

## **Ardentinny Community Trust** **Annual Report 2018 - 2019**

The Trust has only one project - The Glenfinart Walled Garden and the Trustees are the working group for this project. Therefore the Trust's Annual Report can only focus on the garden which opened for the season, in beautiful sunshine, on 1<sup>st</sup> April with the Easter Fun Day.

The garden was open to visitors during the season on Saturdays and Sundays 1.00 pm to 4.30 pm. and whenever the gate was open, or by appointment.

The AGM was held in November.

### **Events**

The Big Picnic was held on a very soggy Sunday. A big thank you goes to the stalwart musicians who provided the entertainment.

The Harvest Fair was well attended as usual but the highlight this year was the Duck Derby down the Finart River.

Teas and coffees were available on open days during Cowalfest.

The garden closed officially on the 14<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Fundraising and Outreach**

Western Ferries again donated 5 car/driver return tickets to raise funds for the garden.

AJ Barr donated 4 executive tickets for Cirque du Soleil to be raffled.

We had a stall at Kirn Gala and at the Village Hall Winter Fair.

With the help from a new strimmer and a grant from the Ardentinny Renewables' Trust for a heavy, duty petrol mower the garden had never looked neater.

A changing shed was purchased with a grant from TSI Health & Wellbeing and we bought a bigger barbeque for events.

A Children's Potting Shed was installed with a grant from the National Park.

A powerpoint presentation was given to an RSPB meeting.

### **Visitors**

Dunoon Grammar Learning Centre made their annual trip to the garden.

A walking group from Colintrave visited during the summer.

Lou Evans from City Farms and Gardens visited and was very impressed with the progress made since her last visit.

The glorious weather during the summer brought picnickers to the garden to enjoy the space.

### **Volunteer and Community support**

We did not have the funding to employ a gardener so we were dependent on volunteers to provide help and labour in the garden. Two new volunteers joined us on Wednesdays and Thursdays on work experience from the job centre. They proved to be excellent at grass cutting and strimming. A team from HELP Ltd began to build raised beds in one of the growing areas. This will reduce the need for digging and weeding and we have found that raised beds are more productive.

I was presented with a hand crafted Glenfinart Walled Garden sign, by Corrie MacDonald at Dunoon Grammar Learning Centre, Leaver's Assembly.

Corrie continued to volunteer in the garden 2 days a week, after leaving school, accompanied by a Support Worker from ASSIST.

In September Corrie's Mum, Marion began volunteering with Corrie and proved to be a valuable addition to the volunteers on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Outdoor Centre began donating potash from their wood burning system and horse dung was dropped off once a week by Mr Fraser.

In partnership with the Hall and the Bowling Club we hosted the annual 'A Wood of Our Own' Networking Event which is part of the Community Woodland Association. The morning was spent in the hall with updates and speakers from around Argyll and Bute. The Bowling Club provided lunch and refreshments and everyone spent the early afternoon in the Walled Garden. It was a very successful day.

We received a donation of more wood chippings.

A donation of a children's table and stools enhanced the willow dome.

The Rev John Gray's clinker dinghy was donated to the garden and is in pride of place in the Children's area.

Community Payback and the National Park Volunteer Rangers continued to support the garden project.

### **Development**

Benches were made with the left over telegraph poles which provided more seating.

HELP Ltd built another 6 raised beds and a cold frame.

Some of the dangerous trees to the rear of the wall were cut down and cleared. Part of the yew hedge was trimmed.

Volunteers began to build a large roofed area to store resources

After the garden closed for the winter painting began in the inside of the shed to make it brighter. Maintenance of the wheel barrows and benches began.

Over the winter the soft fruit area was weeded, pruned and laid with bark and chippings to tidy it up ready for the spring growth. The fruit trees and plants were pruned and cut back.

The volunteers began filling the first 6 raised beds with seaweed, mulching and dung.

A new floor was laid in the large shed and kitchen units were fitted, at one end with worktops and counter tops for events and hospitality ready, for the new season.

Anna Williamson  
Chair, ACT.