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Susan McGladdery, an ACHA tenant from Dunoon had a two week work placement with ACHA in the local office as part of her college course. Susan is undertaking an HND in Administration and Information Technology at James Watt College and said “I really enjoyed my two weeks with ACHA. It’s a busy office but the staff were really friendly and I was able to help out with lots of different jobs. The time just flew in and I’m hoping that a permanent job will come up some time!”. Friendly ACHA staff pictured are Alan McQuillian, Andy Lynn and Garrick Collier.

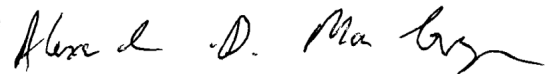
ACHA were delighted recently to be awarded the Disability Tick symbol by Job Centre Plus in recognition of ACHA’s commitment to employing disabled people.



Chief Executive's column

It's hard to believe that we are now into ACHA's second year. Our priorities this year build on the positives from Year 1 and, like any listening organisation, learn from our mistakes. Our first new build goes on site in June in Campbeltown, which will provide 52 homes for rent and low cost ownership - a milestone for the Association in attempting to meet housing need. Investment to homes this year will include 5,176 kitchens, bathrooms, windows, doors, heating and rewires amounting to £23.5million. This will have a significant impact on the economy throughout Argyll and Bute. We will invest £450,000 in grounds maintenance which will improve the physical environment around our estates. In addition to this we plan to invest £300,000 in aids and adaptations to help many of our tenants to remain in their own home. ACHA also plans to introduce a factoring service for owner occupiers. This will start with a series of factoring pilots and hopefully roll out a fully fledged factoring service throughout Argyll and Bute that owner occupiers can buy into. I also want to mention our continuing work on anti social behavior. In addition to the two recent successes in court in relation to eviction for drug dealing and violent intimidation we also have a number of other cases pending. In the run up to transfer one of the repeated themes that came forward from tenants was that not enough was being done to tackle the small minority of residents who make people's lives a misery. With the cooperation of our tenants, ACHA staff and the Police, this initiative is starting to take effect and we are being recognised as an organisation that is serious about dealing with this issue.

With best wishes, Alastair MacGregor, Chief Executive



Tenants at ACHA's sheltered housing complex in Benderloch are learning new skills thanks to the computer given to them by ACHA recently and the patient teaching of fellow tenant, Bill Mason. Bill's eager pupils are tenants up to the age of 97! One tenant wants to learn how to email her children who live away from Argyll and another now wants to buy a laptop. Well done to Bill and all his 'pupils'!

Photo courtesy of Oban Times

Saving with Scotwest

ACHA tenant, Linda Gallacher from Rosneath (pictured centre) won a goodie bag from Scotwest Credit Union when she started a savings account with them recently. Congratulations Linda! If you would like to contact Scotwest Credit Union just give them a call on 0845 634 7634.



Pictured with Linda is Lyndsay Anderson from Scotwest Credit Union (left) and Jacqui Hardie, Assistant Area Housing Manager for ACHA in Helensburgh (right).



Jean Milloy from the Dalintober and Millknowe Tenants and Residents Association in Campbeltown cut the ribbon on their new community premises, Broom Cottage, on 7th May. Also pictured are ACHA staff Yvonne Litster, Area Manager and Sarah Campbell, Assistant Manager.

Local firm, Oban Electrical Services (OES) have, after a successful tender, been awarded a £900,000 contract for the maintenance and repair of (ACHA) properties throughout the area of Lorn. The contract has been awarded from March 2008 until March 2012. The area covered includes mainland Lorn stretching from Kilmelford in the South through to Appin and Dalmally situated in north Lorn. Just under 5000 response repairs were reported and attended to in the Lorn area in 2007, with over 29,000 response repairs being carried out across ACHA's entire management area of Argyll and Bute. Due to the volume of response repairs, OES will work alongside ACHA's own In-House Repairs Team, providing services for all trades.

Alastair MacGregor, Chief Executive of ACHA commented 'I am very pleased that a substantial contract has been won by a local contractor who has a very strong record of delivery and providing training and development for apprentices. I believe that working together with OES, a key service provider within the area, can only be of benefit to tenants'.



How To Contact the ACHA Area Offices

Helensburgh & Lomond telephone 01436 658700

31 James Street, Helensburgh G84 8AS

housing.lomond@acha.co.uk

Cowal telephone 01369 708688

Dolphin Hall, Manse Avenue, Dunoon PA23 8DQ

housing.cowal@acha.co.uk

Bute telephone 01700 501314

Union Street, Rothesay PA20 0HD

housing.bute@acha.co.uk

Mid Argyll telephone 01546 604800

Dalriada House, Lochgilphead PA31 8ST

housing.midargyll@acha.co.uk

Kintyre telephone 01586 559055

Old Quay Head, Campbeltown PA28 6ED

housing.kintyre@acha.co.uk

Islay telephone 01496 301312

Jamieson Street, Bowmore PA43 7HP

housing.islay@acha.co.uk

Oban, Lorn and Isles telephone 01631 567962

Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AW

housing.lorn@acha.co.uk

Mull telephone 01688 302051

Breadalbane Street, Tobermory, Mull PA75 6PX

ACHA's Community Action Fund

- Mull & Iona Community Trust
- Islay Boys Football Club
- Schools Out, Oban
- Campbeltown Community Organic Garden
- Ardrishaig Primary School
- Community Garden, Helensburgh
- Rothesay Academy Summer Show

These are just some of the groups who have been successful in a small grant of less than £300 from ACHA in recent months. If you are involved with a community group who could make good use of a grant then please contact ACHA on 01631 567912 and ask for an application form for the **Community Action Fund**.

Good luck



Gas Safety

If you have a gas supply to your home you'll be aware that ACHA services the supply and appliances that come with your home, each year. We use CORGI registered contractors to make sure that they are suitably skilled and qualified. The Health and Safety Executive recently issued a reminder to the public that it is illegal for someone who isn't CORGI registered to work on gas appliances. When you have your own appliances eg cooker, fitted or serviced remember to ask your contractor for CORGI registration. Registered installers in your area can be found on the website www.trustcorgi.com or by calling CORGI on 0800 915 0485.