

Big Energy Saving Winter

Top tips to save energy from Energy Saving Trust - 4-page feature **INSIDE**

Transport Scotland sticks to schedule at the A83 Rest

by Colin Cameron and Fiona Ross
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

As the new Scottish Government transport minister took office this week, politicians and campaigners welcomed news that site investigation work on a new route through Glen Croe will begin next month.

Following Monday's resignation of Graeme Dey, Jenny Gilruth, MSP for Mid Fife and Glenrothes, was appointed to the role; a move welcomed by the Rest and be Thankful campaign group whose spokesperson said: 'We welcome the news this week that Jenny Gilruth has been appointed as the new transport minister and wish her every success in her important new role.'

'We are hopeful that the new minister will be able to bring a fresh perspective and will be asking her for support to get Transport Scotland to make a decision, deliver a solution at the RABT and improve the lives of the people of Argyll.'

Investigations contract announced ahead of Dey's resignation

Transport Scotland last week announced that Lanarkshire-based Raeburn Drilling & Geotechnical Ltd had been awarded a £1.8 million contract to carry out preliminary ground investigations ahead of the construction of a new section of A83 trunk road

'We are hopeful the new minister will be able to bring a fresh perspective'

at the Rest and be Thankful. Work is expected to last eight to 10 weeks, ending at the end of April, weather permitting.

In tandem with this, work goes on to develop a medium-term route through the

glen - perhaps making use of the existing forestry road on the opposite side of Glen Croe to the A83 - while the permanent solution is developed. Transport Scotland's plans for this are expected by late 2022.

The long-term solution is expected by Transport Scotland to be completed in seven to 10 years. Campaigners for a swifter completion of the project, meanwhile, got little encouragement as the Scottish Government's transport spending priorities for the next 20 years were published.

Transport Scotland's second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) reveals nothing new for the A83 beyond plans already announced.

An online petition by the Rest

Continued on page 2.

Anne receives OBE from royal namesake

After being named on the Queen's New Year Honours List, Anne Paterson was presented with her OBE on Wednesday January 19 at Holyrood Palace.

Anne, Argyll and Bute Council's former chief education officer, was delighted that the ceremony was conducted by HRH The Princess Royal.

'It was absolutely lovely to receive the honour from Princess Anne as she knows Argyll so well,' she explained. 'I was so impressed that she could talk about rural education in such an informed manner and that she knew all I'd been involved in throughout my 39-year career.'



Anne Paterson attended the Holyrood ceremony with her husband John.

Anne, who retired from her chief education officer role at the end of last year, is now working as a professional adviser on education with the Scottish Government as well as studying for a doctorate in rural education.



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Transport Scotland sticks to schedule at the Rest

Public inquiry su

Continued from page 1 and be Thankful Campaign, led by Argyll businesses, is calling for the Scottish Government to 'stop wasting time on lengthy consultation and deliver a permanent solution by 2023' and to recognise the landslide threat at the Rest and be Thankful as an emergency due to the economic and environmental impacts. To date the petition has more than 2,500 signatures and counting.

When asked about the Rest and be Thankful's omission from the STPR Argyll and Bute MSP Jenni Minto responded: 'The STPR2 makes significant recommendations which will provide real and lasting benefits for people and businesses.'

'Addressing the resilience of the A83 at the Rest and be Thankful is one of the Scottish Government's top priorities - this situation

is being treated with the seriousness and urgency it deserves with methods to maintain connectivity on a short, medium and long term basis all being pursued and, as local MSP, I will continue to push for a permanent solution to be in place as soon as possible.'

Before resigning on Monday from his post as transport minister, Graeme Dey echoed Ms Minto's words, adding: 'Identifying the preferred route corridor for a resilient long-term solution last year was a major step forward for this vital work and we continue to push forward the design of alternative options within that online corridor.'

'The ground investigations, which are part of the necessary baseline data that we are collecting, are expected to start next month and will help inform that design work as we look to

identify a preferred route option next year.

'We recognise that the timescales for developing an alternative to the current route and finding a long-term solution to the challenges created by the Rest and be Thankful section of the A83 are frustrating for the local community.'

'However, this scheme is technically challenging and the landscape is dynamic so it is vital we understand the terrain we are working in, in order to develop a suitable solution of the correct standard in the correct place.'

Argyll and Bute Council Leader Councillor Robin Currie said: 'I'm glad to see that the Scottish Government has given assurances that the situation at the Rest is being treated with the seriousness and urgency it deserves, and welcome this latest step in that process.'

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

A petition pressing for a public inquiry into the political and financial management of the A83 Rest and be Thankful project remains alive - despite a less-than-warm reception from a Scottish Parliament committee.

Argyll and Bute councillors Dougie Philand and Donald Kelly have previously raised two petitions at the Scottish Parliament calling for a permanent solution at the Rest.

In their latest petition, they write: 'This serious problem has been well documented over the years. The work by the Scottish Government to date, whilst welcome, has not and will not provide stability to the only lifeline road in and out of Argyll and it can be said confidently if the M8 between Glasgow and Edinburgh were to constantly be blocked it would not take 19 years to find a permanent solution.'

'Since the petitions were

launched, with the backing of 10,000 signatures, the cost of the mitigation exercise has been in the region of £90 million since 2007 with no permanent solution in sight.'

Under discussion on Wednesday January 19 at the Scottish Parliament Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee, Mid Scotland and Fife Conservative MSP Alexander Stewart paid tribute to MSPs past and present who have worked 'tirelessly' on 'an enormous issue for the local area'.

He continued: 'I'm not sure where we can go, as a committee. A public inquiry would, I think, exacerbate the situation - it would take time.'

'There is a huge amount of frustration in the community and they want a solution. There are proposals coming forward. They might not please everybody but at this stage I'm not sure what more can be done.'

'I have some real concerns about how we take this forward.'



David Torrance, SNP member for Kirkcaldy and depute convener of the committee, said: 'I have real doubts if we could take this petition forward. I don't think the government would agree to it, but also, we have taken evidence for more than six years on this and been on site visits to see how difficult the terrain is.'

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Survives frosty hearing



Around £90 million has been spent on 'mitigation' works as the Rest continues to suffer landslides like this one in March last year. Inset: the road after it was cleared of debris.

Carlaw MSP concluded: 'I don't think we can have this petition run for six years in the way the previous one did, because I'm not sure what we would achieve, but we are in a new parliament and it would be useful to see what the position is.'

Addressing Councillors Philand and Kelly, he added: 'To the petitioners, I don't know that the committee is altogether persuaded by the public inquiry route.'

David Torrance ended with a request that the committee also asks the Scottish Government whether it will consider a public inquiry, which, he said would '...get a definitive answer on what the petition is calling for.'

Mr Carlaw concluded: 'As Mr Stewart says, I think that is unlikely; that is my expectation.'

Councillor Philand said: 'I'm glad they have kept it open.'

'We are unhappy that £87m has been spent of public money and so far no permanent

solution. If the Scottish Government had invested in a permanent route in 2012, public money would have been well spent and we would have had a permanent solution.'

'If the panel believes there

should be no inquiry about the management of £87m, I would have real worries.'

The Scottish Parliament Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee will write to the Scottish Parliament on the matter.

Bellanoch towpath on Crinan Canal to be closed until March

A section of the towpath on the Crinan Canal will be closed to the public until March.

Scottish Canals took the decision to remove access from Monday (January 24) to the section between Dunardy Lock 13 and Bellanoch Bridge after discovering an issue on the canal east of Bellanoch

Bridge. Work will be carried out on the canal until Monday March 7, resulting in the towpath being closed throughout the duration of the works.

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'There is not an easy fix for this and Transport Scotland has been working tirelessly, engaging with the local community, to try and find solutions.'

'It is a really difficult task to try and make that hill stable. They have put measures in place to catch a lot of the debris coming down, and the old military road is there as an alternative.'

'I think there is no place for this petition to go, and I'm quite happy to close it under rule 15.7 of standing orders.'

Committee convener Jackson

POLICE FILES

Drugs possession

At 3pm on Friday January 14 police stopped and searched two men for drugs on Manse Brae, Lochgilphead. The men were allegedly found to be in possession of herbal cannabis and cocaine. They were charged with being in possession of controlled substances. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Drink driving

Police were called to Argyll Caravan Park, Inveraray, on Monday January 17 around 9.10pm following reports of a woman allegedly driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. A 53-year-old woman failed a roadside breath test. She also allegedly acted in a threatening manner towards police officers. The woman was arrested, charged with the offences and released on an undertaking to appear at Dunoon Sheriff Court.

No MOT

At 11.30pm on Thursday January 13 on the A83 at Port Ann, police carried out checks on a vehicle which revealed that it did not have a valid test certificate. The vehicle was stopped and the 26-year-old male driver was made aware of the offence. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Careless driving

On Wednesday January 19 at 9.15pm police observed a vehicle allegedly being driven in a careless manner on Argyll Street, Lochgilphead. The vehicle was stopped and the 35-year-old male driver was charged with careless driving. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Police are appealing for anyone with information on the above or any incidents to phone 101 or anonymously call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Have your say on shock Clyde fishing 'cod box' ban

Clyde fishing leaders are asking for public support in the wake of the sudden closure of an expanse of the Firth of Clyde.

The reason for the decision earlier this month by Mairi Gougeon, cabinet secretary for rural affairs and islands, pictured right, was to allow cod to spawn in the area known as the 'cod box'.

Since the scheme was introduced 20 years ago in partnership between government, scientists and fishing interests, annual permission was given to nephrops (langoustine) trawlers, creels and scallop dredgers to fish the area, given the demonstrably low numbers of cod caught by these boats.

Ms Gougeon's announcement of a three-month ban between February and April for the next two years has drawn widespread criticism, with fishermen pointing to the fragile nature of their industry and the impact on the businesses and communities they



support. Questions have also been raised about the scientific basis for the ban, though the Scottish Government maintains it was founded on 'the most up-to-date scientific evidence'.

Fishermen are sceptical, claiming that research in the Clyde stopped many years ago partly due to lack of staff at Marine Scotland. They remain willing and able, they say, to continue supporting this at any time.

What has also galled fishing leaders is that there was no prior discussion before Ms Gougeon made the an-

nouncement in parliament.

In a statement, the Scottish Government said: 'We appreciate this will have a short-term impact on local fishers, but taking action now to try to replenish cod and potentially other stock for the longer term is ultimately beneficial for fishing as well.'

The Clyde Fishermen's Federation (CFA) has now asked the public to respond to a Scottish Government online questionnaire on the introduction of the ban.

The CFA said: 'To all who have reached out to offer much needed support after the sudden Clyde closure announcement - the fishing organisations nationally, the farmers who said a prayer for the fishermen, the press and the public. Please respond to this if you can. It will mean a lot.' To add your comments, visit yourviews.parliament.scot/recc/the-sea-fish-ssi and complete the form by Wednesday February 2.

Jackie's heartfelt care wins national charity's award

A leading patient charity has celebrated a Lochgilphead nurse with one of its most prestigious awards, writes Fiona Ross.

Cardiovascular nurse at Mid Argyll Community Hospital Jackie Gilmour won the national prize from heart-failure charity the Pumping Marvellous Foundation after being nominated by one of her patients.

The nomination outlined Jackie's support and commitment to helping her patients live better with heart failure, saying that for her 'nothing was too much trouble'.

Pumping Marvellous Foundation chief executive officer Nick Hartshorne congratulated Jackie: 'Congratulations Jackie, very well deserved.'

'These special awards, measured by the patient's experience, are particularly significant given the last couple of years when many heart failure patients have



Jackie Gilmour with her award.

found themselves in the most challenging of circumstances due to Covid-19.'

After receiving her prize Jackie said: 'I'm delighted

to have won this award; it's such an honour. The whole team continue to work really hard to deliver the best care possible to our patients.'

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Major education reforms expected to be 'cost neutral'

by Fiona Ross
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Moving Argyll and Bute schools into clusters led by an executive head would result in neither cost savings or increased expenditure according to education chiefs.

Speaking on Tuesday January 25, Argyll and Bute Council education manager for transformation Louise Connor said the school collective proposals are expected to be 'cost neutral' meaning the council expects no changes to be made to the education budget if the new scheme was implemented.

The proposals commit the council to putting more teachers in classrooms and closing no schools, but with falling school rolls predicted to decline further, and resources allocated according to pupil numbers, concerns have been



raised as to how the budget can be balanced.

Launching its petition against the proposals, the EIS teaching union said: 'We believe these changes are simply a cost-cutting exercise that will not empower schools and support attainment but rather will damage educational delivery, quality and equity in Argyll and Bute.'

When asked how the pro-

posals would be cost neutral at a briefing on Tuesday, Ms Connor explained that teachers' pay grades would be reviewed in line with changes to their roles as well as in accordance with pupil numbers in their class.

She added that some headteachers would also be expected to retire within the transition period.

'Job sizing will be critical if

Plans for cluster schools in Argyll and Bute will have no cost impact, according to education chiefs.

the proposals are to be implemented,' Ms Connor said.

Council documents explain that the process of job sizing takes into account the size of schools, leadership roles and teaching time when deciding on the salary scale for promoted posts in education.

'Headteachers retiring would also form part of the modelling,' Ms Connor added.

'If a school collective was agreed where there were, for example, seven headteachers, then two might be retiring and that would form part of the model.'

'Until collectives are looked at in more detail we can't have a clear idea of staff numbers.'

As part of the consultation

process, which started in November and is due to finish at the end of January, the council has shared its proposals with parent groups and community councils.

Feedback from the consultation is timetabled to be presented to Argyll and Bute Council in April.

This will be followed by the proposals being voted on towards the end of 2022 and, if approved, interim processes to bring in the changes would begin in spring 2023.

At Tuesday's meeting it was explained, however, that the consultation will continue throughout the process with pupils, parents and educators being included in the process throughout.

In addition, dialogue is continuing with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Argyll and the Isles concerning the

involvement of faith schools in school collectives.

These discussions were described by council officers as 'ongoing' and 'collaborative'.

Concerns were also raised about the timing of the proposed changes, coming when pupils' education and wellbeing had been impacted by the pandemic.

Acting head of education, learning and teaching Wendy Brownlie said: 'Young people's views have been gathered throughout and they have expressed really interesting points both for and against the changes.'

The consultation paper addresses the issue of the pandemic by saying: 'The last couple of years have been extraordinarily challenging for schools.'

'But we need to keep thinking long term.'



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BUILT IN

Calendar sales raise thousands for Macmillan

A photographer has raised £2,500 for the Macmillan day unit at Mid Argyll Community Hospital through selling hundreds of scenic calendars.

Aileen Gillies made the donation last week in memory of her mother, Marion, who was cared for at the Macmillan unit before her death in 2017.

This generous contribution adds to the amount she raised last year, taking the total donation from calendar sales to £7,628.

Aileen explained the motivation behind her fundraising: 'This was all in memory of my late mum; the visits to the Macmillan unit in Lochgilphead meant she didn't need to travel to Glasgow for treatment which hopefully gave her six more months with Dad and me.'

Aileen, who is based in Mid Argyll, describes photography as the hobby that has taken over her life: 'I have always enjoyed taking photos with my phone.'



Aileen Gillies.

'In 2019 I made a couple of calendars as Christmas presents that went down a treat.'

'In January 2020 I bought a Nikon camera, then Covid hit and I was on furlough from April until August.'

'During that time I clicked away most days and started to produce my first calendar and within three weeks I had raised £1,000 for the Macmillan unit in Lochgilphead.'

Aileen hopes to continue her photography and fundraising

efforts and aims to raise her total donation for the unit to £10,000 this year.

However, her sights are set on supporting another local cause as well this year.

She is in the process of producing a calendar entitled Fishing Boats of the West Coast and has decided to dedicate 20 per cent of the profits from this new project to the Fishermen's Mission.

Shops and cafes throughout Mid Argyll have supported Aileen's efforts over the last two years, helping her reach her fundraising goals.

She said: 'A huge thank-you to everyone who has supported me over this last year.'

'Thanks to Susan Paterson at Argyll Pharmacy for allowing me to have a display in the shop window and for selling my cards and calendars while at my full-time job.'

'Thanks also to the Argyll Gift Company, The Gather, The Square Peg and Glencaigs Farm for selling them.'

YOUR PICTURES



Iona Barr from Tayvallich sent us this sparkling photograph. The image shows, in Iona's words: 'The beautiful silvery light as we sailed up Loch Sween recently.' Send your favourite photographs for publication to editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

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World's biggest birdwatch spreads its wings again

Following the record-breaking success of last year's nationwide bird-count, the RSPB is calling for wildlife enthusiasts to get their binoculars back out and contribute to crucial scientific research.

In 2021 more than a million people across the UK took part in the Big Garden Birdwatch, making it the world's largest garden wildlife survey.

Although the chaffinch is the most commonly seen bird in Argyll and Bute, of the 17 million birds counted in the three-day survey last year the house sparrow kept its title as the UK's most seen bird.

This year's event takes place from today (January 28) to Sunday (January 30) with the public being asked to spend just one hour watching and recording the birds in their garden, balcony or local park then send their results to the

RSPB. With the project now in its 43rd year, more than 150 million birds have been counted, giving the RSPB crucial insight into how UK wildlife is faring.

Director of RSPB Scotland Anne McCall said: 'Huge enthusiasm and love of nature were wonderfully evident across Scotland during Big Garden Birdwatch 2021.

'The last two years have reminded us all that nature is a part of our lives, reviving and supporting our wellbeing and mental health.

'Big Garden Birdwatch allows everyone to put aside some time just to concentrate on nature and, at the same time, help to gather the information we need to do more to protect and restore wildlife.

'When you take part in the Birdwatch, you are helping to build an annual snapshot



of how our bird life is faring across Scotland and the UK.

'It is only by building understanding that we can protect wildlife. Nature is in crisis, but together we can take meaningful action and have some fun too.'

While house sparrows and starlings are the UK's most

commonly sighted birds, the Big Garden Birdwatch data shows that numbers have in fact dropped dramatically since the Birdwatch began in 1979. House sparrows are down 58 per cent while starlings are down 83 per cent.

To take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch 2022,

Wildlife enthusiasts of all ages are set to join the world's biggest bird-count.

participants should watch the birds in their garden or local park for one hour at some point over the three days, only counting the birds that land, not those flying over.

They should record the highest number of each bird species you see at any one time, not the total seen in the hour.

Head of habitats and species for RSPB Scotland Paul Walton said: 'Big Garden Birdwatch gives everyone a chance to spend a little time just enjoying the wildlife around us, but it also allows us to engage in real science.

'It is very simple to do and to report, just tell us what you see

in your garden or local park. That simplicity is its strength.

'So many people engage, right across the country, that Big Garden Birdwatch is a survey of enormous scale. The picture it gives us across the years is unique and valuable information on how winter garden birds are faring.'

The parallel event, RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch, takes place during the first half of spring term, Wednesday January 5 to Monday February 21. Since the launch of the school project more than a million school children and teachers have taken part.

For a Big Garden Birdwatch guide, which includes a bird identification chart, bird-watching tips, an RSPB shop voucher and advice on how to attract wildlife to your garden, text BIRD to 70030 or visit www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch.



Do a lateral flow test before you travel, mix with others or visit busy places.



**Living safely
this winter**



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There's a legion of help in fight against COVID-19

Getting your booster jab remains the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones against COVID-19 - and many of our armed forces veterans are offering their skills in the vaccine rollout

THERE IS a legion of volunteers, many veteran Armed Forces personnel, continuing to help with vaccines rollout.

From assisting at vaccination centres to building new health bases, planning and logistics, their contribution is key.

Army, Navy and RAF Veterans, who gain transferable skills and experience from their Armed Forces work, have joined forces to fight for crucial boosters for all.

Many Vets also continue to show a spirit of service, stemming from their military service to our country, offering their time to community, charity or wider public sector efforts.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Steve Barclay said: "I thank all those veterans for this effort and remind everyone that the best defence against COVID is to get boosted now."



'GET BOOSTED NOW': Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Steve Barclay

'I believe we always have that sense of service'

Sally Orange, 48, Major (Army Reserves), retired, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Since leaving the military three years ago, physiotherapist Sally has returned to the NHS to assist with the pandemic at a Nightingale facility and in the national vaccine rollout.

"As a veteran, I believe we always have that sense of service," said Sally, who joined Royal Army Medical Corps in 1998 and served as a qualified physiotherapist throughout her 22-year career, playing a pivotal role in recovery and rehabilitation of many service personnel returning from conflicts such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Knowing there was a mass national effort to be able to combat the virus through the vaccine rollout, I didn't hesitate to get involved. "A further

benefit of volunteering is it has really helped maintain my mental well-being as it prevents me from being isolated."

Sally trained in giving people their jobs and administrative duties involved on the rollout. Through her work at a Nightingale hospital, she has seen first-hand the devastation and grief COVID-19 has caused.

"If you are hesitant about getting the vaccine it is still worth going to your local vaccine walk-in centre, where everything will be explained to you.

"You will be able to ask any questions and be given answers in a language you understand rather than lots of medical jargon," assured the National Ambassador for the Army Cadet Force.

Well known for her endurance challenges, including running 70 marathons across the world, dressed as pieces of fruit, Sally has raised more than £500,000.



Booster jab is vital

Every adult needs to get a COVID-19 booster vaccine, because two doses of the vaccine do not give enough protection against catching the Omicron variant. Check your eligibility and find out how to book at nhs.uk/covidvaccination



GET BOOSTED NOW

GET BOOSTED NOW

Sharing a feeling of duty and wanting to get the job done is what drives Alex

Alex Turnbull, 24, Reservist (3rd Battalion Royal Welsh), West of Scotland

A sense of duty drove Alex Turnbull to “enlist” in the vaccine rollout programme.

A reservist in the 3rd Battalion Royal Welsh for six years, Alex has been responsible for overseeing mobile PCR testing units across Scotland.

“I’ve also been on the frontline to explain the testing process to members of the public.



More recently, I’ve been managing the military support to the Scottish Ambulance Service,” he said.

“You’re always ready to jump in when required. Given COVID is such a big issue I was more than happy to get behind the cause. I felt a sense of duty.”

Alex is aware of the importance of the booster jab. “I’d encourage everyone to do it.

SENSE OF DUTY: Alex Turnbull is helping keep others safe

“It’s the right thing to do to keep ourselves safe while working on the frontline. It’s also the right thing to do to keep other people safe.

“Getting the booster is part of learning to live with the virus and part of getting our lives back to some sort of normal.”

His role has involved transporting ambulance drivers from one station to another, no matter what the circumstance and his military experience is invaluable in this instance.

“Even when there’s been thick snow and ice on the ground, we’ve always done the job (assuming it was safe to do so) – and got ambulance drivers to their stations on time.

“We all share a sense of duty and a service ethos. We all want to get the job done.”



‘We have the ability to turn on a sixpence’



Rebecca Dennett, 40, Squadron Leader (Royal Air Force), retired, East of England

Squadron Leader Rebecca Dennett’s 12 years with the RAF stood her in great stead for her role in the vaccination rollout.

“We have a lot of transferable skills and useful experience, especially the ability to turn on a sixpence,” said Rebecca, an intensive care nurse before joining the service.

“The vaccination programme was working in a space where the science was still rolling out the answers and the military are trained to work in constantly evolving situations,” she said.



USEFUL EXPERIENCE: Rebecca Dennett.
Picture: Gareth Iwan Jones

In the RAF, she worked in medical evacuation as a critical care nurse. “That meant I was an intensive care nurse in the air, which requires a very specific focus and resilience, which could be put to good use in the vaccination programme.”

Deputy director of the Flu and COVID Vaccination Programme for NHS England and NHS Improvement East of England, Rebecca manages a 50-strong team including other Veterans.

“The team knows what a difference the booster jabs make and have responded with an amazing effort in providing the booster over December – one day we provided 104,000 doses,” she continued.

“The public response has been incredible. More than eight in ten people who are eligible have now received their top-up protection.

“We have to remember those who want it but have busy lives and haven’t fitted it in yet, so we are there for them, pushing it out and providing outreach.”

A skillset the country can use



MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Jake Wade, left, and above in his Navy days

Jake Wade, 56, (ex Navy, Royal Marines, Royal Army Medical Corps), Hartlepool, County Durham

After 25 years in the Navy and Royal Marines, Jake Wade transferred to Royal Army Medical Corps to be “specifically involved in secondary health care and mental health support”.

With Gulf War, Kurdistan and Kosovo service behind him, he joined the NHS in 2019 to oversee control and distribution of Personal Protective Equipment.

“My logistics knowledge came to the fore to make sure community midwives and health visitors had the PPE they needed,” he explained.

“In some cases the job entailed me going out, doing the deliveries myself in the van! There just wasn’t anybody there to do it. You felt as though you were making a real difference.”

Jake then helped establish the Regional Vaccination Operational Cell in East Midlands before becoming Deputy

Program Lead for Assurance, Improvement and Strategy.

“The benefits of having ex-service people on the team is they’ve come through leadership training and management training as part of the routine.”

And, on Veterans stepping up, he added: “You’ve got a group of people who drop everything as soon as they’re asked, regardless of what their family commitment might be, and go and do the job. I don’t think there is a better resource for the country to draw upon.

“The retired individuals have a skillset that the country can use. When you retire from the military you don’t stop everything you’re doing. It doesn’t mean you can’t still use that expertise to volunteer.”

Every adult in the country now needs to get a COVID-19 booster vaccine, because two doses does not give you enough protection against catching Omicron. To book yours and find out more visit nhs.uk/covidvaccination

All together >

The Softer Crofter

FIONA ROSS

editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

A grooming beautiful day on the croft

January can be long, cold and dark, but in the past few days we've been blessed by starry skies, a full moon and searing purple sunrises.

Blue Monday, that daft invention of travel companies, dawned bright and mild here on the croft. The much-touted gloom and doom expected of the third week in January remained confined to marketing guff.

As the sun rose, our Highland girls looked positively Zen chewing the cud beside their new feed-ring spilling over with fresh hay. Since their crazed wee pals from the pork paddock gradually said their goodbyes throughout the autumn, the cows have mellowed, safe in the knowledge that sheep and pigs may come and go, but these majestic beats will rule over this wee patch of Argyll for a lifetime.

Their new dining facilities are at the top of the ridge so they've become a permanent fixture there, lording it over the woolly minions down below.

With such easy winter-feeding the girls no longer even bother with their straw-floored shelter at bedtime, but stay constantly in sight of the buffet. The waiting

staff oblige by heaving fresh supplies into the ring and tidying up the stray strands underfoot, but the only attraction that tempts the cattle away from the table is the prospect that these waiters might just

morph into hairdressers.

And they do – gladly.

Of all the jobs needing done on the croft this is everyone's favourite. The Polycrub needed cleared of its abundance of annual



Above: 'The Farmer' takes a break from more strenuous chores.



Right: Visitor Cat Harvey lends a hairdressing hand.



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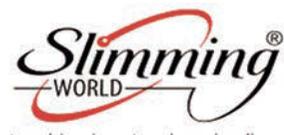
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Tracey 07984 473361

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A head-to-tail detangling for Highlander Lady Jane.

veggies (courgettes, celery, tomatoes, cucumbers etc.), the perennials needed a good pruning and tidying, the quagmire that used to be the paddock requires rotivating and sown with a nice grass and wildflower mix, but the neatest and most carefully tended part of this croft are the splendid ginger barnets on our bonnie lasses.

Unlike the more strenuous chores, keeping the girls' tresses tended will do nothing to feed us in the coming year, it won't attract pollinators for our fruit; it won't ensure a bumper crop of anything other than wads and wads of fuzzy red fluff that is taken from the comb and flung fast and wild out into the Sound of Jura.

But a wee bit of research tells me that we're maybe missing a trick here.

A quick surf of the net reveals that Highland cow hair yarn has been a valued commodity and features on the arty and crafty market-place websites.

It's not quite the next merino wool, sadly. Nobody's frantically knitting ginger thermal underwear yet, but maybe the Bear Grylls types might embrace this slightly scratchier, itchier hair-shirt as evidence of their ultimate hardcore status?

The internet actually cast more aspersions regarding our wasteful grooming practices.



The Highlanders enjoy their Loch na Cille setting

Just 600 years ago our girls' ancestors had a Rapunzel-esque function.

A piece of rope discovered in an old boat in the 1930s has been dated as pre-16th century and boasts a good quantity of robust and ancient Highland cow hair – the very dab for securing our wee boat to the jetty when the next howlin' hoolie comes our way.

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Teachers deserve respect

As the initial consultation period draws to a close, many questions remain unanswered about plans to restructure education in Argyll and Bute.

The council's stated goals are laudable: to provide smaller schools with access to the resources of larger neighbours; to allow more teaching time to be delivered by dedicated teachers and to increase opportunities for collaboration between schools, encouraging the sharing of resources and best practice.

This would be achieved through an overhaul of staffing structures which, according to this week's press briefing, would see each school having a non-teaching 'head of school' working in the building overseen by an 'executive head' leading up to six schools.

In addition, the council has offered assurances there will be more teachers in classrooms and no school closures. To the layperson this sounds like an increase in staffing, however, at Tuesday's briefing council officials were adamant the changes would be 'cost neutral'.

The EIS teaching union has expressed concern about potential redundancies, but the council representatives would not be drawn on specifics, mentioning only that if head teachers retired in the transition period they might not be replaced.

After supporting and leading our young people through the stresses and strains of the pandemic, it must be hoped Argyll and Bute's teachers are given the respect and professional security they deserve.

Call for compensation after fishing ban in Clyde

Sir

While there may be justified reasons for the 11-week ban from dredging, trawling, and creeling for shellfish in the Clyde fishing grounds, there is certainly no justification for imposing it without having a compensation scheme in place.

Moreover, there is real anger among the fishing communities at the lack of evidence provided by ministers, and their failure to properly consult.

Fishermen cannot afford to have their activities restricted and their income jeopardised in this arbitrary way, and I hope that the minister will very quickly put this right.

I am also seeking a response from the Scottish Government to concerns about the knock-on effects this ban may have on other sensitive areas if the boats move elsewhere, which is all the more likely given the lack of financial support.

Highlands and Islands MSP
Donald Cameron

Counting the fun for charity

Sir,

On February 4 schools will come together for a day filled with fun educational maths activities, as part of the NSPCC's Number Day.

Number Day is a nationwide maths-themed fundraising event that helps raise money to support the NSPCC.

Every pound raised will add up to help keep children safe.

It is free for any school to sign up and once a school has registered, the NSPCC will send it everything it needs to make its Number Day a success.

Schools will be sent tips and ideas on how to fundraise, including games and activities; resources to help promote Number Day; information on keeping children safe from harm; and online safety quizzes that can be used with pupils of all ages.

After the challenges of the past 18 months and the disruption that children have faced, we hope it will be a day of fun to look forward to.

To sign up to take part in Number Day, all you need to do is visit the NSPCC's website and search for Number Day and fill in your school's details using the registration form.

Head of Fundraising for NSPCC Scotland
Paul Cockram

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Thought for the Week

Candlemass, the Scottish Quarter Day, falls on Wednesday February 2.

It's 40 days after Christmas Day, the day we take down our crib. It's also halfway to the spring equinox. On that day, the sun – if there is any – shines directly through my south-facing window. Light fills the house.

Along with St Brigid's Day on February 1, it is an ancient Celtic festival of light. The light that shines in the darkness and will not be overcome.

On Candlemass Day, Christians process into church with lighted candles, which are blessed to represent Christ, the true Light of the World. We hold that Light.

An ancient writer said that Christians are like people 'facing east in winter'. Our backs are cold in the wintry air, but our faces are warmed by the rising sun and the hope of the coming spring, summer and harvest. We are living through wintry times. I never thought to see our parliament so disgraced or Europe threatened once more with war. I hoped growing international prosperity would feed a hungry world; that together we could address climate change. Instead, lies, greed and hate spoil everything.

Our backs are cold. Yet our faces are warmed because we trust: Truth cannot be overpowered. Christ is the Rising Light which cannot be conquered. We hope. And transformed by hope, we live truly and, living in truth, we too become the Light of the World.

**Reverend Canon Simon Mackenzie,
Lochgilphead Scottish Episcopal Church.**

ARDFERN

Bring your bike along to Craignish Village Hall tomorrow (Saturday January 29) and have it looked over by qualified cycle technicians at socially-distanced workstations.

The workshop is suitable for anyone wanting to learn how to keep their bike in good working order and to increase their basic cycle maintenance skills.

Organisers hope balance bikes will be available for budding cyclists, as well as ebikes for adults to try.

Tea and coffee will be provided and there is no need to book.

This workshop is supported by Craignish Village Hall and the Corra Foundation in collaboration with Act, The Ardrishaig Bothy and local Cycling UK project co-ordinator Joanne Clark.

KILCHRENAN

Kilchrenan Primary School parents and education officials have decided to move its six pupils to Taynuilt from Valentine's Day.

Headteacher Graham Dickie is retiring and no-one is in line to replace him.

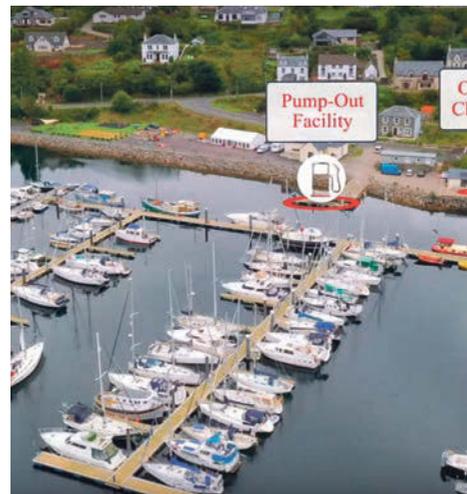
An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'Taking these factors into consideration parents, in collaboration with the council, have decided to move pupils to Taynuilt from February 14.'

'A paper is being prepared for the Community Services Committee to outline the details and options moving forward.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'It is always very sad when a local school is no longer operational, both for the families and the community. I am pleased to hear the support staff will also

transfer to Taynuilt primary. Taynuilt Primary School has an excellent reputation and having familiar people and support transferring with them will ease the transition for the children.'

ARGYLL AND BUTE



A scene from Sail Scotland's bird's-eye guide to Tarbert.

Sail Scotland has launched aerial video guides showcasing Scottish marinas and anchorages.

And Argyll features in the footage.

The national marketing organisation for sailing and marine tourism has produced the video guides with drone footage offering a bird's-eye view of the approach to each destination, including Campbeltown, Tarbert, Ardferrn, Craobh and Oban.

Pop-up text introduces the destination and standout features in the surrounding land-

scapes, before identifying key boating services and the proximity of local amenities. The viewer is then invited to step ashore for provisions, food and drink, and visits to nearby attractions.

The guides offer suggestions encouraging day trips or onward adventures and provide links to explore current offers, trip-planning information and booking links on the Sail Scotland website.

'Collaboration with destinations along Scotland's coasts, islands and canals is a key focus for Sail Scotland and we want to connect the sailing experience with shoreside experiences,' said Alan Rankin, chief executive of Sail Scotland.

'We hope the footage will inspire viewers to make plans to sail to new destinations, book cruises and spend more time on our wonderful sailing waters.'

Visit sailscotland.co.uk/plan/aerial-guides/ to view the new video guide library.

CAIRNDOW

Unpaid carers in communities near Cairndow may soon be able to take a well-earned breather thanks to a scheme proposed by community enterprise Here We Are.

The 'sit-in' service would allow volunteers to sit with a cared-for person to give the carer a break, or perhaps the volunteer might simply drop in for a chat with someone living alone.

Staff at Here We Are, based at Clachan beside the Tree Shop, are currently looking into how the scheme might work in Cairndow and Strachur and would like to hear from anyone who might benefit from this free community service.

Contact Dot Chalmers or Fiona Campbell at Here We Are on 01499 600350, or email mail@hereweare-uk.com for more information.

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Big Energy Saving Winter

Top tips to save energy from Energy Saving Trust

Editorial supplied by
Energy Saving Trust

Whether you're a homeowner, a private or social renter, a student, or you live with your parents, there are many things you can do.

We're all responsible for the energy we use in our homes. Take a look at our quick tips and see how you could save up to £248 a year* on your bills.

01 Switch off standby

You can save around £40 a year just by remembering to turn your appliances off standby mode. Almost all electrical appliances can be turned off at the plug

*Savings are for a typical three-bedroom, gas-heated home in Great Britain, using a gas price of 4.65p/kWh and electricity price of 20.06p/kWh. Water savings are based on average occupancy. This household is projected to spend a total £1,360 on energy annually

without upsetting their programming. You may want to think about getting a standby saver or smart plug which allows you to turn all your appliances off standby in one go.

Check the instructions for any appliances you aren't sure about. Some satellite and digital TV recorders may need to be left plugged in so they can keep track of any programmes you want to record.

02 Draught-proof windows and doors

Unless your home is very new, you will lose some heat through draughts around doors and windows, gaps around the floor, or through the chimney.

Professional draught-proofing of windows, doors and blocking

cracks in floors and skirting boards can cost around £200, but can save around £30 a year on energy bills. DIY draught proofing can be much cheaper.

03 Turn off lights

Turn your lights off when you're not using them or when you leave a room. This will save you around £14 a year on your annual energy bills.

Replacing all the lights in your home with LED bulbs could help you save even more.

04 Careful with your washing

You can save around £20 a year from your energy bill just by using your washing machine more carefully:

- Use your washing machine on a 30-degree cycle instead of higher temperatures and save £10 a year on energy.
- Only wash your clothes in your washing machine when you have a full load. Reducing your washing machine use by one run per week for a year could save you an extra £10.

05 Avoid the tumble dryer

Avoid using a tumble dryer for your clothes: dry clothes on racks inside where possible or outside in warmer weather to save £40 a year.

06 Spend less time in the shower

Keeping your shower time to just four minutes could save a typical household £45 a year on their energy bills.

07 Swap your bath for a shower

Some of us might enjoy a long soak in the bath, but swapping just one bath a week with a four-minute shower could save you £7 a year on your energy bills.

08 Be savvy in the kitchen

Kettles are one of the most used appliances in the kitchen. But many of us will admit that we at least occasionally boil the kettle with more water than we're going to use.

Avoid overfilling the kettle and save yourself £8 a year on your electricity bill.

You could also consider fitting an aerator onto your existing kitchen tap to reduce the amount of water coming out without affecting how it washes or rinses. An aerator is a small gadget with tiny holes – they attach to the spout of taps and are cheap and easy to install – and could save you £14 a year.

09 Fill your dishwasher

Only run your dishwasher when it is full to reduce the amount of water you use. Reducing your dishwasher by one run per week for a year could save you £10.

10 Top up the insulation

Effective insulation of your hot water cylinder is important: even if you have thin spray foam or a loose 25mm jacket, you can benefit from increasing the insulation to a British Standard Jacket 80mm thick, saving £20 a year in the process.

Insulating your water tank, pipes and radiators is a quick and easy way to save money on your bills.

For more information visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

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A helping hand, when energy bills and debts are soaring

Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau is here to help

ADVERTORIAL

Over the last few weeks, the Citizens Advice Bureau's manager Jen Broadhurst has shared some of the real-life experiences local people are facing as they struggle with the rising costs of home energy.

This week we talk to Elizabeth Dobbie, one of the bureau's advisers specialising in energy, debt and benefits advice. Elizabeth has been with the local bureau for some time now helping people with Universal Credit and now finds that she's increasingly spending more of her time advising people on what type of help best suits their circumstances as they try to cope with the rising cost of electricity and gas.

Speaking to Elizabeth, she told me: 'Lots of people think there isn't anything that can be done to help with the rises we're seeing with electricity and gas. We help people on low incomes, whether working or not working, they are finding money really tight right now. We also know people are facing higher bills especially at this time of year and struggling to manage debts.'

'To give you an example, just the other day we took a call from a lady, living on her own who had been isolating, she had run out of credit on her pre-payment meter meaning she was without heating or lighting and no money coming in for another four days. On top of that, her limited amount of food in the house wouldn't keep her fed until then.'

'The first priority was to get the lack of electricity sorted, then some food' said Elizabeth.

'Next thing was to arrange a convenient time to dis-



cuss this lady's circumstances. As soon as I ran through her income and out-goings, we identified she was paying more council tax than she was liable for, then we discussed the sizeable energy debt that she was being asked to repay to see what could be done to make her repayments a lot more affordable.

'Another regular concern we hear is overly complicated energy tariffs, the range of unit costs and daily standing charges,' said Elizabeth. 'They can be truly daunting and so can phoning energy companies to discuss tariffs or demands about huge hikes in direct debits.'

'What I would say to anyone worrying about their heating bills soaring sky high is to get in touch, let me or one of my colleagues here at Argyll and Bute Citizens

Advice Bureau help you. That's what we're here for. We can do all of the above and more, we'll help you to apply for everything you're entitled to, we specialise in accessing health-related support and benefits too. We can talk to your energy company about your tariff, the bills they are asking you to pay or any debts, energy included, that are keeping you awake at night.'

Hearing Elizabeth's encouraging words, I asked what made her become an adviser with the bureau. Elizabeth replied: 'I know everyone faces challenges and struggles, and some of those are just too much for people to cope with alone. Being an adviser is a way to lighten the load that is weighing someone down. Bureau advisers aim to show people the path to resolving their issues, and to assist them to achieve that

worried about any aspect of their energy bills, benefits or what's the best thing to do with any amount of debt, or who knows someone who may benefit from independent and confidential help, to get in touch with the local bureau. It's free and we're here to help in these tough times.'

'The energy price cap is expected to rise sharply in April and we're braced for further hikes in electricity and gas prices. With that in mind we also routinely discuss longer term solutions to help cut down on energy usage and quite often we suggest a referral to Home Energy Scotland for free and impartial advice suited to the client's type of property.'

'We also encourage people to get in touch who depend on 'unregulated fuels', such as oil, coal or wood. We can discuss affordability, budgeting and whether a Home Energy Scotland referral would be suited to the client's circumstances.'

'We welcome inquiries from all households throughout Argyll and Bute - owner occupied, housing association tenants and private tenants, and we can even work with landlords.'

'If you have been wondering what to do about your rising energy bills or debts; wondering who you can speak to in confidence, there is no better place seek help and advice than your local Citizens Advice Bureau.'

'What I would say to anyone worrying about their heating bills soaring sky high is to get in touch, let me or one of my colleagues here at Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau help you.'

resolution. It can make such a big difference to a person's well-being. There's a lot of complex rules and regulations out there - having a guide to help navigate a way through can give people clarity and peace of mind. I hope the work of the bureau eases some of the stress felt by members of our community and helps us all feel that bit better.'

A couple more things, added Elizabeth. 'We would urge anyone

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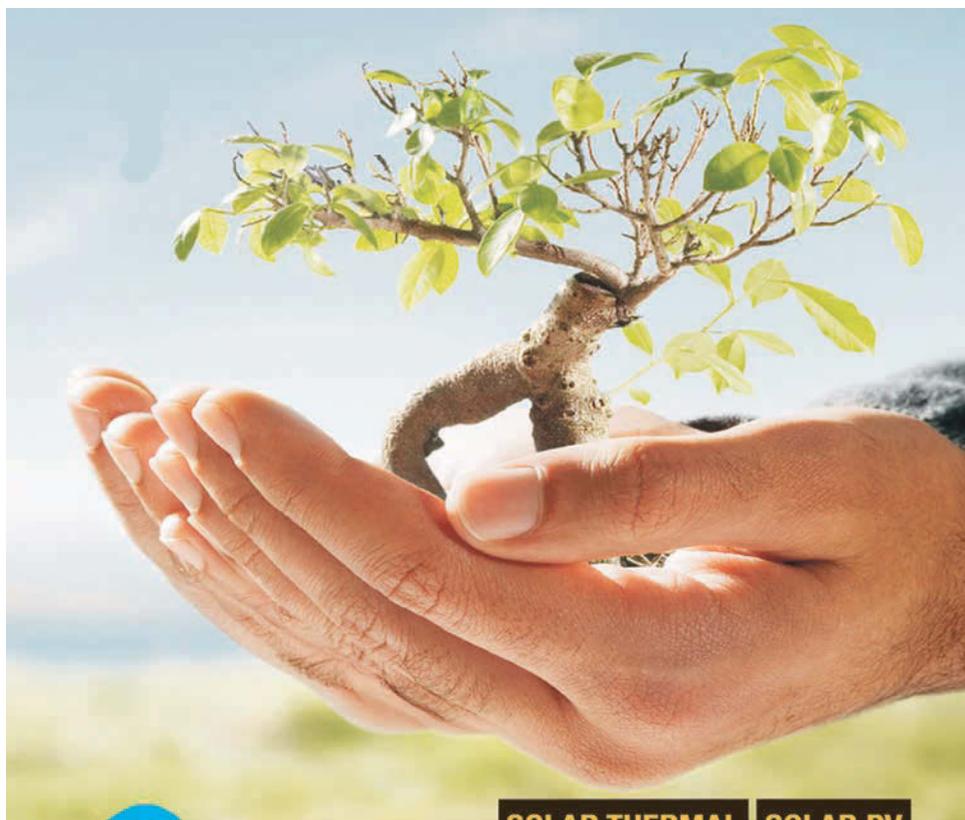


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A brief guide to some of the energy-saving technology to help reduce your bills

Editorial supplied by
Energy Saving Trust

Biomass

BENEFITS

- affordable heating fuel
- financial support
- a lower carbon option



Biomass is a renewable energy source, generated from burning wood, plants and other organic matter, such as manure or household waste. It releases carbon dioxide when burned, but considerably less than fossil fuels.

Biomass heating systems burn wood pellets, chips or logs to provide warmth in a single room or to power central heating and hot water boilers.

A stove burns logs or pellets to heat a single room – and may be fitted with a back boiler to provide water heating as well. A boiler burns logs, pellets or chips, and is connected to a central heating and hot water system. A wood-fuelled biomass boiler could save you up to £1,350 a year compared to an old electric heating system.

Solar hot water

BENEFITS

- hot water throughout the year
- reduced energy bills
- lower carbon footprint



Solar water heating systems, or solar thermal systems, use energy from the sun to warm water for storage in a hot water cylinder or thermal store. Because the amount of available solar energy varies throughout the year, a solar water heating system won't provide 100% of the hot water required throughout the year. A conventional boiler or immersion heater is normally used to make up the difference.

Larger solar hot water arrays can also be arranged to provide some contribution to heating your home. However, the amount of heat provided is generally very small (less than 10% of the home's heating requirement), so it is not usually considered worthwhile.

Most solar hot water systems are just designed to provide the hot water you use for bathing, showering and hot taps.

Home – it's somewhere you want to feel safe and warm. That involves using energy to heat or cool your property, generate hot water and power all your appliances and devices.

Around 22% of the UK's carbon emissions come from our homes, as a result.

We want to help you save money on your bills at the same time as reducing your carbon footprint. So, whether that involves being more energy efficient, generating your own renewable energy, switching to a green tariff or insulating your home to keep the heat in – Energy Saving Trust have got advice and information to help.

How does a heat pump work?

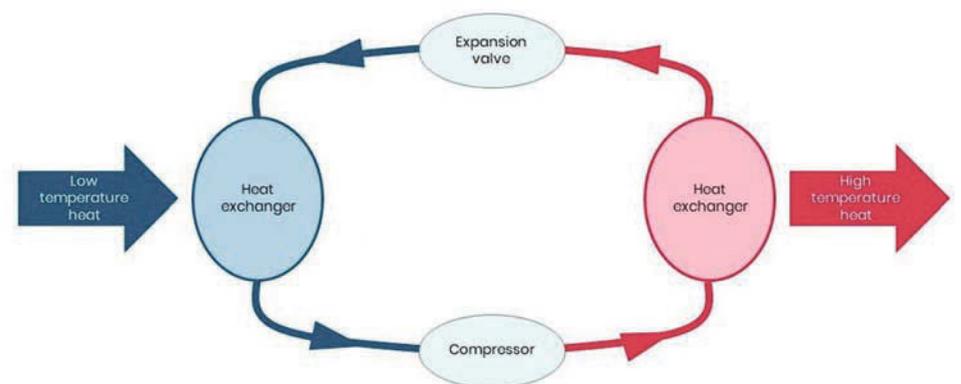
Everything around us contains thermal energy – or heat. Heat naturally flows from a warmer place to a colder place. To provide the heat energy in a home when outdoor temperatures are colder, we need heat to flow in the other direction – from a colder place to a warmer place. But how does it do it?

When the pressure of a gas increases, the temperature also increases. When the pressure decreases, the temperature decreases. This relationship between pressure and temperature is the key to how a heat pump works.

The gas is called a 'refrigerant' and a heat pump uses electricity to compress this refrigerant, increasing the pressure and therefore the temperature.

As the refrigerant's heat is transferred to your home through the heat exchanger, it cools down a little. The refrigerant is then allowed to expand so that it cools even further. It's now cold enough to absorb more heat from outside and begin the process again.

The heat delivered to the heat exchanger can then be used to heat your home. This would normally be done using a central heating system.



Types of heat pumps include:

• Air Source heat pump

With an air source heat pump (ASHP), the cold refrigerant starts its journey in the outside unit (called an evaporator). It absorbs heat energy from air blown across a heat exchanger, using fans. Although the air is cool in the winter, there is plenty of energy available because of the large volume of air that passes over the heat exchanger.

• Ground Source heat pump

With a ground source heat pump (GSHP), the heat energy is gathered from water circulating in underground pipes, which is pumped to a heat exchanger inside the house. The cool water, which is mixed with antifreeze and referred to as 'brine', passes through the heat exchanger, transferring the heat to the refrigerant, which continues its journey around the compressor circuit.

First impressions matter, as to another busy tourist season



Businesses across Oban are looking good thanks to thousands of pounds of funding to keep up appearances

Over the last year thanks to BID4Oban members' levy payments and extra funding from the Scottish Government, businesses have been able to invest more than £50,000 in how their properties look by using Business Improvement Grants to improve signs or redecorate their shop fronts.

In just under a decade BID4oban has awarded significant funds to many businesses to successfully achieve one of its key objectives - to keep the town looking good and Business Improvement Grants have played a successful part of that.

'First impressions count and last so making sure the front of business premises look bright and well cared for can have a major impact on the town's appeal and support the cost to the business,' says BID4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence.

Many businesses have used the grants to support them throughout the COVID pandemic with funding being awarded to help cafes and similar trade.

'Businesses have also used grants to enable COVID mitigation enhancements to be made. 'Some businesses have used the grants to

improve external signage at their premises. It is not just for town centre businesses and any BID4Oban Levy payer can apply for a grant.

'We are always keen to support any business and encourage them wherever possible to use local contractors to undertake any improvement works. This ensures that any funds invested benefit all local businesses and trades.

'We have fixed annual budget and funding is awarded on a first come first served basis,' added Mr Spence.

One business ready to find out more about

how a Business Improvement Grant can help keep up the town's standards is Alba Kitchen Garden in Albany Street.

Other beneficiaries include: Bay Bath & Body, Cakebreads Garden Centre, Floorshop, Highland Fasteners, Highland Fold Ice Cream, Katya Embroidery, MacGillivray's Seafood, and many more.

Full details on how a business can apply for a grant can be found by visiting www.bid4oban.co.uk or contacting the BID4Oban office in Stevenson Street.

Alba Kitchen

Albany Street, Oban



Graham Fraser took advantage of a BID4Oban Business Improvement Grant to give his Albany Street delicatessen a touch of kerb appeal.

When opening up Alba's Kitchen Garden in October 2020, owner Graham Fraser wanted the frontage to blend in with his two adjoin-

ing businesses while giving the new delicatessen its own identity at the same time.

The Albany Street premises is proving highly popular and its owner believes that his BID4Oban Business Improvement Grant helped achieve this.

'We benefited from the grant which helped us open our delicatessen, a service that had been lost to the community, during a year of pandemic,' said Graham who believes BID4Oban has become a major force achieving great benefit for the Oban community.

'They are the 'go to' organisation to get things done and have been able to bring the views of all their levy payers to the notice of Argyll and Bute Council,' he added.

'They are always 'at the table' when far reaching decisions are being made and we see the cost of our levy, which is in effect an extension of the council rates we pay, as simply a fee that pays for services which should be supplied by the council if they had been allowed to raise the rates over the last decade.

'Our fees to BID4Oban are now reaping benefits beyond their cost and providing far better value than an increase in the council rates would or could.'

Roxy's Cafe and Tea House

7 Argyll Square, Oban

A BID4Oban Business Improvement Grant came as a breath of fresh air to Roxy's Coffee and Tea House during the pandemic, as Covid threatened to reduce footfall by half.

The funding allowed the owners of the popular venue to create an outdoor seating area adjacent to the property on Airds Crescent which proved popular throughout the summer and beyond.

Proprietor Donna Macculloch said: 'The application process was very easy and we had assistance from Andy Spence, which was amazing,

'You always think these processes require you to jump through hoops but this wasn't the case. We told Andy of our vision and the reason why we felt it would be such a big game changer for Roxy's and he was with us all the way.'

Donna used the funding for the material and construction of the decking area which made a 'huge difference' to her business.



'The help we got from Bid was greatly appreciated,' she added.

'Losing 12 tables, which is basically half our customers, would have been devastating so being able to erect an outside area was fantastic.

'The logistics of turning the idea into reality was not easy as we had to develop new systems to make it comfortable for the customers and easy on the staff but we got there and can't wait to open up again when restrictions allow.'

Oban Business Development District
www.bid4oban.co.uk



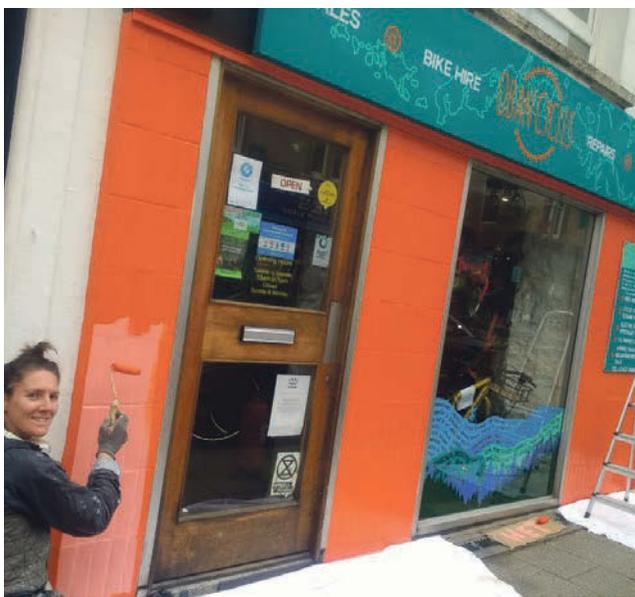
Oban looks forward

son



Oban Cycles

87 George Street, Oban



Oban Cycles is expecting a busy 2022 season, with many people wanting to explore the Hebrides and Highlands by bike. It's getting ready with a bigger hirer fleet than ever, and a spruce-up thanks to BID4Oban's Business Improvement Grant.

Christina and Martin, who run the George Street shop renting E-bikes, hybrids and mountain bikes, said it was 'pretty simple' to apply for the fund. 'It meant that we could get our signage redone, which looks a lot better,' Christina said.

'We are a small independent business, the bike industry has been hard hit by Brexit and Covid, affecting our supplies, but we are slowly starting to get stock in again which is very exciting!

'We love all things biking, particularly E-bikes and have really enjoyed getting new folk into biking because of the opportunities E-biking provides. Pop in and see what we have got!'

Avalon Hair

Boswell House, Argyll Square, Oban



Having outgrown their Albany Street premises some time ago, the team at Avalon Hair and Beauty decided to 'put on their big girl pants' and move to Boswell House.

'We were too scared to take the leap before but when we returned after the first lockdown we realised that we just didn't have the space to maintain our business with the restrictions that had been put in place,' said proprietor Jackie Den Heijer.

Not only has the move provided the workforce with more space, it has also given the business room to expand with eight workstations compared to the previous three.

Once they had the inside shipshape however Jackie and co. decided that the frontage of the salon also needed jazzing up so contacted BID4Oban to ask about a Business Improvement Grant.

'Obtaining the grant was very straightforward,' added Jackie. 'I emailed Andy (Spence) to request funding for shop front signage and then all I had to do was provide him with the invoice and the grant was paid in a matter of days. It covered one third of the total cost so it was hugely appreciated.'

Jackson Brothers Master Butchers

2 George Street, Oban



Appearance matters in retail, and for Jackson Brothers Master Butchers on George Street the hunter green facade with gold lettering lends attractive frontage to a thriving business.

Thanks to a Bid4Oban Business Frontage Improvement Grant, third generation owner Alister Jackson, was able to maintain that appeal two years ago with a fresh coat of paint and was so impressed with the process that he is ready to apply for another one.

'I'm a great supporter of Bid4Oban and the help that it gives to local businesses whether they are small, medium or large,' he told us.

'I would encourage any levy payers in Oban to apply for a Frontage Improvement Grant to make the most of what is on offer through a totally genuine scheme.

Established in 1932 Jackson Brothers Butchers is one of the longest running independent traders in Oban and offers the finest Scottish lamb, beef, pork and poultry as well as kitchen ready products and a range of BBQ food. Freshly made in-house products include steak sausages, haggis and black pudding.

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Susan is Argyll Stalwart

Tiree's Susan Lamont is this year's recipient of the Stalwart award, presented annually by NFU Scotland's Argyll and the Islands region.

First presented in 2017, the award recognises those who have made a difference to the work of the union or made a significant contribution to agriculture in the region.

The virtual regional AGM on Monday January 17 saw regional chair Duncan Macalister of Glenbarr Farms announce Susan as the 2022 winner.

Susan, who has been Tiree's NFU Scotland branch secretary for more than 20 years and was previously the NFU Mutual agent, was nominated by Pat Boyd, Tiree branch chair and seconded by Tiree's regional board representative Alastair MacInnes.

Pat, who qualified as a vet at Glasgow University alongside Susan in 1977, praised her for being loyal, reliable and hard working. It was while covering the vet practice on Tiree and Coll as a locum



NFU Scotland's Argyll and the Islands region Stalwart 2022, Susan Lamont.

that Susan met her husband, crofter Angus Lamont.

Pat added: 'Susan threw herself heart, mind and soul into crofting. If I was away on holiday, she would not only cover as locum but look after my stock too. I knew that all the animals on both Tiree and Coll were in safe and capable hands in my absence.'

'Susan enthusiastically took up the

branch secretary reins in 1998. She was always ready to respond to a consultation on crofters' behalf and would write to MPs of any political persuasion or converse with CalMac to voice concerns or grievances.

'Susan wished to retire as branch secretary a few years ago, but agreed to remain in post when no one could be found to replace her.'

Susan served on the island's new mart committee; represented Tiree on the 2007 Shucksmith Committee crofting inquiry; served on the Tiree Rural Development committee and has been a valued member of the Tiree Transport Forum. She was also involved during the recent Tiree link-span replacement, making sure farming and crofting needs were to the fore.

Duncan said: 'In the nomination it was pointed out that Susan has done more for crofting on Tiree than any other crofter in the last 35 years. That epitomises the definition of 'stalwart' and Susan is a very worthy winner of this prestigious award.'



Sandy receives the 2019 award from Sybil MacPherson and (then) regional chair John Dickson.

Sandy McKirdy

There was sadness among the farming community and far beyond with the news that Bute shepherd Sandy McKirdy had passed away on Tuesday January 11 at 97 years of age.

Sandy was the recipient of the 2019 NFU Scotland Argyll and the Islands region Stalwart award.

Inaugural award winner Sybil MacPherson from Dalmally described Sandy at the time as 'one of nature's true gentlemen'. Then aged 94, he was still active looking after sheep and training dogs for sheepdog trials.

Sybil added: 'Sandy is never one to blow his own trumpet. But very few people will have spent over 80 years tending sheep. Fewer still with his level of knowledge, interest, care and dedication. And none with Sandy's ability to 'ken' sheep. What a gift for a shepherd.'

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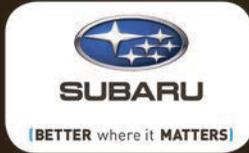
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PRESS RELEASE

The Highway Code – what's set to change?

The Highway Code is set to change on the 29th January, with eight new rules being introduced as well as 49 revisions to existing rules. Among the changes is a new 'Hierarchy of Road Users' that will prioritise vulnerable road users, such as cyclists and pedestrians, over larger motorised vehicles.

The Highway Code's new 'Hierarchy of Road Users', states that greater responsibility must be taken by road users when sharing the road with the most vulnerable road users. Another major amendment states drivers should stop and give way to pedestrians waiting to cross the road before turning into or out of junctions and also cyclists going straight ahead. The final major change will be establishing guidance on safe passing distances and speeds when overtaking cyclists or horse riders.

What are the 2022 Highway Code changes as proposed?

Rule H1: New Hierarchy of Road Users (illustrated below) Drivers of vehicles that can cause the greatest harm in the event of a collision bear the greatest responsibility to take care and reduce the danger to others. This principle applies most strongly to drivers of HGVs, buses, LGVs, cars/taxis and motorcycles. Cyclists and horse riders likewise have a responsibility to reduce danger to pedestrians.

Rule H2: New priority for pedestrians at junctions

At a junction, drivers, motorcyclists, horse riders and cyclists should give way to pedestrians crossing or waiting to cross a road into which or from which you are turning. You should give way to pedestrians waiting to cross a zebra crossing (currently you only have to give way if they're already on the crossing), and to pedestrians and cyclists waiting to cross a parallel crossing.

Rule H3: New priority for cyclists when cars are turning

Drivers and motorcyclists should not cut across cyclists, horse riders or horse drawn vehicles going ahead when you are turning into or out of a junction or changing direction or lane. This applies whether they are using a cycle lane, a cycle track, or riding ahead on the road and you should give way to them. Do not turn at a junction if to do so would cause the cyclist, horse rider or horse drawn vehicle going straight ahead to stop or swerve. You should stop and wait for a safe gap in the flow of cyclists if necessary.

Please note: Many of the rules in the Code are legal requirements, and if you disobey these rules you are committing a criminal offence. You may be fined, given penalty points on your licence, or be

disqualified from driving. In the most serious cases you may be sent to prison. Such rules are identified by the use of the words 'MUST/MUST NOT'.

Although failure to comply with the other rules of the Code will not, in itself, cause a person to be prosecuted, The Highway Code may be used in evidence in any court proceedings under the Traffic Acts to establish liability. This includes rules which use advisory wording such as 'should/should not' or 'do/do not'.

Full changes to The Highway Code can be at www.gov.uk

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GRADUATIONS



LAUREN MCKELLAR

Lauren McKellar graduated from Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh with a BSc (Hons) in Urban Planning And Property Development. Lauren is the second daughter of Campbell and Carol, Campbeltown and granddaughter of Christine and the late Hugh McKellar and Jean and the late Malcolm Gilchrist. Lauren is currently working with Midlothian Council within The Planning Department.



AVA MCLATCHIE

Ava Mclatchie has graduated from UWS with a BSc in Midwifery and is currently working in the Princess Royal Maternity Hospital in Glasgow. Ava is the daughter of John and Jackie Mclatchie, Moy Farm Campbeltown. Pictured celebrating recently at her graduation.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Electricity Act 1989

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, The Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020, Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 and Coronavirus (COVID-19): Planning Guidance on Pre-Application Consultations for Public Events

Notice is hereby given that **Ridge Clean Energy** invite comments from members of the public regarding the proposal for Ladyfield Wind Farm, located **approximately 4.7 km north of Inveraray (centred on National Grid References 210500, 715500), within Argyll and Bute Council.** The proposed Ladyfield Wind Farm would be greater than 50 MW and will be determined by the Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government, if a subsequent application is made.

Public consultation events will take place on **Wednesday 2nd February 2022 between 4:30 pm and 8:30pm at Dalmally Community Centre, Dalmally, PA33 1AX and Thursday 3rd February 2022 between 4:30 pm and 7:30 pm at Inveraray Inn, Front St E, Inveraray, PA32 8XB.** Prior to attending events, 15-minute consultation slots can be booked via the project website at www.ridgecleanenergy.com/ladyfield/.

For parties unable to attend the events in person, questions or requests for clarification in respect of the proposal may be submitted by **Friday 11th February 2022** via www.ridgecleanenergy.com/ladyfield/, marked 'for the attention of Ladyfield Wind Farm' via info@arcusconsulting.co.uk, or by calling **07917797943**.

Full details of the proposal can be viewed on the project website at www.ridgecleanenergy.com/ladyfield/. Alternatively, hard copies of information can be provided upon request.

Comments and feedback are to be made by **Friday 18th February 2022** via the project website or marked 'for the attention of 'Ladyfield Wind Farm' via info@arcusconsulting.co.uk or Arcus Consultancy Services Limited, 7th Floor, 144 West George Street, Glasgow, G2 2HG. Comments must be sent to the above contact and do not constitute a formal representation to Argyll and Bute Council or the Energy Consents Unit. An opportunity to make a formal representation will exist if a subsequent planning application is made.

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

The applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Having regard to Schedule 6, Part 3, s10 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020, documents are only available to inspect electronically at this time. Customers requiring assistance can contact us by e-mail: planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk or tel. 01546 605518.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
21/02474/PP	Installation of metal flue (retrospective)	Old School House, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute, PA31 8SQ
21/02414/PP	Demolition of net store, erection of 4 flats and associated parking	Land North Of Victoria Hotel, Barmore Road, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute
21/02532/PP	Change of use from bank to internet sales hub including alterations to access and boundary wall and erection of boundary fence	Former TSB Bank, 15 Bolgam Street, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute, PA28 6HZ
21/02660/MFF	Installation of feed barge to existing fish farm site	Furnace Fish Farm, Furnace, Argyll And Bute
21/02327/PP	Installation of a waterless toilet unit	Land South West Of Taynish Workshop, Tayvallich, Argyll And Bute
21/02359/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land South Of Caolside, Lady Ileene Road, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute
21/02460/PP	Erection of 2 dwellinghouses and formation of vehicular accesses	Land East Of 23 Barmore View, Kilmartin, Argyll And Bute
21/02157/PP	Demolition of conservatory and erection of extension	Glenoran, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute, PA31 8RA
21/02389/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and garage with connecting glazed link between	Plot 6 Port A'Buorrain Farmhouse, Glenbarr, Argyll And Bute

Written comments can be submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/submit-and-comment-planning-applications> or to Argyll and Bute Council, Development Management, Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed on the Councils website. Customers are requested to use electronic communication where possible during the coronavirus pandemic as our ability to process postal mail is restricted.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Argyll and Bute Council

CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 TAXI FARE REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that Argyll and Bute Council, having consulted with taxi operators licensed by the authority, propose to make the following changes to the maximum fares and other charges for taxis operating within the jurisdiction of Argyll and Bute Council. It is proposed these maximum fares and other charges will become effective from 22nd April 2022.

Any person wishing to lodge representations in respect of these proposals should do so by writing to the Head of Legal & Regulatory Support, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT or by emailing: licensing@argyll-bute.gov.uk no later than 28th February 2022.

Tariff	Description	Rate
Tariff 1	Hirings from ranks or "flag" Hiring between 7am and 10pm	£3.45 23 pence
	Initial charge (860 yards or part thereof) Subsequent charge (each 176 yards or part thereof) (general effect is an increase of 15% = 45p and 3p)	
Tariff 2	Hirings from ranks or "flag" Hiring between 10pm and 7am	£4.14 23 pence
	Initial charge (860 yards or part thereof) Subsequent charge (each 150 yards or part thereof) Tariff 2 also applies to hirings from ranks or "flag" between 6pm and 10pm December 24th, 6pm and 10pm December 31st and between 7am 2nd January and 7am 3rd January (general effect is an increase of 15% = 54p and 3p)	
Tariff 3	Hiring from ranks or "flag" between 10pm 24th December and 7am 27th December and between 10pm 31st December and 7am 2nd January	£4.83 23 pence
	Initial Charge (860 yards or part thereof) Subsequent Charge (each 120 yards or part thereof) (general effect is an increase of 15% = 63p and 3p)	

Soiling Charge – £100 maximum (with permission to display warning signs indicating that there may be an additional charge for any potential loss of earnings suffered as a consequence)

Waiting Time – 40 pence per minute commencement of journey, charged on a pro rata basis per second

(general effect is an increase of 5p)

Taxi called by mean of telephone – 35 pence additional charge

(general effect is an increase of 5p)

Large Mini-bus type vehicle (carrying 5 or more passengers together at their own request)–

a) Where Tariff 1 would apply – charge Tariff 2

b) Where Tariff 2 would apply – charge Tariff 3

c) Where Tariff 3 would apply – surcharge £1.15 **(general effect is an increase of 15p)**

Fee by negotiation – for all journeys commencing within but finishing outwith Argyll and Bute, in a place of the above charges, such fares may be charged as prior to the acceptance of the hire, were proposed to the hirer and accepted by him/her

Ferry Fares – The hirer shall be liable for the cost of a return ferry fare for any journey involving a ferry

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TARBERT & SKIPNESS COMMUNITY TRUST
AND REPORT FROM OUR TRADING COMPANY
TARBERT & SKIPNESS RENEWABLES LTD

Thursday 17th February 2022 at 6.30 p.m.

To be held in Tarbert Village Hall
(Covid restrictions allowing)

Further information available from
www.tsct.org.uk info@tsct.org.uk

Followed at 7.00 p.m. by



AGM TARBERT CASTLE TRUST

www.tarbertcastle.info

Kintyre Angling Club AGM

Friday 11th
February 2022

at 7.30pm

in St. John's
Recreational Club,
Campbeltown.

**COURIER
PUBLIC NOTICES**

GLENRAMSKILL FARM WOODLAND CREATION PROPOSALS

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION DROP IN EVENT

Scottish Woodlands Ltd have produced draft proposals for a woodland creation scheme at Glenramskill Farm. The views of the local community are being sought at a drop in consultation event being held at Campbeltown Town Hall on the 15th February 2022 between 3pm and 7.30pm. The event is open to all who want to find out more and comment on the project.

For more information please contact
David Johnson on 07508 798273

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cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

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12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

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www.facebook.com/campbeltowncourier

BIRTH



MARTIN - James and Jo-Anne are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter Holly Arianna on Friday, December 3, 2021 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley. A beautiful wee sister for Emma. Grateful thanks to all midwives in both Campbeltown and Paisley.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Peacefully at the Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead on January 20, 2022, Mary B. Campbell, née Gillies, in her 82nd year, of 6 Fernoch Park, Lochgilphead. Beloved wife of Peter Campbell and much loved mother of Sheila and Petra. Dearly loved sister of the late Jean and John; dear sister-in-law, aunt and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service was held in Lochgilphead Parish Church on Thursday, January 27, 2022, followed by an interment at Ach-na-breac Cemetery. Sadly missed.

CARMICHAEL - Peacefully at the Campbeltown Hospital, on January 17, 2022, Vivien Park Carmichael, in her 77th year, dearly beloved wife of Michael Carmichael, much loved mum of Samantha, Fiona and Kirsty and a loving gran of Lorne and Eilidh. A private cremation has already taken place at Woodside Crematorium, Paisley.

LAFFERTY - Peacefully at home, 12 Range Road, Campbeltown, surrounded by her family, on January 23, 2022, Janet McCallum Graham (Jenny) in her 84th year, dearly beloved wife of the late William Clark Lafferty (Billy), much loved mother of Jean Anne, Kenneth, Maureen, Clark and Graeme, a loving granny of Stewart, Paul, Richard, Neil, Tamara, Gayle, Clark, Alex, Hannah, Joshua and Georgia, a much loved sister and an expecting great-granny in waiting. Janet's service will take place on Saturday, January 29, 2022. The cortège will leave the home address at 11.00 a.m. after a short prayer. We will travel

down Range Road, along Meadows Avenue, down Ralston Road, through Main Street, up Longrow, down Mill Street, Lady Mary Row, Lochend Street, Aqualibrium Avenue and round The Cross on our way to Kilkerran Cemetery. Anyone is welcome to attend the service at the cemetery, alternatively you may pay your last respects to Janet along our route.

MCLEAN - Peacefully in the Sunshine Room at the Campbeltown Hospital, surrounded by his family, on January 22, 2022, William McLean (Willie) in his 80th year, Balnabraid, Kilkerran Road, Campbeltown, formerly of Lephenstrath Farm, Southend, dearly beloved husband of Margaret McKerral, loving dad of Willie, Katie and Davie and a proud grampa to Laura, Ashley, Rory, Sam, Jamie, Erin and Josie. Willie's service will take place on Friday, January 28 at 1.00 pm in Southend Church. The cortège will leave the church at 1.30 pm. We will turn right coming out of the church and travel through Cattadale Glen on our way to Keil Cemetery. Anyone is welcome to attend the service in church, alternatively you may pay your last respects to Willie along our route.

STEWART - Peacefully at the Campbeltown Hospital, on January 19, 2022, Margaret Meikle Semple, née Millar, in her 88th year, Witchburn Terrace, Campbeltown, youngest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Robert Millar, formerly of Kilkivan. Beloved wife of the late Robert (Bob) Graham and then of the late George (Tony) Stewart, much loved by her sons Kenneth and Alastair, Kenneth's partner Gillian and daughter-in-law Monique. Loving grandma to Fraser, Cameron and Ailsa and cherished great-grandma to Jamie. Margaret's service will take place on Tuesday, February 1 at 12.15 pm at Cardross Crematorium, all friends are respectfully invited. No flowers please. Any donations may be made to the Red Cross.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

DOYLE - A celebration of the life of James (Bogey) Doyle, will take place at Inveraray Parish Church,

on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 2pm, and thereafter at the George Hotel, to which all friends are respectfully invited.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - Angus and the family would like to thank everyone for the many kind expressions of sympathy received and for phone calls and cards following the recent loss of Cathie. Special thanks to all the carers over the last six years and to Bibby and everyone who helped at Drimnin. Thanks also to the Rev Donald McCorkindale for his uplifting and fitting service, Stan Lupton Funeral Director for his excellent professional, personal and kind support and to all who attended the funeral and paid their last respects.

MACLEOD - Jenny, Seonaid and Anne would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions

of sympathy, cards and flowers on the recent sad loss of Donald. Thanks to the Rev Lyn Peden for her support and comforting service. Grateful thanks to the staff of Carr Gomm and Lochgilphead Community Hospital for their care and attention. Thanks also to Stan Lupton and staff for their professional services arranging and conducting the funeral. Finally thanks to everyone who attended the service in Tarbert Parish Church and at Cardross Crematorium.

MEMORIAM

MACKINLAY - In loving memory of Alexander MacKinlay Jnr, died January 25, 2016.

Memories last forever.
- Sadly missed by Mum, John, Jason, Kelly-Anne and family.
Gone but not forgotten.
- Daughter, Courtney.

MEMORIAM

BRISTOW - Bill, March 1, 1926 - January 22, 2018. Much loved and missed.



When Bill was able he kept himself actively involved within Campbeltown, Southend and Isle of Gigha communities. Always keen to help a worthy cause and provide solace when and where needed.

- On behalf of Bristow family.

CHURCH NOTICES

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Despite all my emotions I will believe and praise the One who saves me, my God. Psalm 42

Join us on **Sunday, 30 January** at 11am for our morning service in the church.

If you cannot make it in person, you can still join us online. To join the Zoom service, send your email address to officespringbankchurch@gmail.com and you will be sent a link to join us on Sunday via Zoom www.springbankchurch.org.uk <https://www.facebook.com/springbankchurch> Contact phone number 01586 551237 - Church Secretary

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



Sunday services 10 am Saddell and Carradale Church SC002609
10 am Highland Church, Campbeltown SC002493
11.30am Southend Church SC005484
Covid 19 restrictions apply
Ministers Revd Steve Fulcher
Revd Christine Fulcher
01586 830504
www.kintyreparishes.org.uk

ST. MARGARET'S RC CHURCH
Lochgilphead
Holy Mass Sunday 10AM
ALL SAINTS INVERARAY
Holy Mass Sunday 12.30pm
Fr Henry Nkob
01546602380
All Welcome

CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH



Sunday 30th January
11.15am Worship Service
Rev Duncan Murchison
11.15am Sunday School
Wednesday 2nd February
12 noon Bible Study and Prayer (by Zoom)
All welcome
www.campbeltownfree-church.co.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Sunday 11am Holy Eucharist
St Columba, Pottalloch
1st Sunday
Holy Communion 9am
3rd Sunday Evensong 3.30pm
(SCO13787, 31391)

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH



A warm welcome awaits you in the Kirk Street Hall at 11:00am
Baptist Church Pastor Mark Jasper 01586 554 092
pastor@campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk
www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk
www.facebook.com/campbeltowncommunitychurch
SC043322

SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday Worship
10 am Skipness (SC004280)
11.30 am Tarbert (SC002622)
Covid guidelines apply
Minster Rev Lyn Peden
Tel: 01880 820158

ST. KIERAN'S, ST. JOHN STREET, CAMPBELTOWN

01586 552160
campbeltown@rcdai.org.uk
Worship: Saturday (Vigil Mass), 6.00pm
Sundays, Holy Mass, 10am
Most liturgies live streamed.
<https://www.facebook.com/campbeltownrcchurch>
A Parish of the R.C. Diocese of Argyll and the Isles; Charitable Trust, a registered Scottish Charity, SC002876
Parish Priest: Fr. A. Wood

LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 30th January
Morning Worship 11.15am
Gen 1 Triple C
Rev C Holden
Everyone welcome
COVID Guidelines apply

ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES

Sunday 30th January
Psalm 71
Ardrishaig at 11:00am (including the Lord's Supper) and Achahoish at 12:30pm
Wednesday
Time to Pause?
Ardrishaig Church Hall 12:45pm-1:15pm
Please note that Covid19 control measures apply at all Services (Masks are required)

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 30th January
11.00am Worship service
Rev Robert MacLeod
More info at www.lpchurch.co.uk
Lochgilphead Parish Church of Scotland
SC016311

GLASSARY, KILMARTIN AND FORD PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 30th January 2022
11.15am
Mr Jim Malcolm
All very welcome
Please remember to wear a mask

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 30 January
Tayvallich Church
10am Morning Worship
Mr Jim Malcolm
Booking required
Tel 01546 870350
Covid restrictions apply. Further information can be found on the church website
www.northknapdale.org

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND WEST LOCHFYNESIDE (Cumlodden, Inveraray and Lochgair)

Sunday 30th January 2022
There will be a Communion service
In Cumlodden church at 10.30am
Led by the Rev. Dorothy Wallace
Masks must be worn when attending either church.
Charity No: SC016665

SALVATION ARMY



Sunday 30th January
11am Worship Service
11am Army Kidz
6.30pm Evening Service
Wednesdays 12pm Lunch club
7pm Make & Munch Craft Group
Covid 19 measures in place
If we can be of any assistance to anyone during this time please call us on 01586 552046 Major Ruth Russell
Scottish Charity Number SC009359

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Source: YouGov 2018

Think ahead to spring in February's garden

It's time to give your garden some love in February by giving it a bit of a tidy-up and a quick assessment of any initial winter damage.

There will still be frosts and winter weather ahead, but at least you can plan and prepare for the spring waiting to arrive.

And if one of your gardening new year's resolutions was to plant a tree then now is the time to make that thought become a reality.

In the coldest months of the year, you can buy bare rooted or root balled trees which are cheaper and establish better.

These are trees and shrubs that are lifted straight from the ground and should be planted by the end of February whilst they are still dormant before there are any signs of growth - or by the end of March, possible into April, in the north of Scotland.

Bare root and root balled trees can only be bought when

Outdoors, as the garden comes to life again, it's time to prune shrubs and climbers, such as wisteria as well as evergreen hedges

the weather is cold because once it warms up the root ball dries out too quickly unless planted in the ground.

By planting in winter, it means that by spring and early summer, trees will have benefited from optimum growing conditions and had the opportunity to establish their root system whilst dormant.

The key to successful tree planting is to ensure you prepare the site well, first by digging a hole large enough to accommodate the root system. Avoid planting if the

ground is frozen or extremely waterlogged.

Your planting hole should be no deeper than the roots, but at least three times the diameter of the root ball. It is a good idea to soak bare-rooted trees for about 30 minutes before planting.

Place the tree in the planting hole so the first flare of roots on the stem are level with the soil surface - if you plant the tree too deep, it can result in rot and disease.

You also may need to insert a stake for top-heavy or larger trees. Refill the planting hole, firm gently and water in.

Drought stress is common in newly planted trees so make sure you keep watering throughout the growing season.

The quantity required will vary with soil type but 30-50 litres per square metre (four to six watering cans) each week in dry weather will do the trick.

If you are growing your own vegetables, then now is a good time to sow lettuce seeds - both under cover and outside. If you start now it will give you a continuous supply that can be harvested throughout the year.

Sow in modules or fibre pots under cover to have lettuces ready to plant outside in four to six weeks time.

You can also sow outdoors, but use cloches or small poly tunnels until next month when the soil has warmed up - they will also provide your lettuce seedlings with protection from birds and slugs.



In the coldest months of the year you can buy bare rooted or root balled trees which are cheaper and establish better.

Good varieties to start now include cut-and-come again Salad Bowl - oak leaved, high yield with green and red varieties; a cos such as Lobjoits Green - dense, crisp heads with self folding leaves; or the small butterhead Tom Thumb - perfect for growing in small spaces, it matures early and has a mild taste.

You can share the gardening love this February by preparing for spring and carrying out some basic maintenance.

As the Royal Horticultural Society says, this month there

are signs of the approaching spring, with bulbs appearing and wildlife waking up as light levels and temperatures increase.

There is plenty to do indoors this month to prepare for the season ahead.

Outdoors, as the garden comes to life again, it's time to prune shrubs and climbers, such as wisteria as well as evergreen hedges.

Top three jobs this month:
■ prepare vegetable beds and sow some vegetables under cover;

■ chit potatoes (let them grow shoots) to plant out;

■ prune winter flowering shrubs that have finished flowering.



It's time to start chitting the potatoes. 51_a04potatosprouts01

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Artist Lily Maerae... Underwater photography...
A Scot's 5,000-mile trek across Canada...

Superteam excel at national event

Almost two years after they last competed, Mid Argyll Athletics Club achieved an impressive score at the National Superteams competition.

Held in Glasgow's Emirates Arena, the Superteams event was cancelled last year due to the pandemic, but made a welcome return on Sunday January 23.

Four young athletes from Mid Argyll Athletic Club travelled to Glasgow for the indoor event that attracted teams from all parts of Scotland.

All four of the under-12 team contested three individual events: the 60-metre sprint; long jump and shot-putt.

After demonstrating their individual talents the girls came together for a challenging 4 x 200 metres relay.

In total 36 teams entered the girls' competition which was won by Giffnock North A.

Mid Argyll's top performance came from Neve Bowden who scored 159 points which she achieved through a 10.63-second 60 metres, a 4.56-metre shot-putt and

2.90-metre long jump. Neve, who was a member of the Mid Argyll squad taking part in the last indoor Superteams event in 2020, captained the Mid Argyll quartet.

Also representing the club were Calleigh McNair, Sophie Kerr and Emma Litster.

All four girls contributed to a points score of 544 and had a great experience competing in the large arena. Sophie Kerr's 4.85-metre throw in the shot-putt also gained valuable points.

The athletic club meets

on Monday nights at Lochgilphead Joint Campus with primary ages [from seven years] up to P6 from 6.30pm and primary 7 and high school ages from 7.45pm. New members are welcome.

Mid Argyll's young athletes competed in the National Superteams. Left to right: Emma Litster; Neve Bowden; Calleigh McNair and Sophie Kerr.



Hard fight reaps no reward

**Mid Argyll U18 - 0
Ayr-Wellington U18 - 78
West Youth U18 Cup**

Saturday January 22 saw a return to rugby for Mid Argyll Boys in the West Youth Cup.

Not having played a game for more than two years, Mid Argyll had a squad of 17 for the game, all eager to get back to playing.

Ayr made the long journey to Slockavullin where the game was to be held while Mid Argyll wait to develop their new facility in Lochgilphead.

With a good crowd gathering, the anticipation for this long-awaited game could be felt by the players and coaches.

Ayr kicked off and the game started at an intense pace with some excellent defensive work and little ground gained by either team.

Ayr made the breakthrough with good attacking play out wide and scored the first try.



From there, Mid Argyll fought back and had a great chance to score, but a dropped ball stopped them metres from the line.

Ayr then drove back up field and crossed the line for their second try.

With the score 0-14, Mid Argyll showed great courage to get back into attacking positions, only to see their efforts stopped by some excellent Ayr defensive work.

The score line was very one sided, but this certainly didn't

Mid Argyll steal the line-out from Ayr in a hard-fought match.

reflect the game with Mid Argyll having a lot of possession in the Ayr half of the field, but they just couldn't find the finishing touch to cross the line.

Ayr, on the other hand, showed great finishing skills when they got near the Mid Argyll try-line and the first half finished 0-35.

The second half started similarly to the first with both teams unwilling to give any ground and a hard battle was fought by both sets of forwards.

Some good play from both teams was making for a great

game, enjoyed by the home crowd.

Eventually Ayr broke through to score again. If not for a few small handling errors and some great breakaway running from the Ayr backs, the score would have been pulled back.

The effort put in by Mid Argyll to compete with a very good Ayr team, who have already played 16 games this season, can't be understated.

The Mid Argyll boys fought right to the end to get that elusive first score, but unfortunately it never came.

The final score was 0-78, but this certainly didn't reflect the hard work Mid Argyll put into this game.

The whole team showed great skills in patches and a first-class work ethic all over the pitch.

The Ayr coaches congratulated Mid Argyll for a very competitive game.

With a lot of positives taken from this first game, and with a few key players to come back into the squad, they can be confident moving forward to the next game away to GHK in Glasgow on Sunday February 6.

This will be followed by a home game, again at Slockavullin, versus Whitecraigs on Saturday February 19.

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