

CARRADALE COMMUNITY TRUST

Chairman's Report for the 2020 AGM

It is fair to say that a lot has happened during the last year but 2019 will be probably be remembered mostly for all the activity which took place with a view to acquiring, for the community, the village shop which had ceased trading in July 2018. However, by early 2019 we had successfully obtained grant and loan funding from the Windfarm Trust and from Marine Harvest (now MOWI) to enable us to purchase a portakabin so that trading in the village hall car park could begin. The Temporary Shop started in March 2019 and its success can be judged by the fact that we were able to repay all loan monies before the year had ended. 2020 has of course brought us the Covid19 crisis and the shop has really come into its own and proved itself as a vital part of village life. We are indebted to Ian McGhie (and also to Liz) who oversees the running of the shop and who is ably supported by a team of enthusiastic volunteers, all of whom give of their time freely and to whom we are very grateful.

Despite all the shop-related activity the Trust's other projects have still been continuing. Volunteer work parties at the Heritage Centre stripped out and cleaned the interior to accommodate the Naomi Mitchison display and then work was also carried out to make the Old School watertight so that in due course we can use this building as well. We even had a work party clearing the small garden area in front of the Schoolhouse and now have plans to stock this and make it an attractive feature.

Meanwhile, having battled away for the past three years to acquire some land on which we could set up a local composting project, finally in September the purchase from Forest Enterprise went through and we could begin to prepare the site itself. The Community Trust now owns both the Seneval site and the adjacent woodland and for which, in due course, we have plans for a woodland path and walkway. We secured grant funding from the East Kintyre Wind Farm Trust so that site preparation work can be undertaken and, hopefully, the project will be up and running in 2020.

2019 also saw further training of our team of emergency First Responders who are all locally based individuals and who can be on hand when called upon to assist to cover that vital period before the ambulance arrives. Although managed through the Scottish Ambulance Service the Trust is responsible for ensuring the Responders team has funds for its training and equipment and we must express our gratitude to MOWI as well as others for their help.

As this report is confined to our activity during 2019 further information on our efforts to acquire Paterson's shop and on our other activities in 2020 will be disclosed in next year's report.

Alan Walker