

Putting Tenants First

September 2008



Inside this Issue

Chief Executive	2
Make a Difference	2
Tribute to Christine Williams	2
ACHA's first Youth Project	3
Tenants Consultation Register	3
New Kitchens on Mull	3
Community Action Fund	4
Smart New Paint	4
Right to Repair Leaflet	4

ACHA's first new build housing is underway in Campbeltown.

Stewart Maxwell, Minister for Sport and Communities helped some primary 7 children from Dalintober Primary School plant a time capsule and commemorative tree at the site on 17th June. Parliament Place and Broad Street were demolished at the end of last year to make way for 52 new houses which have been designed in collaboration with a Steering Group made up of local people. Betty Mason is a member of the Steering Group and also the local Tenants Association and said *"there has always been a need for more affordable housing in Campbeltown and in particular more family sized homes with back and front doors. Campbeltown can only benefit from this project and I personally can't wait to see the end result"*.

96% Satisfaction with ACHA repairs carried out—that's the feedback from tenants from April - June of this year. After each repair has been carried out a Satisfaction Questionnaire is posted out (with a postage paid reply). A percentage of repairs are also inspected by ACHA staff and a telephone survey carried out. If you get a Repairs Questionnaire please fill it in and return to us—help us to improve services to you.

Chief Executive's column

It was with some considerable pride that ACHA's first new build housing development was launched in Campbeltown on the 17th June by Stewart Maxwell MSP, the Minister for Sport and Communities. I hope that it will be the first of many which will allow the Association to contribute towards meeting the housing needs of our communities. However, shortly after the launch of our first new build we were advised that there will be cuts of around £7million in the housing investment programme for Argyll and Bute this year. This directly affects the ability of all housing associations in Argyll and Bute to plan for and build new homes. ACHA will continue to lobby the Scottish Government to reverse this decision and are very pleased that Argyll and Bute Council have similar concerns and will be raising this matter with Scottish Ministers. With 4,500 families and single people on housing waiting lists in Argyll and Bute at the present time, funding for new build houses, along with investment in existing homes, is crucial in delivering quality affordable housing.

On a more positive vein, our investment programme is progressing well with new kitchens, bathrooms and heating systems going into our homes. I was very pleased to visit our first completed cyclical maintenance programme in Bonawe recently and was delighted to meet Mr and Mrs Sinclair, who are featured in the newsletter, to see their newly painted home.

Alastair MacGregor, Chief Executive

Make a Difference and Join your local ACHA Area Committee

If you have a couple of hours to spare once a month and are interested in:

- Improving the quality of homes in your area
- Helping to plan new housing
- Representing your community

then why not consider joining your local area committee:

- Mid Argyll and Kintyre
- Oban, Lorn and the Isles
- Helensburgh and Lomond
- Bute and Cowal

Some of the members of the Oban Lorn and Isles Area Committee



The Association received very sad news on the 20th July, 2008 when Christine Williams, a founding member of ACHA's Board of Management, died.

Christine was an ACHA tenant in Dunoon and had previously served her community on the Bute & Cowal Area Committee, Milton West Tenants & Residents Association and the Argyll and Bute Tenants' Panel. Through her voluntary work Christine worked tirelessly to improve housing conditions and opportunities. Alastair MacGregor, commented "Christine was committed to making the housing stock transfer a success and was always an advocate for building a better world. Her human decency and voluntary spirit will be well-remembered". The Association's thoughts are with Christine's family at this sad time.



If you would like more information on this please contact your local ACHA office using the phone numbers on the back page.



ACHA's Seonaid Cameron (second from right) together with 'Streetlinks' youth workers and a group of the youngsters in Helensburgh having some fun in the sun.

ACHA's first Youth work project got underway recently in Kirkmichael in Helensburgh. A summer games programme followed by youth outreach work for the 12-25 age group will see this project run till March next year. Developed in partnership with Dunbritton Housing Association this is funded by the Scottish Government and 2 other grant funding bodies. A similar project in Oban will start soon.

Tenants Consultation Register..... feedback

Earlier this year ACHA set up this register to enable tenants from all over Argyll and Bute help shape the future of services for tenants and others. The first questionnaire was sent out in May and was on Services for Older People. There was a great response and tenants associations also filled in questionnaires. Not only was the number of responses encouraging but also the enthusiastic and diverse suggestions on developing services in years to come. Members of the register and the Tenants Panel will receive a detailed breakdown of replies for information.

Questionnaires are posted out along with a postage paid envelope for you to return it to us. If you could spare a few minutes once in a while and would like to get involved it couldn't be easier to join the Tenants Consultation Register just call Gillian on 01546 604088 or pick up an application form at any ACHA office.



Some of the new kitchens recently installed in ACHA homes in Bentalla Crescent, Salen and Rockfield Road, Tobermory on the island of Mull. Our thanks to the tenants for allowing us to take some photos.

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

- Oban War & Peace Museum
- Cardross Ten/Res Assoc
- Tarbert Conservation Initiative
- Strachur & District Piping Society
- Garelochhead & District Seniors Forum
- Rothesay Playgroup Out of School Care

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

Right To Repair

Along with this newsletter you will find a Right to Repair leaflet issued by the Scottish Government. This details ACHA's responsibilities as your landlord and your rights under the Tenants Right to Repair. This is for your information only.



Smart new paint!

ACHA recently began cyclical repair contracts including external painterwork. Pictured left is Mr and Mrs Sinclair from Kenmore Cottages in Bonawe who are delighted with their newly painted home.