

# Gypsy / Travellers Newsletter



## Traditional 'Gelly' Exhibit at Auchindrain

The photo above shows a Gelly which is a traditional gypsy traveller tent. This is currently on display at Auchindrain Township.museum which is on the A83 6 miles south of Inveraray.

Auchindrain is the only township to survive substantially unaltered from amongst the many hundreds that existed across the Scottish Highlands before the Highland clearances and is a category A listed Conservation Area.

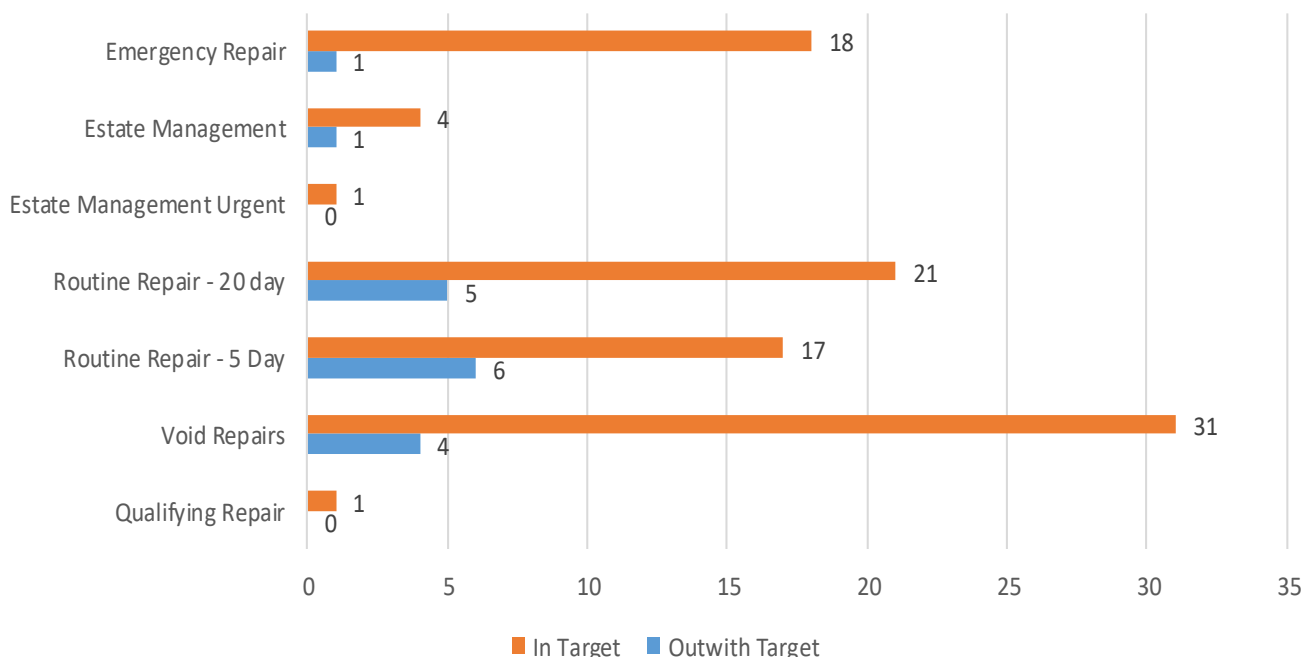
## **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION—SITE IMPROVEMENTS**

ACHA have now carried out a number of community consultations in preparation for submitting our bid for funding to make major improvements to our sites at Duncholgan and Bayview.

Our architects Inch have now provided us with their Phase 2 report and costings, based on your views and preferences. Once we have had the opportunity to fully appraise the report we will arrange a meeting with residents to go over the contents of the report and explain the next part of the process.



**Type of Repairs recorded at Travelling Persons Sites 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023**





## ANNUAL SURVEY OF OUR GYPSY TRAVELLER SITE RESIDENTS



Our Gypsy Traveller satisfaction survey was carried out between August and September this year. A total of 7 responses were captured out of a possible 11. 3 interviews were completed with residents on the Bayview site and 4 with residents living on the Duncholgan site. The survey was designed to gather your feedback on various aspects of your housing experience with ACHA.

### **How Are We Going to Use Your Feedback?**

An action plan has been created using your feedback. Actions identified are shown below.

#### **You Said**

- Only 42.86% of our travelling person site residents are satisfied with ACHA's management of their site which is a 32.7% drop in satisfaction.

#### **We are Going To:**

- Continue to focus on accessing funding for improvements to our gypsy traveller sites.
- Ensure residents are kept updated with progress and continue to be consulted on site proposals.
- Continue to work in partnership with MECOPP and Argyll and Bute Council.
- Continue to visit the sites on a weekly basis and also to carry out Bi-annual inspections with our property services team. We will let you know in advance when these inspections will take place so that you can meet us and highlight any issues affecting you.

### **Romany Queen**

Her hairs all rolled up in a bun  
A pin holding it in place.  
She's got the bluest eyes  
And a weather-beaten face.

Her arms they are like solid rock  
As she gathers firewood  
Stacking logs as she goes  
To build a Kushti Yog

She can chant like a songbird  
She can eat like a Grai  
She's as strong as an Ox  
and I've never seen her cry.

When she holds ya, she squeezes tight  
Like she's never letting go  
She brushes me long dark hair  
With a steady gentle flow.

I get to call her 'granny'  
She smiles when I do  
She winks at me and as says  
my baby gal  
There's nowt as sweet as you

She, really do love me  
And she's not as hard as what she seems  
But she puts on a brazen face  
So, the world as never seen

One day she sat me down  
And told me, don't let them  
See ya pain

Smile in the sunshine  
Smile through the rain

Hold your head up high my gal  
Be proud of who are  
Our ancestors have travelled roads  
And we have come this far

Keep moving forward  
And you'll find an acthin tan  
Let them  
Romany roads lead you  
Round this precious land

See that women there's me granny  
There's nothing she ain't seen.  
She's taught me all I need to know  
She's a proper "Romany Queen"  
**By Dee Cooper.G**



## TRADITIONAL RECIPES



### POT OF SHACKLES

#### Ingredients

- Water
- Pheasant or whatever meat you have available
- Onions
- Split Peas (Soak overnight)
- Lentils (Soak overnight)
- Swede (Chopped)
- Carrots (Chopped)
- Parsnips (Chopped)
- Turnips (Chopped)
- Potatoes (Chopped)
- 3-4 Packets of any soup mix

#### Dumplings:

Water  
Suet  
Flour

#### Method

1. Half fill a large cooking pot with water
2. Add prepared meat, onions, split peas and lentils
3. Cook until the meat is cooked through
4. Add all the vegetables and continue cooking until vegetables are ready
5. Add soup powder and mix well
6. Mix flour and fat with a little water and make into balls using floured hands

Float dumplings on top of the meal and continue cooking for 15 – 20 minutes.

### APPLE DUMPLINGS

#### Ingredients

- Flour
- Suet
- Water
- Cooking apples
- Sugar

#### Method

1. Mix together flour, fat and a little water
2. Knead mixture on a floured board
3. Prepare apples by peeling and slicing
4. Add apples and sugar to mixture
5. Roll mixture into one large or separate small balls
6. Secure dumplings in one or more pudding cloth tying ends securely
7. Place in large pot of boiling water and cook until ready



## Additional Support



Carr Gomm - drop in services Housing support for adults over 35yrs available Lochgilphead, Rothesay, Dunoon, Helensburgh, Oban and on Islay. [susancolin@carrgomm.org](mailto:susancolin@carrgomm.org) or phone 01631 563 375.



Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service – Aim to provide independent advocacy to adults in our priority groups: adults with a learning disability, adults who use mental health services and people over 65. Information at [www.laas.org.uk](http://www.laas.org.uk) Contact email: [admin.argyll@laas.org.uk](mailto:admin.argyll@laas.org.uk) or phone 01546 606056.



Women's support workers can offer you practical and emotional support, give you support and provide you with information on subjects such as personal safety, housing, benefits and legal issues. They provide this support on an outreach basis and within the refuge. Telephone: 01369 706636



Citizens Advice Bureau is an independent charity where the public can obtain free, confidential information and advice on an extensive range of civil, consumer and legal matters. Telephone: 01546 605550 or Email: [info@abcab.org.uk](mailto:info@abcab.org.uk)

## Oban Additional Support:



We Are with You addiction services, Muir Street, Boswell House, 14 Argyll Square, Oban, PA34 4BD

Call [0800 206 1460](tel:08002061460)



Hope Kitchen is a Christian-led charitable organisation which provides food, shelter and companionship to vulnerable and marginalised people. 2 Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4HU, [obanhopekitchen@gmail.com](mailto:obanhopekitchen@gmail.com) or phone 01631 565730.



The Trust wants to support those in crisis, low-income families, people moving on from addiction or homelessness, refugee/asylum seeker families into new tenancies. Referral scheme available for new tenants. Lorn and Oban Reuse Initiative, Moleigh Recycling Site, Ariogan, Oban PA34 4SD. Tel: 01631 569819



Home-Start Lorn has been supporting families with young children throughout the whole of the Oban and North Argyll area, including the outlying villages since 1988 and on the Isle of Mull since 2012. 15, Lochside Street, Oban PA34 4HP [www.homestartlorn.org.uk](http://www.homestartlorn.org.uk) Phone:

## Additional Support Cont..

### Mid Argyll Additional Support

#### MOMA/Moving on – Mid Argyll

local charity providing starter packs and food parcels via Social Services and CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau). Further information can found on Facebook (Moving on – Mid Argyll)

#### Dochas Center, Lochgilphead

bereavement counselling, Care assessments, carer support, circle of friends, time for me, information and guidance

Telephone: 01546 600022

Email: [enquires@dochas.scot](mailto:enquires@dochas.scot)

Website: <https://dochas.scot/Services/>

#### Argyll Intergroup Alcoholics Anonymous

Argyll Intergroup Alcoholics Anonymous – Lochgilphead, Paris Church Hall, Saturday – 8pm

### ACHA WELFARE RIGHTS

Our Welfare Rights Service provides a Welfare Rights Officer for each area in Argyll.

For further information on benefits please do not hesitate to contact ACHA'S Welfare Rights Service if you wish to check eligibility. Please enquire at your local office or contact our **Welfare Rights Service** on **0800 028 2755** or email [welfarerights@acha.co.uk](mailto:welfarerights@acha.co.uk).

Please visit our website for more details [www.acha.co.uk](http://www.acha.co.uk) and information on all types of benefits that may be accessed if you are eligible. We also frequently post updates on our ACHA Facebook page.

#### Energy Advice/Help with Costs

Ali-energy on 01631 565183 or contact [www.buteadvice.org.uk](http://www.buteadvice.org.uk) to see what sources of assistance are available to you.

At present ACHA has secured limited funding from the **Social Housing Fuel Support Fund** to assist tenants with the cost of living crisis and to help to reduce energy costs, we are able to offer an air fryer, slow cooker, winter weight duvets or thermal curtains. If you have not already received something from this fund, please contact your local office.

**ACHA WELFARE RIGHTS** look forward to trying to assist you. Please get in touch.

**OSCR**  
Scottish Charity Regulator  
[www.oscr.org.uk](http://www.oscr.org.uk)

Registered Charity  
SC042713

Registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, Reg. No. 2661R(S)

Registered with the Scottish Housing Regulator as a Registered Social Landlord – RSL No. 360

Vat Registration Number: 155542607

Registered with the Scottish Government, Property Factor Registration Number PF000302



Did you know ACHA has an online Customer Portal?

After a simple registration process, you will be able to:

- check your rent balance
- make a rent payment
- update contact details
- update personal details
- check the status of existing repairs
- request a new repair

If you have any difficulty registering, please contact our Customer Service Centre on 0800 028 2755.

Please remember, to keep your details secure you should not share your account reference, username or password.

Visit [www.acha.co.uk](http://www.acha.co.uk) to access the Customer Portal.



## SITE ISSUES

Below is a reminder of some of the terms of your lease and the site license:-

**Section 2.2 of your lease states:-** Provided that prior notice is given to ACHA, permission will be granted to vacate the pitch for a maximum of 8 weeks out of any 12 months. The rent during any period of vacancy for which permission has been granted will be on half share of the full rent payable before vacation of the pitch.

**Site License:-** The distance between any caravan or trailer sited on an individual pitch should be not less than 6 metres from a caravan/trailer or vehicle sited on an adjacent pitch.

Please also ensure that all gas cannisters are stored upright.



## Argyll and Bute Council—Article 2024

### Gypsy/Traveller Working Group

The multi-agency working group to support the local Gypsy/Traveller community is continuing to bring partners together to encourage and improve partnership working. The core purpose of the Working Group is to engage with the community to take forward identified actions that will support the community. We would welcome participation from more members of the community in the group to ensure that actions are focused on the key issues affecting Gypsy/Travellers.

The next meeting is being held on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023** at 4.30pm.

If you would like to get involved, please get in touch. To find out more you can contact:

Ali Martin, MECOPP on 0739 883 0408 or by email at: [ali@mecopp.org.uk](mailto:ali@mecopp.org.uk)

Douglas Whyte, Housing Services on 01546 604 785 or by email at: [douglas.whyte@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:douglas.whyte@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

### LACER Funding

The Council were successful in obtaining LACER funding for the Gypsy/Traveller community. Following consultation a protocol for distribution of the funding via Bute Advice was established, this funding is to support the Gypsy/Traveller community with fuel and food costs. For further information and support to access funding, please contact:

**Ali Martin, MECOPP on 0739 883 0408 or by email at: [ali@mecopp.org.uk](mailto:ali@mecopp.org.uk)**

## Your Ideas for future Newsletter Articles

We would love to hear your ideas for future newsletter articles. Please give us a call on 0800 028 2755 or email us at [achacustomerservicecentre@acha.co.uk](mailto:achacustomerservicecentre@acha.co.uk).

Alternatively speak to Jane or Dee when they are visiting your site.