summer 2017

Tarbert Castle Community Orchard

The volunteer work parties on the first Saturday in each month have seen a good turnout of willing helpers working hard to complete this years orchard planting with Apples, Plums, Blackberries, Gooseberries, Blueberries, and Blackcurrants. Welcome to the new members who came along we look forward to seeing you again.

We are now keeping up maintenance and care, with almost all of the planting thriving and showing signs of early fruit development.



Our first Apple



Early Blackcurrants

In May we actually had to water the plants, and took the opportunity to add an early season fertiliser at the same time.

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

In April / May we completed a number of tree grafts trying to develop the skill involved a limited number of which appear to have been successful and we look forward to planting out our own new trees next spring..



Information panel



Apple tree planting row

Regular Volunteer Sessions

Our regular sessions, working on all aspects of the Castle property, take

place on 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..

Grant for Honey Bees

We are one of 3 local groups selected for a grant by the Co-operative Community Fund and if you are a member please visit their web site and vote for your favourite project to ensure it gets as much funding as possible.

Our project will involve installing honey bee hives at the Orchard to support pollination of our fruit .

We will purchase equipment to help train those interested in bee care and management including a visit to the school to speak to school children about the importance of bees.

Improved access route

We reported in the last newsletter that we were meeting “Historic Environment Scotland“ (HES) (successor to Historic Scotland) 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 hoped that we could change their minds on this as they have refused in the past.

We are delighted that they have now approved the project with a Scheduled Monument Consent. We will have to engage an Archaeologist to inspect what we do in case the works reveal any remains or artefacts which will need to be recorded and preserved. Roddy Regan, from Kilmartin House Museum, has agreed to assist us and has prepared a preliminary report which has gone to HES for approval before we can proceed on site.

We are seeking grants and fundraising for this work and hope to start on site late summer/early autumn, which will keep our volunteers busy.

Anyone interested in helping should look out for notices that work is commencing - or send us your e -mail address if you are not already on our mailing list.

TARBERT CASTLE TRUST

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