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What better time to build your own home?

8-PAGE GUIDE INSIDE



HELP ELAINE CONQUER THE WORLD

Mid Argyll's very own racing star Elaine MacEachern is aiming for the top – but she needs help.

Just four months after breaking her leg at the Women's Motocross World Championships in Madrid, talented Elaine is hungry to test herself once more against the very best.

After a three-year break from the sport, Ormsary girl Elaine stormed to the 2021 British Women's Motocross title.

Moving on to the world championship Spanish round, there was disappointment as the rigours of practise left her with a broken tibia and fibula.

Now fit again and excited for 2022, Elaine is looking for new sponsors.

She explained: 'The support I receive is incredibly kind and a huge factor in me being able to achieve the British championship in 2021.'

'This year my plans are to defend the women's British title, to race as many women's

world championship rounds as possible and also in the MX2 class in the ScotMX championship alongside the men.

'For the women's British they have moved from three rounds to six. The five already announced are all in

Continued on page 3.

Argyll Holidays is sold

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

A fast-expanding US holiday firm has snapped up Argyll Holidays, one of the region's largest private employers, with a pledge to invest in the company's eight holiday parks.

Argyll Holidays, which describes itself as 'Scotland's market-leading holiday brand' becomes the fifth acquisition by international resort operator Cove Communities – headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona – since it entered the UK market in 2019 with the purchase of Bunn Leisure Family Resort in West Sussex.

The origins of Argyll Holidays go back to the late 1960s, when farmer and entrepreneur Douglas Campbell – whose family came from Carradale – and his wife Jean

operated a small caravan and pony trekking enterprise at Drimsynie, Lochgoilhead.

The business soon expanded to incorporate chalets, leisure centres and even Argyll's first and only ice rink as sons Keith, Allan and Roy joined the family business.

Douglas Campbell passed away in 2015 with Argyll Holidays operating across eight sites from Lochgoilhead to Loch Awe and Dunoon to Loch Lomond.

Run to this day by his three sons, Argyll Holidays employs around 250 people across the region.

Keith Campbell, director of Argyll Holidays, told the Advertiser: 'All three of us left school at 15 and, apart from going to New Zealand and Australia to work at different

Continued on page 3.

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Be aware of police impersonation

The public is urged to be vigilant for a current banking scam involving people impersonating police officers.

Between October 2021 and January 2022, more than 30 reports were received from members of the public, who had either been visited or contacted by people claiming to be Police Scotland officers.

On each occasion, the victim was contacted by telephone from someone claiming to be from a bank fraud department and advised that their bank account had been compromised.

They were then requested to either transfer money remotely to another account online or attend at a bank and remove cash, which would later be collected by a police officer.

Superintendent Hilary Sloan said: 'If you receive such a call, or visit, ask for the officer's details and which department



they work for. If the contact is by telephone, hang up and if possible use a different phone to contact the police service via 101, where you will speak to genuine members of Police Scotland and can request police officer verification.

'We began a national roll-out of new identification cards, which feature an up-to-date picture of the officer, along with other key information and various security enhancements that make them extremely difficult to replicate.

'If you receive an email claiming to be from Police

Scotland with a link to an external site to make a payment, this may also be fraudulent.

'Be aware of phishing scams and verify that any link provided is genuine.

'If you receive something claiming to be from us requesting any form of payment, contact us via 101 to investigate this matter before parting with your money.'

Those with information can contact Police Scotland via 101. Alternatively, an anonymous report can be made to the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



The show features a wide variety of attractions and showcases the very best of livestock from Mid Argyll and further afield.

The Mid Argyll Show must go on

After an enforced break due to the Covid pandemic, there are plans for the return of the popular Mid Argyll Show this August – the first to be held in three years.

The show committee agreed at its AGM on Thursday January 27 that the preparations should be made for the event's return on Saturday August 13, 2022.

The show, held at Kilmory showground, features a wide variety of attractions, including horse and pony competitions, home industries, dog shows, trade and charity stalls, local food and many other entertainments – as well as showcasing the very best of livestock from Mid Argyll and further afield.

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Not only do we provide you with more news and information about your community, your schools, and your organisations than any other newspaper in the region, but during this pandemic we've kept you updated on the latest news and views, locally and nationally.

This week, the Argyllshire Advertiser goes up in price by 5p to £1 - the first increase in three years.

We have had to make this difficult decision due to a rise in paper costs, but we believe the Argyllshire Advertiser is worth it. And we hope you do too.

Thank you for your support and we hope you continue to enjoy reading your Argyllshire Advertiser.

POLICE FILES

No insurance and disqualified

At 12pm on Monday January 24 on the A83 at Auchindrain, police carried out routine checks of a vehicle which revealed that it allegedly did not have a policy of insurance in place. The vehicle was stopped and the driver, a man aged 47, then allegedly provided false details to officers and was found to be driving while disqualified. He was charged with the offences and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Breach of peace

On Thursday January 27 at 10.15pm, a 40-year-old man acted in a disorderly manner at an address in Glen Road, Bridgend on Islay. He was subsequently arrested and issued a recorded police warning.

No valid MOT

At 12pm on Thursday January 27 at Bishopton Road, Lochgilphead, police carried out routine checks of a vehicle which revealed that it did not allegedly have a valid test certificate in place. The vehicle was stopped and the driver, a woman aged 70, was

made aware of the offence. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Vehicle checks

Police carried out routine checks of a vehicle at 8.50am on Thursday January 20 on Lochnell Street, Lochgilphead, which revealed that it did not allegedly have a valid test certificate in place. The vehicle was stopped and the driver, a man aged 23, was made aware of the offence. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Possession

At midnight on Saturday January 29 on Union Street, Lochgilphead, police had cause to stop a vehicle for the purposes of a drugs search. The 38-year-old male driver was found to be in possession of a quantity of cannabis. He was issued a recorded police warning.

Abusive behaviour

It is alleged that a 42-year-old man acted in a threatening and abusive manner towards a woman at 8.30pm on Saturday January 29 at an address in Ross Crescent, Lochgilphead. He was arrested, charged with the offence and kept in custody to appear at court.

Investment promised as Argyll Holidays sold

Continued from page 1. times, we've worked together all our lives.

'We built up the business, obviously starting with mother and father then working alongside them before we carried things on ourselves.'

Argyll Holidays, he said, had been approached numerous times in recent years by people looking to buy the business.

'Even during Covid we were getting two calls per week,' said Mr Campbell. 'But there was nothing before now which sat comfortably with us, bearing in mind that we have a fantastic team of staff. Then Cove

Drimsynie Estate Holiday Village on the shores of Loch Goil. Photo: Jeff Holmes.

Communities came along and it ticked all the boxes. It is the ideal custodian of Argyll Holidays, sharing the same values and commitment to the preservation and investment in the destinations we own.'

He is, however, keeping the sale price under wraps.

Mark Seaton, Cove UK managing director, said: 'Argyll Holidays represents everything that Cove looks for – stunning properties, beautiful and unique locations,



and an aspirational lifestyle offering.

'Simply put, it is the best at what it does.

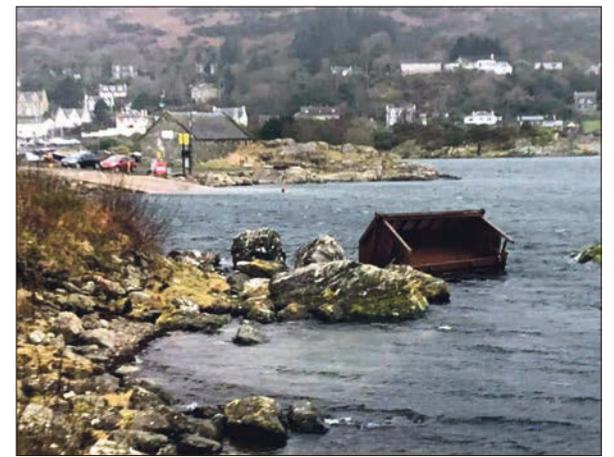
'Most importantly we will grow and develop the vision of Argyll under Cove through sustainable business practices, a commitment to environmental conservation and investment in people and the local community.'

Despite lean times during Covid lockdown, Mr Campbell said that the holiday park industry had recently enjoyed 'record-breaking' business. Covid, he added, played no part in the decision to sell the business.

He continued: 'My father always said he wanted to be the best in the west.'

'Cove Communities has more than 190 parks in America, and when its chairman and chief executive were here in August they said our Drimsynie and Loch Lomond parks would be in their top five, so I think he would be quite pleased.'

Mr Seaton concluded: 'We are delighted to add Argyll to our portfolio and will continue the exceptional work that the Campbell family has started.'



The Tarbert ferry shelter adrift in the loch on Saturday morning. Photo: Dan Hunt.

Floating shelters and felled trees

Trees fell, ferries were disrupted and some power was lost, but once again Argyll escaped the worst impact of the latest Atlantic storms.

Saturday January 29 saw Storm Malik sweep in, closely followed the day after by Storm Corrie, with gusts of 50mph-plus in places.

But, as with Arwen two months earlier, it was the north-east of Scotland which took the brunt,

with gusts of in excess of 90mph across areas such as Aberdeenshire.

SSEN personnel from Argyll have been deployed east to help efforts to restore electricity to thousands of households left without supply.

Amid the wild weather, a public shelter at Tarbert ferry terminal landed in Loch Fyne and several trees caused short-term disruption as they fell across roads.



Cove UK managing director Mark Seaton, centre, with Argyll Holidays directors Allan, left, and Keith Campbell.



CalMac staff work hard to free the HGV from the ramp.

Truck stuck at Tarbert

Ferry operator CalMac had more than weather and other much-publicised problems to worry about this week after a lorry became stuck while disembarking at Tarbert.

The lorry was heading ashore from the MV Loch Tarbert at around 12.30pm on Tuesday February 1 when the difficulty occurred.

A CalMac spokesperson said: 'A lorry got stuck when it lost traction going off the ramp when the vessel arrived in Tarbert, but managed to get off once the tide dropped sufficiently. Neither it nor the vessel was damaged.'

'The ferry wasn't delayed because of this, but there were delays due to bad weather.'

Help Elaine conquer the world

Continued from page 1. England, which means a lot of travelling.

'The women's world championships rounds will be in Italy (twice), France, Spain, Portugal and Turkey. I would love to make as many rounds as possible to see how I compare against the best in the world.'

'Without the help of my sponsors in 2021 I would have struggled to get to the track on race weekends and practise throughout the year.'

'I will be able to publicise your company logo on my bikes, jerseys, motorhome and social media platforms. I would be very grateful for anyone who would be willing to help out.'

If you would like to help, contact Elaine by emailing on elainemac32@hotmail.com or via her Facebook page.



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Argyll islands will fly high with world-class drone hub

Plans for a drone hub to service Argyll's islands with unmanned flights have taken a major step forward.

Following the success of a pilot scheme last year that saw drones flying thousands of medical samples from the islands to NHS facilities, £170,000 of UK Government Levelling Up funding has been awarded to create an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) logistics hub at Oban airport.

The hub will be a high-tech base for electrically-powered drones to transport medicines, biological samples and cargo between islands and the mainland.

The funding boost for the hub and a drone-flying training academy builds on the Argyll and Bute Rural Growth Deal proposal which includes plans for a vertiport take-off and landing facility at the air-

port. It is hoped the award will help develop the business case for both the hub and academy facilities.

Argyll and Bute Council is working in partnership with Skyparts, a leading drone-landing infrastructure design and delivery company, to develop the plans.

Skyparts director of drone services Alex Brown said: 'In 2021 we transported Covid-19 tests, pathology samples and medicine up to 50 miles between NHS medical facilities in Argyll and Bute.'

'Alongside the flight trials, we have been working with Oban Airport to look at how permanent drone operations can service the Highlands and Islands.'

'Having a dedicated drone hub would create skilled employment and bring further investment to the area.'

'We're incredibly excited



about this project and look forward to working closely with Argyll and Bute Council and the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership to make Argyll and Bute the leading region in the UK for Advanced Air Mobility.'

Royal Mail is also said to be interested in using UAVs as part of its service delivery and has undertaken trials with Skyparts from Oban to Mull.

In addition it is hoped

windfarm maintenance and inspection could benefit from the use of drones.

Leader of Argyll and Bute Council Councillor Robin Currie said: 'This new investment is extremely welcome news for Argyll and Bute and will deliver a significant boost to the region's economic prospects.'

'It takes us a step closer to establishing the UAV logistics hub which would see the area

Deliveries to and from Argyll islands could benefit from a new drone hub.

become a centre of excellence for this highly innovative use of drone technology and would lead to the creation of much-needed, highly-skilled jobs.

'Alongside the benefits for the local economy and employment, the use of this ground-breaking technology would be extremely valuable in terms of the lifeline the hub's services would provide for our remote and rural island residents.'

The Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) also plans to make use of the hub;

its head of robotics Dr Phil Anderson said: 'It's fantastic to see Argyll and Bute Council, tech businesses and government recognise the unique position of Oban Airport as a national centre for airborne robotic operations, and pull together to deliver this facility.'

'By combining commercial logistics to the Highlands and Islands alongside training and expertise in research and innovation, Oban is set to be a significant hub in this future of these airborne platforms.'

'SAMS is excited to be involved with the Oban development of this unique facility.'

'SAMS will focus on training and innovation; beginner pilots or bespoke designers will have access to indoor, all-weather test facilities, whilst deep-ocean and polar scientists can practise over-the-horizon operations prior to departure.'

£1.6m predicted health overspend falls to £281k

The forecast overspend for the year by health chiefs in Argyll and Bute has dipped below £300,000 due, in part, to reductions in care packages and unfilled vacancies.

The area's health and social care partnership (HSCP) had predicted a £1.6 million overspend after three months of the financial year, which began in April.

That was quickly reduced to £800,000 after detailed analysis of social work budgets, and by the end of October had been lowered further to £681,000.

As of the end of November, the forecast overspend for the end of March 2022 stood at £281,000.

These are the most recent figures in a report presented to the HSCP's integration joint board (IJB) at its virtual meeting on Wednesday January 26.

The HSCP's head of finance and transformation James Gow said: 'Recruitment of staff has become problematic in some services; this is resulting in increased vacancies, reductions in care packages and reduced spend.'

However, the report also acknowledged that responding to the Omicron Covid variant



James Gow, Argyll and Bute HSCP head of finance and transformation.

'does present an additional risk' to the partnership's planned savings.

Mr Gow added: 'There are services where overspending is continuing and there is slippage with the delivery of savings target.'

'A year-end overspend of £280,000 is forecast against the budget of £307 million. The position has improved significantly and does not yet take into account all of the additional funding allocations announced in late 2021.'

'Recruitment and planning work is under way to deliver increased capacity over the winter in line with government priorities. Some of this

funding will address cost pressures already forecast.

'The forecast is based on a number of assumptions and there are risks associated with it, these are reviewed in detail bi-monthly and summarised in this report. As the year progresses, uncertainty reduces and the risk summary reflects this.'

'The forecast overspend is of reduced concern, however, the prioritisation of the Omicron response does present an additional risk to the savings programme in the last quarter of the year.'

'The financial position is now a standing item on the senior leadership team agenda and is reported and discussed in detail every month, in addition to routine monitoring carried out by service managers in partnership with the finance and service improvement teams.'

'There is now a high degree of confidence that the HSCP will operate within the resources available to it. There is on-going engagement with [Argyll and Bute] Council and NHS Highland to ensure an effective approach is being taken to manage the position.'



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Consultation on health cuts 'needed to be taken earlier'

Budget cuts will inevitably impact patient services, according to Argyll and Bute health chiefs.

The proposed cuts aim to save the health and social care partnership (HSCP) £4.8 million and could include changes to prescribing policies and mental health care packages as well as a one per cent reduction in hospital budgets.

Speaking at the virtual meeting of the HSCP's integration joint board on Wednesday January 26 the HSCP's head of finance James Gow said: 'These are savings focused on ensuring that people have the appropriate level of support.'

'It is not about taking essential services away from anybody; these are appropriate changes to care packages which have been pulled together after a detailed review.'

Mr Gow had previously said in a report: 'There will clearly be a service impact associated with the savings programme, however, the management team have worked hard to ensure that the proposals have the minimum possible impact upon service delivery and our staff. It is also worth highlighting that there is some growth funding available in certain areas and this should enable savings to be delivered with a reduced impact.'



Argyll and Bute TSI chief executive Takki Sulaiman.

Calls have been made for health chiefs to consult with service-user groups earlier in the budget-setting process.

Chief executive officer at Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface Takki Sulaiman raised concerns at Wednesday's meeting about the high-cost care package review, as well as plans for transport for patients.

A proposal to save £12,000 involves reducing the number and size of vehicles, and encouraging independent travel where possible.

Mr Sulaiman said: 'There are no easy options and that is understood from the outset. What would help the Integration Joint Board (IJB) to participate more in the pro-

'There are no easy options and that is understood from the outset.'

cess is some early discussions with service user groups.

'For example, this could be with the review of high-cost care packages. I am not sure what that represents but it becomes more challenging.

'If we remove, for instance, horse riding lessons, that is a significant drop in their quality of life. If access to physiotherapy is affected then it might mean people are confined to their houses for longer.

'On transport costs, it may only be £12,000 but my concern is about the approach. It doesn't look like we are approaching our communities and that could be a really useful tool to aid big decisions.

'I don't think we should wait until the statutory savings have been agreed to do the EQIA (equality impact assessment), but I acknowledge this is a really difficult thing to do well.'

The consultation process will last until Monday February 28 and the IJB will then set the 2022/23 budget at its next meeting on Wednesday March 30.

£3.7m cuts won't be 'too bad'

Argyll and Bute Council's next annual budget must find savings to fill a £3.7 million gap, Islay Community Council has heard.

Speaking about the budget, which is due to be announced at the end of February, Islay councillor and council leader Robin Currie said most savings would come from operational management, but some would have policy implications.

'Savings will have to be made,' Councillor Currie said, 'but it is not looking too bad in that a lot of the savings that



are being proposed are what is termed 'operational matters' which can be taken by officers.

'There's not the big issues that necessitated going out to public consultation the way we did in the last few years.

'At this stage I think, and I

certainly hope, that we do not have to go into the areas that we did two, three, four years ago, which were not pleasant.

'There is still a long way to go,' he said.

'We will be working right up to the budget.'

Councillor Currie said rising inflation, currently at 5.4 per cent, also presents a problem for the council coffers, but a bigger one is the '10 to 30 per cent' hike in the cost of building materials, which will put a 'big pressure' on its expenditure on capital projects.

Survey to identify areas of concern and priorities

Thousands of Argyll residents have been surveyed about their lives and the challenges they are facing. Households have been chosen at random to participate in the study commissioned by regional development agency Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

Around 26,000 people across the Highlands and Islands region are expected to take part in a bid to ascertain local priorities and attitudes towards topics including housing, jobs, education, local services and transport.

Carried out by independent research organisation Ipsos MORI, the My Life in the Highlands and Islands survey's findings will be used to inform decisions on support for economic and community development.

Chief executive of HIE Stuart Black said: 'So many aspects of our lives have been affected, and are being af-



HIE chief executive Stuart Black. Photo: John Paul

ected still, by things like the pandemic, the climate emergency and demographic change. This is throwing up many new challenges.

'We want to have a fuller understanding of how all of this is affecting the lives, experiences and attitudes of people living, studying and working in the region.'

'We will use the feedback to inform how we can best address these challenges and others.'



'Ultimately, this will help us support economic and community growth across all parts of the Highlands and Islands and we encourage people in any of the households contacted to please take part.'

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Meeting increased demand on Islay ferries is deemed to be 'unaffordable'

Competition for space on Islay's ferries will be even hotter this summer, the island's ferry group warns, unless CalMac heeds its advice to increase capacity in the face of rising 'record' demand.

At a meeting this month of Islay Community Council it was revealed that CalMac and Transport Scotland had so far rejected a case by Islay Community Council Ferry Committee (ICFC) to put more sailings on the summer 2022 timetable.

Instead, capacity remains frozen at last summer's levels, despite evidence of increasing demand from hauliers, distilleries, contractors and visitors this year, on top of the needs of locals.

The ICFC's vice chairman Jim Porteous first thanked CalMac for 'doing its best' for the island, keeping ferries sailing this winter while crews

There are no plans to increase capacity on Islay ferries this summer.

were off sick with Covid. He then updated on the December meeting with its convener Islay McEachern, Argyll and Bute MSP Jenni Minto and CalMac's managing director Robbie Drummond about the summer 2022 timetable.

'In June we were given three weeks to say what we wanted for the summer 2022 timeta-



ble,' Mr Porteous said. 'It took six months to come back to us. All that time seems to have been wasted. By the time it came out in December, it was a fait accompli.

'Transport Scotland has rejected our case for extra capacity. It is going to give us, at this moment, exactly what it gave us last year. That is not

enough. The distilleries are currently forecasting 24.7 per cent in production growth. One of the major hauliers on the island has increased block bookings by 10 per cent, which equals about 50 car spaces every week.'

If Covid travel restrictions continue to ease, he added, Continental visitors would

return too. 'Even CalMac has gone public saying it is expecting record volumes. In relation to Islay it has gone up by approximately four per cent per year for the last 10 years. So it must be more.

'It says to us: "You are getting two new ferries. This is a temporary situation." Each will give us an extra 40 per cent in capacity. Well, the new ferries are probably not going to be operating on our route until 2025. So we have got quite a stretch between times.

'We will be asking where the extra space is going to come from, because something has to give. We have to convince them this is reality.'

Mr McEachern said: 'I do not think they really took us seriously with the numbers.'

He listed many new works including new distilleries at Farkin and Port Ellen, an expansion at Caol Ila and

the Bowmore Water Mains Improvement. 'There is going to be a lot of contractors,' he said. 'Tourists have to get on. The community has to get on. We have this increase in 24.7 per cent [in distillery production]. It's massive. Put it all together on top of what we had last year and it just does not stack up. We have to go round the table again and hopefully get some additional capacity.'

A Transport Scotland spokesperson said: 'CalMac considered in detail the requests put forward by the Islay Ferry Committee for the summer 2022 timetable.

'However, this concluded that services are already operating at maximum capacity within a complex operated environment meaning any additional services are unaffordable and the Kennacraig-Islay timetable will remain the same for summer 2022.'

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Lochgilphead composer creates new Islay symphony

The Royal Scottish National Orchestra has recorded a new symphony written by a Lochgilphead composer who was inspired by the beauty of Islay.

The Rinns of Islay, composed by Helen MacKinnon, is a 20-minute symphony that portrays 'a musical journey around the Inner Hebridean island', which was home to the composer's grandparents and generations before.

Inspired by stories of Islay in her youth, Helen began sketching the work during her composition studies at The University of Glasgow and returned to complete the work nearly 15 years later.

The 20-minute piece for symphony orchestra was recorded in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, with American-based PARMA Recordings and GRAMMY-winning producer Brad Michel.

Helen, who grew up in Lochgilphead, explained: 'It was a privilege to record with Scotland's national orchestra.

'The musicians and conductor,



David Watkin, breathed glorious life into the work, which takes us on a musical journey around the island.

'Due to Covid, we had a cross-Atlantic recording team, with technology connecting a producer in Boston with

The Rinns of Islay presents 'a musical journey' around the island, which was home to the composer Helen MacKinnon's grandparents and generations before. Picture by Fraser Band.

'I'm thrilled with audiences' responses to the music. Listeners have tuned in from as far afield as New Zealand'

a team on the ground in Glasgow. It was a fascinating experience.'

The new orchestral work was inspired by Islay's stunning natural environment, known for its rich terrain and peaty whisky.

Five short thematic movements celebrate Islay's sunrises and coastal shores, while giving a playful nod to the island's abundant whisky industry.

Helen added: 'The work centres

around The Rinns – a beautiful peninsula overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

'My father used to talk about The Rinns of Islay, and as a child, I started to create stories and soundscapes linked to the island.

'The work offers a visual, almost cinematic listening experience, with atmospheres and landmarks inspiring the visual imagination.'

The work features on a new album Legends and Light Vol. 2, featuring works by seven composers.

While many of the pieces are arranged for orchestral ensembles, listeners will also find the Highland bagpipes and Irish Uilleann pipes featured on the album, offering a deeply rewarding listening experience.

Helen is delighted with feedback so far: 'I'm thrilled with audiences' responses to the music.

'Listeners have tuned in from across the UK, the USA and as far afield as New Zealand, keeping Scotland on the international map for new music.'



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



Living safely this winter



All together >

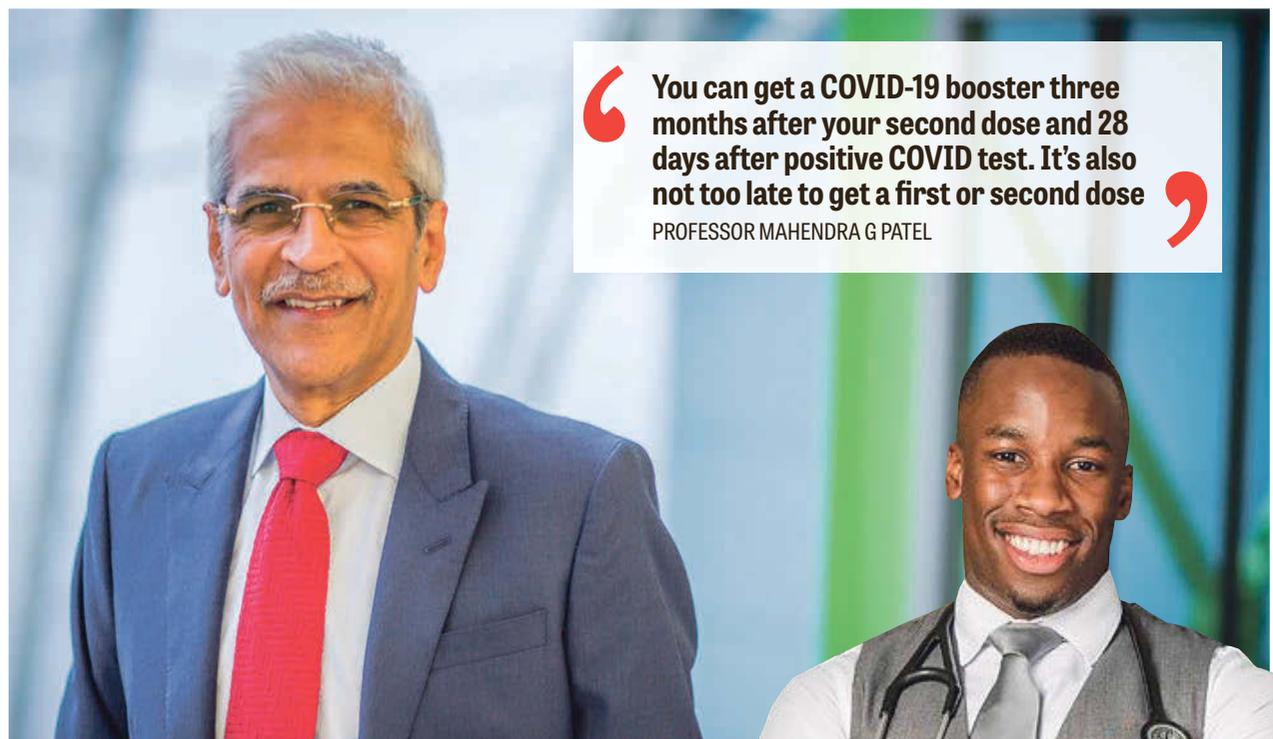
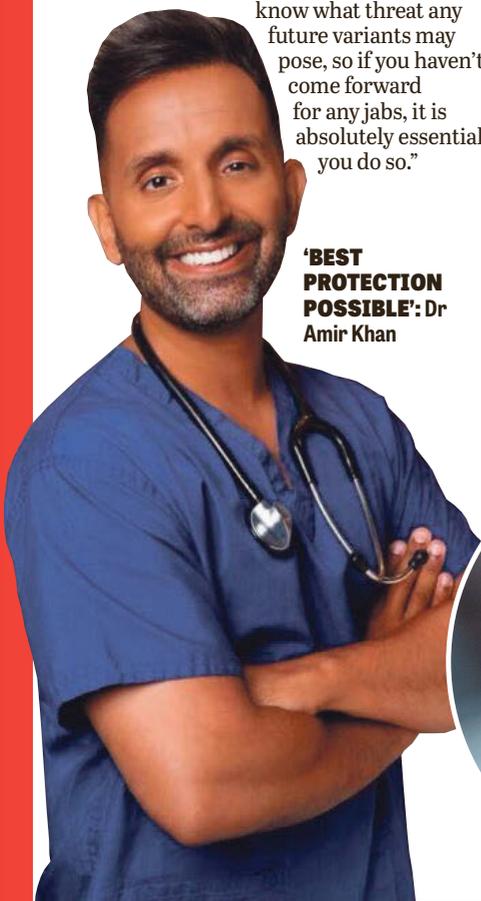
Experts reveal the facts

Latest COVID-19 variant Omicron is highly infectious and still spreading. It is more important than ever we all get vaccinated to protect ourselves, our family and friends. Boosters increase our protection against the virus up to more than 88 per cent. We talk to myth-busting medical experts who answer your most frequently asked questions about these essential jobs

What protection does a booster jab give?

DR EMEKA Okorocho, who works in A&E in London and South East, said: "As a doctor, I have seen first-hand the effect COVID-19 can have on people. I want to remind everyone you can still get seriously ill with the virus, so it is so important to get the jab to keep ourselves, your friends and loved ones safe. COVID-19 is highly infectious. The vaccine remains our best line of defence against it. Omicron is highly transmissible and still has the potential to lead to significant numbers of people in hospital, so it's so important your immunity is topped up, and to come forward for your first or second dose if you haven't already. We don't know what threat any future variants may pose, so if you haven't come forward for any jabs, it is absolutely essential you do so."

'BEST PROTECTION POSSIBLE': Dr Amir Khan



You can get a COVID-19 booster three months after your second dose and 28 days after positive COVID test. It's also not too late to get a first or second dose

PROFESSOR MAHENDRA G PATEL

When can you have a booster jab?

Yorkshire-based Professor Mahendra G Patel OBE, Pharmacy and Inclusion and Diversity Lead, said: "You can get a COVID-19 booster three months after

your second dose and 28 days after positive COVID test. It's also not too late to get a first or second dose. Getting the vaccine has never been easier. Everybody aged 12 and over have now been offered two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. If you are 12 years old or above on the day the vaccinations are taking place in school, you will be able to access a vaccine. If you have not yet had a COVID-19 vaccine, it's not too late. Appointments for first doses of COVID-19 vaccines are still available for anyone unvaccinated."

'ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL': Dr Emeka Okorocho



'VERY CONFIDENT': Dr Jenny Jardine



GET BOOSTED NOW

GET BOOSTED NOW

about Omicron variant



Your 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 if you are in England.
- If you are in Scotland visit: nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine
- For Wales visit: gov.wales/get-your-covid-19-vaccination
- For Northern Ireland visit: covid-19.hscni.net/get-vaccinated

Is it safe to have a booster jab if I'm pregnant?

London-based Dr Jenny Jardine from Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, who is also seven months pregnant and has had her COVID-19 booster jab, said: "Both as a doctor and pregnant mother myself, we can now be very confident the COVID-19 vaccinations provide the best possible protection for you and your unborn child against this virus. I would strongly call on all pregnant women like me, if you haven't had the vaccine yet, to either speak to your GP or midwife if you still have questions and then book right away today."

Does a booster jab carry side effects?

Dr Okorocha said: "The COVID-19 vaccine is quick, easy and free. Don't worry about the side effects. Like all medicines, the COVID-19 vaccines may cause some side effects, but most of these are mild and short-term, lasting no longer than a week, and not everyone gets them. Also, if you weren't able to get your booster dose because you had COVID-19, remember to book your jab 28 days after you no longer have the virus."

How easy is it to get a booster jab?

Bradford-based NHS Dr Amir Khan said: "We know many people are juggling busy

lives, which is exactly why the NHS is making it as easy as possible for you to get your booster. New walk-in vaccination sites have been set up across the country, and existing sites have extended their opening hours, so as many people as possible can get jabbed as soon as possible. And, once you've had your vaccine, then why not encourage your friends and family to book as well, so we all have the best protection possible."

How effective is a booster jab?

Prof Patel said: "New analysis of vaccine efficacy by UKHSA has found protection against hospitalisation from vaccines is good against the Omicron variant. When

the reduced risk of hospitalisation was combined with vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic disease, the vaccine effectiveness against hospitalisation was estimated as 88 per cent two weeks after a booster dose. One dose of any vaccine was associated with a 35 per cent reduced risk of hospitalisation among symptomatic cases with the Omicron variant, two doses with a 67 per cent reduction up to 24 weeks after the second dose and a 51 per cent reduced risk 25 or more weeks after the second dose."

Everyone aged 16 and over 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 >

YOUR PICTURES

Islay image is VisitScotland's top Instagram post of 2021

Something slightly different for this week's featured photograph.

National tourism agency VisitScotland this week revealed the top Instagram images of Argyll and the Isles for 2021.

The shimmering clear blue waters of Machir Bay on Islay have been ranked as VisitScotland's most popular Argyll and Isles social media post of 2021.

The photograph, by @theglobefromglasgow, was liked 68,114 times when it was shared on VisitScotland's Instagram account, making it the highest performing post of the region last year.

The Islay photograph came out ahead of the second most popular image, an image of the mysterious and striking hexagonal columns of Fingal's Cave on Staffa by @wee_dusty which attracted 57,000 likes.

In the year to January 2022, VisitScotland's Instagram reached people more than 183 million times with 460 user-generated posts.

VisitScotland regional director David Adams McGilp said: 'The rich history and vibrancy of Argyll and Isles and the stunning scenery and sights on offer are a fantastic source of inspira-

tion for photographers and these images have captured some of the many reasons visitors are drawn to the region.

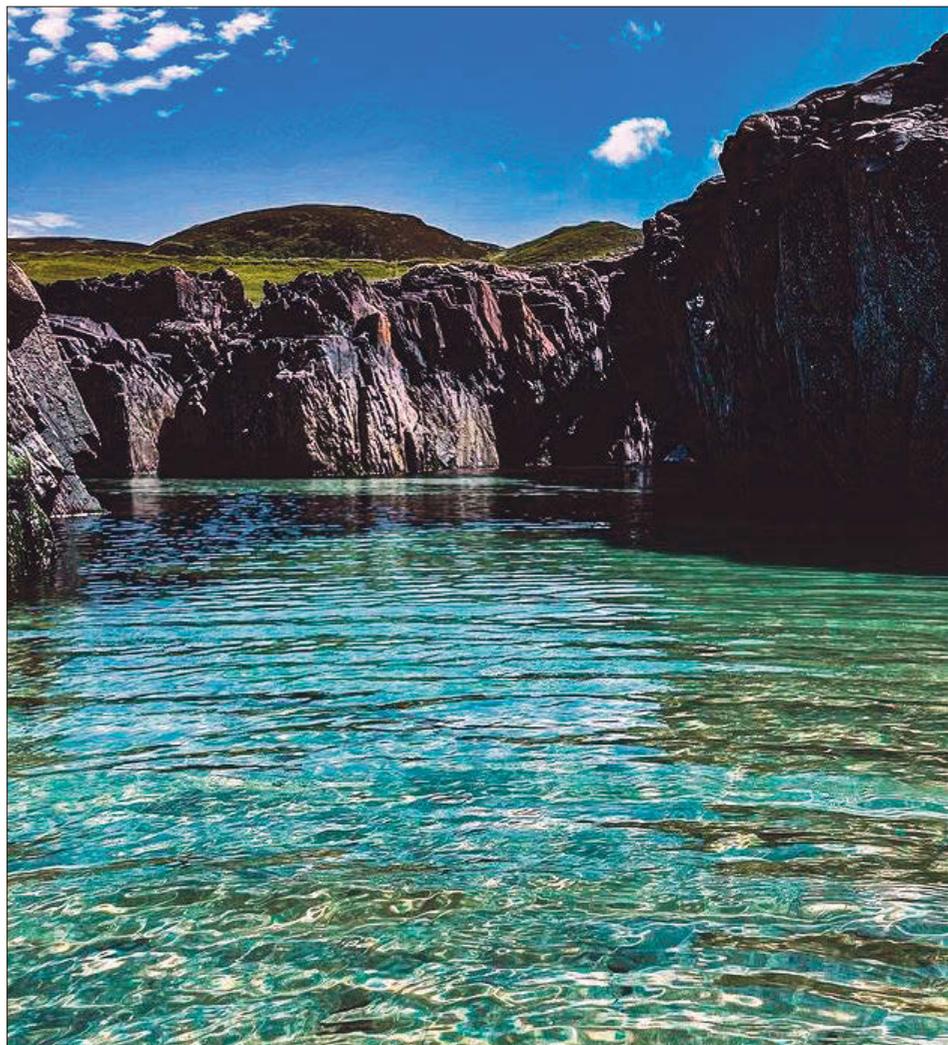
'VisitScotland's social media channels have played a significant role in the last two years in continuing to keep Scotland front of mind and offering inspiration to our global audiences.'

Emma Clark, chairwoman of Explore Islay and Jura, said: 'Our team is delighted to have Machir Bay on Islay noted as one of the most Instagramable spots.'

'Our island has the most amazing areas that enable you to capture the perfect picture and create the most magical memories.'

■ Send your favourite photographs for publication to editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

This photograph of Machir Bay on Islay was VisitScotland's most popular Argyll and Isles Instagram post of 2021.



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Time for Change Argyll and Bute

ROSIE BURRELL

timeforchangeargyll@gmail.com

Climate justice means migrant justice

The latest in a regular series of opinion columns by members of climate campaign group Time for Change Argyll and Bute

I think most of us can agree that we live in an unjust world.

We live in a world with enormous wealth disparity; people fleeing war and persecution, climate injustice, discrimination based on skin colour, sexual orientation, disability, religion, gender identity...I could go on.

To address these injustices effectively, I believe we must understand and acknowledge that they are – for the most part – connected. I want to write about why I believe we cannot have climate justice without migrant justice.

The richest one per cent of the world's population generates almost double the carbon emissions of the poorest 50 per cent.

But for years people in Africa, Asia and South America have suffered the most extreme effects of the climate crisis.

In the UK, along with other global north countries, we have the luxury of greater protection from extreme climate breakdown.

Yet our historic links with many global south countries, including our colonial exploitation of land, people and resources, are partly responsible for it.

Already the world's poorest people are forced to flee their homes due to flooding, deforestation, drought and eroding coastlines.

We must do far more to prevent the climate degradation that is pushing people from

their homes, to support a just transition. But some of the damage done is irreversible and we must adapt to this reality.

This includes accepting that people will move when climate change destroys their homes and showing that they are welcome in our communities.

The reality is that the majority of those who are forced to leave their homes, for whatever reason, move elsewhere in their home country.

Of those who move countries and become refugees, 73 per cent settle in neighbouring nations.

Some, of course, travel further afield to resettle, and the UK is home to 0.5 per cent of the world's refugees (Germany, for comparison, is home to 4.5 per cent).

In fact, refugees and people seeking asylum – according to statistics from UNHCR – make up only 0.26 per cent of the UK's total population yet UK government policy is still becoming increasingly hostile to people seeking sanctuary.

The new Borders Bill aims to criminalise those seeking safety through 'irregular routes'. But to the vast majority of people 'regular' routes to asylum such as resettlement schemes are closed.

Inward migration is not something to fear. We can demand a system that acknowledges this and embraces the contributions that people from refugee backgrounds, whether

they are fleeing climate breakdown or something else, can make to our society.

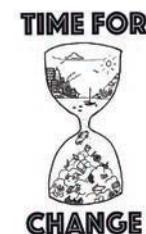
You could make your voice heard by lobbying decision-makers, discussing the issue with friends and family and giving your time and

resources to organisations fighting for migrants' rights.

Most importantly, let's remember that we should welcome people who are seeking safety not just because it's our ethical duty but because, as people, helping our fellow

humans when they are in need is the right thing to do.

If you would like to find out more about Time for Change Argyll and Bute, email timeforchangeargyll@gmail.com or visit the group's Facebook page.



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Find out more at [ScottishWater.co.uk](https://www.scottishwater.co.uk)

You could be a local councillor

If you're passionate about your community and want to make a difference, have you considered standing for election as a councillor at the Argyll and Bute Council election in May?

Becoming a councillor is challenging but rewarding, offering opportunities to represent your local area as well as involvement in decisions about issues of local and national significance.

If you want to find out more about what is involved in becoming a councillor and the election process, visit the

council's dedicated Standing for Election web page at [argyll-bute.gov.uk](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

You can download a guide to becoming an Argyll and Bute councillor as well as other resources for people considering standing for election.

The web page will be updated regularly and you will also be able to access candidate packs and other details when the nomination process opens later this year.

Contact Argyll and Bute Council's Elections Team on 01546 603264.

Stand up

With plenty in this week's paper about cuts and funding shortfalls in public services after more than a decade of enforced 'salami slicing' to save money each year, you could be forgiven for wondering why anyone would want to be a councillor.

But as we look ahead to spring council elections, there is an opportunity to influence positive change in your local community and beyond by standing as a candidate.

If you want to make a difference, it is well worth considering.

Argyll vision

Argyll Holidays and its forerunners have been a fixture in Argyll for half a century.

From humble beginnings as tenant hill farmers, Dougie and Jean Campbell and their family made a huge impact on the area with ambition, drive and a singular vision. Their success is remarkable and we hope the new owners look after the business – and particularly the staff – in the proper manner.

Lift-off

And talking of determination...Elaine MacEachern. It would be fantastic if businesses or individuals would help Elaine achieve her ambitions. She's hugely talented, a credit to her folks and a great ambassador for Mid Argyll.



Former Liverpool and Manchester City goalkeeper David James wants animal lovers to take part in a sit-up challenge.

Sit up for pets in need

Sir,

It is the 125th anniversary of Blue Cross pet charity this year and I'm urging animal lovers to take part in its 3,125 sit-ups challenge to raise essential funds towards helping the thousands of sick, injured and homeless pets they care for every year.

As an owner of four cats myself, I know how much pets mean to us.

It is free to register and you'll get a free challenge t-shirt as a thank-you for taking part.

Just raise whatever you can and complete the challenge during February.

You can do as many sit-ups per day as you like until you reach the target, but don't attempt to do them all at once!

By taking part you will not only be fitter but it will really help Blue Cross achieve its aim of a future where more pets live happy, healthy lives.

Visit www.bluecross.org.uk/3125-situps to find out more and register your interest today.

David James MBE, c/o Blue Cross,
Burford, Oxfordshire

It's Colonsay's wind farm

Sir,

Your recent article on the Crown Estate's lease of area 17 in the Scotwind Renewables project announces Scottish Power as the winner to develop a very large wind farm 'west of Islay'.

Area 17 in fact lies off the west coast of Colonsay.

The area lies to the north west of Islay visible from a largely uninhabited and inaccessible part of that island. Much of Colonsay's charm comes from the great sweep of uninterrupted views out to the western horizon.

Just as 'views cannot be eaten', global warming is much too important an issue for NIMBYism or to be nostalgic about how things were.

However, when the day comes that Scottish Power starts contributing to community funds, I shall be reminding Keith Anderson CEO of ScottishPower to rename his 'Islay Project' as 'Colonsay and Islay Project'.

Andrew Abrahams, Colonsay Oysters/Black Bee Reserve

Urban virtue signalling

Sir,

It is wonderful news that central government has done a u-turn on the misguided proposal to hammer our hard-working farmers and crofters with an extra £200 per tonne tax on their silage wrap, when a new Plastic Packaging Tax comes into force in April.

The original plan was yet another example of urban virtue signalling from government hitting rural communities in their pockets.

Our farmers and crofters have had to face many challenges recently and the last thing they need is to be punished for producing silage. Food security and employment must always come first.

Our farmers, crofters and fishermen have kept shop shelves full during the pandemic so hitting them with an extra tax after all of that is quite simply an insult.

British farming is among the most sustainable and environmental in the world and needs no lessons from urban-based bureaucrats as to what is good for our countryside.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Kintyre and the Islands ward

Changing mental health stigma

Sir,

People living with mental illness in Argyll and Bute are being encouraged by two leading mental health organisations to take part in new research that will draw attention to the extent

and impact of mental illness stigma in Scotland. The Scottish Mental Illness Stigma Survey is being undertaken by See Me, Scotland's national programme to end mental health stigma and discrimination, and the Mental Health Foundation in Scotland, in partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University.

The views and experiences people share will be used to make recommendations for the positive changes which can help create a Scotland that is free of mental illness prejudice and discrimination.

Responses to the survey will be anonymous as the organisations seek to find out more about the real-life experiences of people aged 18 and over who are living with complex, and/or enduring mental illnesses.

While it is known that people living with these conditions experience discrimination, the research will explore how and where people face stigma, self-stigma, the impact this has, and most importantly, what needs to be done to make people's lives better and prevent mental health conditions worsening or becoming unmanageable.

People have until Friday February 18 to complete the survey.

It is open to both people who have received a formal diagnosis, as well as those who have not been diagnosed formally but believe they may be experiencing one or more complex mental illnesses.

Living with a mental illness can be extremely challenging and this is made even worse by being the target of stigma and discrimination.

We encourage anyone who lives with, or has previously lived with, complex mental health conditions to take part in this research.

With their support and contribution, we have the chance to produce a definitive picture of the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with mental illness, and the impact it can have.

This is important as it will provide a strong evidence-base for campaigns to make the changes that will improve the lives of thousands of people in Scotland.

Potential participants can find full information, including eligibility requirements, at seemescotland.org/StigmaSurvey.

Jo Finlay, senior research manager,
Mental Health Foundation

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Thought for the Week

The signs are that we are beginning to see a reduction in the restrictions we have faced in our lives because of Covid-19.

Things are slowly returning to normal, but for many, 'normal' will not be the same as life before this horrible disease stuck so hard and took family members and friends from us.

There have not been many positive aspects of this epidemic, but there was, at least at the beginning of the first lockdown, a resurgence in caring and kindness being shown in communities; people helping neighbours with shopping or checking that the more vulnerable in society were being cared for.

Kindness and love are powerful factors in building a strong and happy society in which everyone feels valued and included.

At the heart of the Christian message there lies Jesus' command to love one another and to love our neighbours as ourselves summarised in the 'Golden Rule': Do unto others what you would have them do to you. If we all lived in this way nobody misses out.

If we think of others' needs as being more important than our own and act accordingly, it may mean inconveniencing ourselves a bit, but, those possibly simple acts have a hugely positive impact on the lives of others.

In return, the kindness shown to us by others blesses us.

How wonderful it would be that, even as we return towards 'normal' life after Covid, our society would continue to grow in acts of love and kindness. As the Message version of the Bible says in Hebrews 10:24: 'Let us see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping each other out.'

Springbank Church.

HELENSBURGH

More than 300 houses will be built on the site of Helensburgh Golf Club if an application submitted to Argyll and Bute Council is approved.

Taylor Wimpey officially applied for planning permission at the site on East Abercromby Street in the latter part of 2021, and the application has now been validated by Argyll and Bute Council and published on the authority's website.

As well as 309 residential units the plans also include demolition of the golf club's existing clubhouse, the building of a new clubhouse and the provision of an enhanced 18-hole golf course.

Feedback can now be given to the authority, with a decision expected from planning officers by Thursday May 19.

A design and access statement by Taylor Wimpey states: 'There is a recognised need for new housing within the settlement of Helensburgh.

'During the preparation of the Local Development Plan, the council approached the golf club to discuss the possibility of relocating the golf course to provide additional housing land in a sustainable location.

'The golf club saw this as an opportunity to improve the existing golf course offer in the area whilst providing land for much-needed housing.

'This ultimately led to an area of the golf course being allocated for housing in the adopted Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan.'

Members of Helensburgh Community Council have already raised concerns about the impact of increased traffic on East Abercromby Street leading to and from the development's single access point.

In response Taylor Wimpey have said: 'Access to the site is currently obtained from East Abercromby Street and the site is bisected roughly north-south by the Old Luss Road footpath and cycleway.

'The proposed development will be accessed from a new priority junction on East Abercromby Street, opposite Lever Road and in the general location of an existing access track to Helensburgh Golf Course.'

The plans can be viewed on the council's website at argyll-bute.gov.uk under the reference number 21/01879/PP



Conservation volunteers on Gigha cleared woodland to make way for new planting

ISLE OF GIGHA

Nature lovers have been asked to get involved in looking after the unique landscape of Gigha through volunteering with the ranger service.

One morning each month volunteers carry out conservation tasks to promote and protect the island's natural heritage.

Activities include ditch maintenance, tree planting, bird-box making, rhododendron removal, plantation maintenance and beach cleans.

The sessions take place on the third Friday of each month, include tea and coffee and can be signed up for on the gigha.org.uk website.

The Isle of Gigha Ranger Service is currently working on habitat management in the woodland that is home to the new path on Achamore Farm.

This management aims to increase the variation of the woodland's structure by encouraging a mosaic habitat that will support everything from insects and butterfly species to bird life.

Spaces in the woodland are being cleared of invasive and abundant vegetation (as well as mountains of plastic) to make way for more

light-supporting, more diverse ground flora and to expose areas where new planting can take place to establish native species that will also support wildlife.

Woodland edges are also being maintained and encouraged for birds to access resources in neighbouring fields, as well as feed and shelter in the scrub, supporting both woodland and farmland birds.

MINARD

Minard Community Trust is putting together a bid for money to refurbish a popular walking track near the village. The proposal would involve replacing the bridge over Auchgoyle Burn on the circular walk around Minard (OS grid ref NR977964). The works will also include improvements to the surface of approximately 30 metres of the path either side of the bridge.

Before the bid can be submitted to the A'Chruach Wind Farm Community Fund details of the costs involved must be drawn up and to do this the trust is looking for potential contractors to bid for the work.

The windfarm fund is provided by Ventient Energy, the developer and owner of the A'Chruach Wind Farm in Argyll and Bute.

It aims to support positive change by investing in a wide range of community-led activities that will help create a legacy of lasting impact by making grants to support the costs of relevant projects, services and facilities.

The next deadline for funding applications is Friday February 11.

ISLAY

An unseasonal warning of algae danger has been issued by Argyll and Bute Council regarding Ardnahoe Loch, northeast of Port Askaig.

On Tuesday January 25 an announcement from the council warned residents and visitors not to visit the loch with animals or children.

A spokesperson for the council said: 'We have been advised of a blue-green algae bloom around the jetty area on Ardnahoe Loch, Islay.

'Whilst blooms are more usual in the summer months they can still occur at other times of the year. Please keep children and pets away from the area.'

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Where can you spend your Christmas Love Oban vouchers?

Many people over Christmas, received the gift of Oban and the treasured Love Oban Gift Voucher, but where do you spend them?

More than 80 businesses in Oban now accept the vouchers. From florists to a tasty treat, Oban is brimming with fantastic places to tempt you to spend locally. This week we have listed just some of the businesses to visit.

Love Oban Vouchers, also known as the Oban Pound, were set up by BID4Oban to encourage spending in local shops, restaurants and businesses.

'The highly successful initiative helps keep money in Oban and spent with local independents, said BID4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence.

Andy added: 'We have a lot of new local businesses opening in the town and given what we have just been through, it's clear the town is extremely vibrant and people have the confidence in Oban to invest. We are a destination town and a key hub.'

Why should a business accept the vouchers?

When asked, Andrew Spence from BID4Oban said 'Love Oban Vouchers support local businesses. They have generated significant sales over the last nine years and encourage customers to Shop Local, Use Local and Buy Local. The face value of the vouchers can be redeemed by the participating business and we aim to credit your account within one week. The scheme is easy to use with minimal paperwork. Any business that wants to accept them can do so by contacting Kay or Andy at the BID4Oban Office.'

Are you wanting to love Oban more?

The Love Oban Vouchers make ideal presents for weddings, anniversaries, and birthdays, or just to say thank you to someone. In denominations of £10, £20, £50, they are the perfect gift for any occasion

As well as buying Love Oban Vouchers directly from the BID4Oban office in Stevenson Street, you can purchase vouchers from the following businesses. The Sports Shop Oban, Argyll Square; Webster's of Oban Photographic Centre, George Street; Alba Artshop, Albany Street; Button Nose Boutique, Airds Crescent, and Etive Restaurant, Stevenson Street. Alternatively, you can go online to the BID4Oban website and purchase them in denominations of £10, £20 and £50, but in as high a value as necessary.

<https://www.bid4oban.co.uk/overview-love-oban>

WHERE TO SPEND

ALBA ART SHOP

A small but perfectly formed art shop specialising in framed prints, e.g JoLoMo, unusual gifts and hard-to-find art materials. 6 Albany St, Oban PA34 4AR www.alba-artshop.co.uk



AMORE HAIRDRESSING

This hair salon is based in the Main Street of Oban. With a wide range of services available. 123 George St, Oban, PA34 5NT Tel: 01631 566007



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30 Alexander Place, Corran Esplanade. Oban PA34 5PT Phone: 01631 567054



THE ANGLERS CORNER

A well established and newly refurbished outdoor and sporting goods store, from walking canes, fishing rods and equipment to clothing, footwear and hats, everything you need to enjoy the great outdoors. 132 George St, Oban PA34 5NU find on facebook, The Anglers Corner.



ARGYLL HOUSE

This bed and breakfast has a new and glowing reputation for comfort and personal service which we hope to share with you; many of our guests comment on the homely atmosphere. Dunollie Road, Oban,, PA34 5JH Phone: 01631 562536



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Tel: 01631 562183



CORRAN HOUSE HOTEL

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Tel: 01631 566040



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Science matters

DOROTHY H CRAWFORD



Another unwelcome invader

A short article in the January 2022 edition of the Royal Horticultural Society magazine, Garden, grabbed my attention, so I set about finding out more.

The article reported a new-to-the-UK tree disease caused by a fungus-like pathogen, *Phytophthora pluvialis*, spotted in forests in Cornwall, the West Country and the Lake District. But by the time I was on the case, the disease was spreading closer to home - in forests near Loch Carron, Ross and Cromarty.

Phytophthora, ominously meaning 'plant destroyer', is a genus of fungus-like organisms containing around 170 known species with a worldwide distribution.

The genus, which includes the pathogens that cause potato blight and sudden oak death, has been responsible for massive crop failures, economic loss and environmental damage.

Phytophthora are called 'fungus-like' since they behave like fungi but differ from them, and from all animals and plants, in several key features of their



Phytophthora pluvialis was discovered in Oregon during 2013 and was found in Cornwall in 2021. Now it's appeared on Scotland's West Coast. Photo: Forestry Commission.

reproduction and chemical makeup. This places them in an ill-defined group of misfits called protists, which also includes amoebae, kelp and slime moulds.

Phytophthora pluvialis was discovered in Oregon, USA, in 2013, where it resides in soil and watercourses, and mainly infects Douglas fir.

Its recognition in Cornwall during 2021 was the first identification of this particular *Phytophthora* species in Europe.

Thought to have arrived here on imported live plants, its spores germinate in water and can be spread, for instance, on shoes, tyres and animal paws.

The pathogen infects a variety of trees, including western hemlock, Douglas fir and several pine species, causing needle shedding, shoot dieback and lesions

on the branches, trunks and roots of infected trees.

Forestry and Land Scotland and its policy section Scottish Forestry took rapid action - surveillance to detect infected forests, restrictions on the movement of timber and trees, and asking the public to report suspicious tree lesions.

But since the European climate is ideal for *P pluvialis* to thrive, and its favoured trees are commonly grown here, like so many other plant pathogens, it seems likely that this one is here to stay for the long term.

Forestry and Land Scotland asks foresters and the public to be vigilant for signs of *Phytophthora pluvialis*.

Anyone who thinks they might have spotted signs of the disease should report it using the online TreeAlert system on the www.forestryresearch.gov.uk website.

Licence for 'world-leading' salmon farm in Loch Long

Loch Long could be the first site in Scotland to host a new type of fish farm that aims to have less impact on its surrounding waters.

The proposed development near Arrochar, which would be Scotland's first semi-closed fish farm, has been granted an environmental permit by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

The new technology keeps farmed fish separate from the natural habitat by keeping them in large containers that reduce pollution and problems with parasitic lice.

Stewart Hawthorn, director of Loch Long Salmon, the company behind the proposal, explained: 'Semi-closed farming systems look much like conventional pens from above, but under the water they have an opaque, impermeable outer barrier that surrounds the fish net. This farming system has been operating successfully in Norway since 2014 and is now being deployed in the Faroes and Canada, but this is



the first time it will be used in Scotland.'

SEPA's decision to grant the permit is the latest in a series of regulatory approvals required before the farm can be deployed, and comes after a two-year programme of surveys and modelling to study any potential impact the farm could have on the environmental quality of the loch.

SEPA acting chief executive Jo Green said: 'We want Scotland to be a world-leading innovator of ways to minimise the environmental footprint of food production and supply,

and for aquaculture operators to have a strong and positive relationship with neighbouring users of the environment and the communities in which they operate.

'We will continue to encourage and support businesses across the sector to introduce environmentally innovative approaches to fish production.'

Loch Long Salmon has submitted a planning application to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority which, if approved, would allow construction to begin by the end of 2022.

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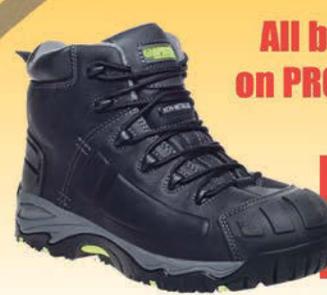


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Finance your dream



If you are renovating, extending or converting an existing property a self-build mortgage might also work for you

Get VAT back

When you self-build or convert a property you can reclaim a substantial part of the Value Added Tax paid.

New builds are 'zero-rated' so your builder should not charge you VAT because they can claim it back themselves later.

Your claim for VAT on any other aspects eligible must be made within three months of completion and can only be done once – make sure you have claimed for everything because there is no second chance.



No mortgage? Try the loan fund

The Scottish Self Build Loan Fund has committed more than £5 million in loans of up to £175,000 to self-builders across Scotland unable to obtain mainstream self-build mortgage finance.

The Loan Fund is administered on behalf of the Scottish Government by the Communities Housing Trust, an Inverness-based charity.

Last year, the Scottish Government added another £2 million to the Loan Fund, and extended the time. It is now open until August 31 this year; the loans must be repaid by August 2023.

The loans are repaid when the homes have been completed, by acquiring a standard residential mortgage.

Loans already repaid are now being 'recycled' to finance additional builds, allowing even more people to build their own homes.

For more information about the Self Build Loan Fund, and to apply: <https://www.chtrust.co.uk/scotland-self-build-loan-fund>.

Mortgages

When you build your own home you will always need a larger sum to begin, to buy land and pay to complete the first stage on site before the mortgage starts.

Typically, the standard self-build mortgage pays out at the end of six key points:

- Land purchase
- Preliminary costs and foundations
- Wall plate level (brick and block) kit erected (timber frame)
- Wind and watertight
- First fix and plastering
- Second fix and completion



With separate forms for different categories of materials and fixtures, hiring an expert to make the claim can be a wise move.

Make sure you have the correct insurance cover for your project. NEVER proceed without it.



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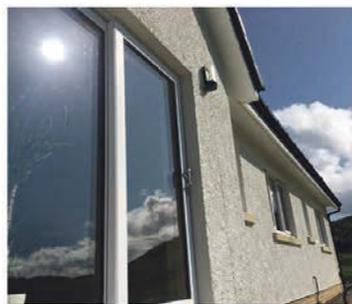
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As a family run business they are passionate about everything that they do and timber kit supply is at the heart of that. You can choose one of their own quality house designs or work with them on your own bespoke designs. MacLeod Construction Ltd can cater for all your timber frame needs.

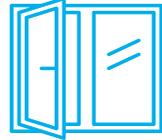
Mairi Coleman Business Development Manager said, "Our timber frame kits have always been popular but now they are more in demand than ever. The speed and efficiency of construction are some of the main benefits of



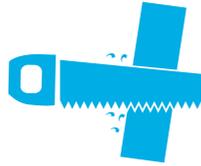
Quarry Materials



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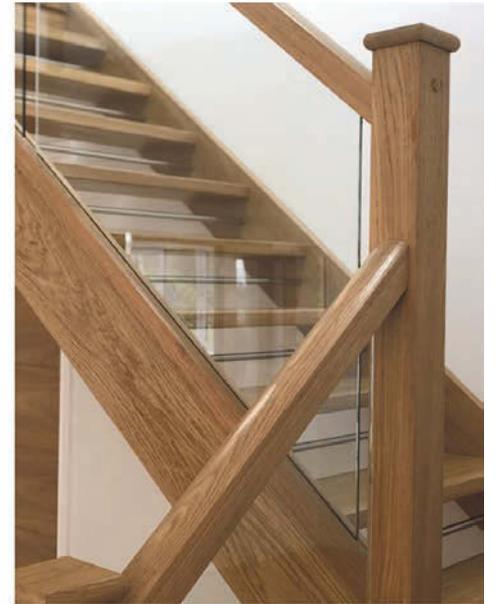
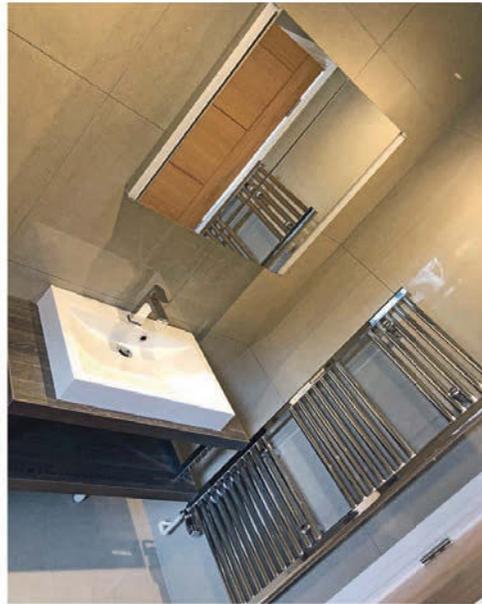
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a timber frame kit. We ensure that our designs are energy efficient through high levels of insulation, double glazing and are adapted for the latest in renewable technologies. We offer kit supply nationwide for self-build or a full build service in Argyll, so we have everyone's needs covered."

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Land, plans and permission

Get plotting!

Location, location, location is what they say but the formula for self-build should be location + affordability + feasibility = dream home.

You have seen a plot in the right location but can you afford it? Does it need remedial work laying land drains or waste removal or excavating through thick rock before work can begin?

How feasible is installing utilities; mains water, drains and National Grid or private supply, septic tank or self-generation. How strong are the broadband and mobile signals? How remote is the plot and ease of access, as these can also ramp up the build-price.

What can you build there? Scotland's planning laws are strict about designs in historic conservation areas and sites of environmental and landscape importance.

The importance of an architect

Be it land, plans or permissions, an architect is not just about design; they are one of your keys to success.

They negotiate planning permissions and building warrants with ease; know the best and latest methods of insulating and heating and have far better contacts within in the building industry than you could ever hope to achieve.

Architects' fees are part of your house building project's overall cost and are traditionally calculated in one of three ways.

- Percentage is based on the total construction costs in the building contract.
- Lump sum fees are best when the project can be clearly defined right from the start and has no surprises for either side.
- Time charged is the flip-side of that coin and best where the amount of work cannot 'reasonably' be seen; an agreed upper limit is needed.

Pre-application advice is available from your council's planning officers; always talk to your local council first.

You might not need planning permission; there are also householder permitted development rights for smaller alterations to properties. So much can be done within this legislation – another reason why you should talk to the planners first.

Today's planning system has an online service which is available around the clock for both professionals and members of the public alike, run by the Scottish Government in partnership with councils and planning authorities. You can do it all on the eDevelopment.scot website.



Always remember the need to reach agreement on the method of paying fees with at the start and whether expenses will be included within the agreed fee or charged separately.



If you are planning to build, extend or convert in a conservation area, National Scenic Area, or Site of Special Scientific Interest, then extra consent must be applied for.



Study the local plan, and keep your eyes and ears open. Financial problems, post Covid, could see businesses of all kinds, charitable organisations and trusts looking to raise funds by selling off land.

Perfect planning

Planning permission is needed for a new build or a major physical change to an existing property or a change of use from industrial, agricultural, commercial or retail to domestic.

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Get building

Find the kit that fits

Scotland loves timber-frame kits they are more than 85 per cent of the nation's new builds. They solve so many of the problems faced when building in Argyll and the West Highlands and islands

It is their ease of construction, good cost ratios and the fact that so much can be done off-site to get property weather tight as quickly as possible on-site.

But there are others vying for our affections: modular and SIPS are becoming more popular.

An off-the-shelf plan might be fine and all kits have the ability to be adapted to suit your needs: move a window to capture the view, have the kitchen over there or add an extra door here.

Beat the heat bill

We face a worrying and uncertain future with energy costs but rest assured today's new build designs include top of the range insulation and opportunities for solar gain as standard with solar panels and heat source tailored to location, design and budget. You can also retrofit to renovation projects.

The design of your heating system will be decided by choice and circumstances; with items like solar panels and heat source tailored to location, design and budget.

Air source heat pumps extract heat from outside air just like a fridge extracts heat from its inside. Ground source heat pumps are more efficient than air source because heat is transferred by water, giving a greater capacity to hold heat.

And there is Scotland's favourite - wood - be it biomass systems or a log burning stove.



Click to save - Visit www.homeenergyscotland.org. Did you know that most eligible households get around £5,000 of support through the Warmer Homes Scotland programme and on average reduce their heating bill by £300 per year?



Fixtures, fittings and finishing touches

Kitchens, bathrooms, stairs, doors and windows, fireplaces and garden landscaping all add ultimate personal touches to a self-build project, with carpets, flooring and soft furnishings as the final flourish, along with outdoor lighting and planting.

There has never before been such an incredible choice but remember, some choices have to be made fairly on in the project and as it progresses.

Oban-based Three Square Kitchen design company can make your dream kitchen become a reality.

Superb local craftsmanship blended with quality materials and a personal touch will make your kitchen the perfect fit for your home - and your life.

Unlike other kitchen suppliers who provide flat-pack units that need to be assembled before fitting, Three Square Kitchen units come ready-built and that means less disruption for you.

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New agroecology learning programme

Food campaigners and farming organisations have come together to support a unique agroecology learning programme led by farmers and crofters in Scotland.

The Landworkers' Alliance, Nature Friendly Farming Network, Pasture-Fed Livestock Association, Soil Association, The Food, Farming and Countryside Commission (FFCC) and Nourish Scotland will be helping to run 15 free events, online and in-person on farms and crofts from now to March, funded by the Scottish Government's Knowledge and Innovatio Fund.

Farming and crofting is facing a period of transition in adopting systems and practices that help tackle both biodiversity breakdown and the climate

emergency, and this unique partnership seeks to showcase how farmers and crofters can lead the way.

'At its core, agroecology is about the application of ecological principles to farming and land use,' says David McKay, head of policy at Soil Association.

'It ensures that land is managed in a way that delivers environmental benefits such as improved biodiversity, soil health, clean water and fresh air. On a practical level, this could mean the use of techniques such as nutrient cycling, ecological pest control and agroforestry.'

The potential of agroecology as a useful framework for furthering agricultural sustainability is gaining recognition and support, both among farmers



The project is designed to help a wide range of farmers and crofters in sharing practical knowledge. Photograph: Lynn Cassells.

and crofters, and within the wider industry.

Lucianne Wardle, Scotland inquiry facilitator at the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission, says: 'Agroecology and its regenerative practices present pathways for all Scottish farmers, growers, crofters and

land managers to be a force for change, delivering for the nation on food security, climate adaptation and mitigation and for a flourishing natural environment, and as the backbone of thriving and resilient local economies.'

In support of growing aware-

ness around agroecology's benefits, this project is designed to help a wide range of farmers and crofters in sharing practical knowledge, from those already using agroecological approaches to those who are new to the concept and keen to learn more.

Nikki Yoxall, research coordinator at Pasture for Life Association, says: 'We know that farmers and crofters really value seeing new ideas in practice, so we want to help explore new ways of doing things by showcasing the successes and learning experiences of others.'

'There are lots of farmers and crofters in Scotland already well down the agroecological path, so connecting them with others is a really powerful way to help establish a supportive community.'

A full list of the themes and events is at <https://www.nourishscotland.org/projects/agroecology-mindset-change/>.

Anyone interested should contact Kirsty Tait at the Nature Friendly Farming Network kirsty.tait@nffn.org.

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Instructor - Beauty
Ref No: WHC IB 02

West Highland College UHI is looking to recruit two Instructors in Beauty based at our Fort William and Portree Learning Centres.

The successful candidates will be required to deliver structured training to students using a variety of approaches to enable them to meet the standards required. Carrying out assessments to the standards set by the industry/awarding body, maintaining accurate assessment records, evaluating student performance and achievement, making recommendations and highlighting support needs as appropriate are also requirements of the role.

An industry related qualification at SCQF level 6 or above, combined with recent relevant industry experience is essential. Experience as a trainer / instructor is desirable.

Successful candidates must be self-motivated and enthusiastic, with the ability to problem solve and relate to students of all ages.

Location: Portree and Fort William

(please state on application which location you're applying for)

Salary: Day rate £151 (based on a 7 hour day)

Working Hours: 7 hours per week on Wednesdays

Fixed Term Contract

3 weeks work in June 2022, followed by

36 weeks in Fort William from August 2022

33 weeks in Portree from August 2022

Closing Date: 27th February 2022, 12 noon

Interviews: 9th March 2022

How to Apply:

For an application form and further details visit our website

www.whc.uhi.ac.uk or email hr.whc@uhi.ac.uk

In line with our Equality and Diversity policy, West Highland College UHI is committed to ensuring that all candidates are treated on the basis of their merits and abilities, and that unfair and unlawful discrimination is eliminated. We positively welcome applications from all sections of the community.



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MOWI



Lecturer - Beauty
Ref No: WHC LB 03

West Highland College UHI is looking to recruit a Lecturer in Beauty, based in Fort William, to teach SCQF Levels 1-6.

The successful candidate will ideally hold a minimum qualification of SCQF Level 7 or equivalent level qualification in a relevant subject and/or have at least 5 years relevant sector work experience.

Successful candidates must be self-motivated and enthusiastic, with the ability to problem solve and relate to students of all ages. Experience using digital technologies for learning and teaching is desirable.

Job share is possible – please state in your application if you wish to be considered for this, and include your availability.

Location: Fort William

Salary: Pay will be on our teaching scale P1-5 £34,170 - £42,357 per annum (pro-rata, with placement dependent on teaching qualifications)

Working Hours: 27 hours 25 minutes per week

Fixed Term Contract for 39 weeks, paid over 52 weeks

(starting August)

Closing Date: 27th February 2022

Interviews: 9th March 2022

How to Apply:

For an application form and further details visit our website

www.whc.uhi.ac.uk or email hr.whc@uhi.ac.uk

In line with our Equality and Diversity policy, West Highland College UHI is committed to ensuring that all candidates are treated on the basis of their merits and abilities, and that unfair and unlawful discrimination is eliminated. We positively welcome applications from all sections of the community.



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Skills and experience required:

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- Health and safety awareness
- Team working experience
- A full driving licence is essential, as well as access to your own transport

This role attracts a living wage salary plus a 10% variable rota allowance, which is pro-rated to the length of the contract. You will work on a rota which includes weekends and bank holidays. It may be a requirement of the role to participate in an out of hours standby rota system.

Apply by visiting the 'Join Our Team' section of our website at www.scottishcanals.co.uk

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Please apply with CV to:
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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 |
|--------------|---|--|
| 21/02705/PP | Demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of single storey rear extension | Old School House, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute, PA31 8SQ |
| 21/02416/LIB | Internal and external alterations including formation of new openings, installation of 2no dormer windows and replace 2no dormer windows to facilitate staff accommodation (sui-generis) | 15 Main Street East, Inveraray, Argyll And Bute, PA32 8TP |
| 21/02415/PP | Alterations to fenestration to include; formation of new openings, installation of 2no dormer windows, replace 2no dormer windows and change of use from storage and office to form staff residential accommodation (sui-generis) | 15 Main Street East, Inveraray, Argyll And Bute, PA32 8TP |
| 21/02738/LIB | Demolition of six tenement blocks comprising 46 flats (Block A 19-9E John Street, Block B, 21-33 John Street, Block C (1-5 Dalintober), Block E (17 -21 Dalintober and 24-26 High Street, and Block F (20-22 High Street) | John Street, Prince's Street And High Street, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute |
| 21/02465/PP | Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of a private wastewater treatment plant | Land North Of 1 Ardmish, Isle Of Gigha, Argyll And Bute |

Written comments can be submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-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
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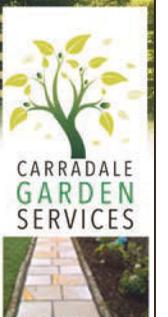
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MID ARGYLL TRANSPORT VOLUNTEERS

AGM to held in the MS Centre, Lochgilphead on 22/02/2022 at 7:00pm. (And by Zoom)
Members will receive info, etc., prior to AGM. Any member of the public may attend:
email tighndarroch@btinternet.com for info prior to date.

Kintyre Blackface Breeders Association

AGM
Tuesday 22nd February 2022 at 7.30pm in the Argyll Bowling Club. All welcome



Dochas Carers Centre

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Support Worker
Lochgilphead

£12.33 per hour - 18 hours per week

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Mid Argyll, Kintyre, Gigha, Islay and Jura

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You will visit the cared-for person at home to allow unpaid carers to have a break from caring. Driving licence and own vehicle are essential.

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www.dochasfund.org.uk Scottish Charity No 029821

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ENGAGEMENT

MACKINLAY - MACPHERSON - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Peter and Alyson on December 31, 2021.

DEATHS

BEGG - Peacefully at Ardfenaig Residential Home, Ardrishaig, on January 27, 2022, Flora Margaret Begg, née McLellan, in her 94th year. Formerly of 40 Highbank Park, Lochgilphead. Beloved wife of the late Allan Begg, much loved mother of Norma and Elinor, cherished granny of Douglas and Gillian and great-granny of Caitlyn. Dear sister of the late Bessie and Marion. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service was held on February 3, 2022 in Glassary, Kilmartin and Ford Parish Church followed by interment at Kilmartin Cemetery. Forever in our hearts.

COLVILLE - Suddenly but peacefully at the James Cook Hospital, Middlesbrough on January 9, 2022, Douglas Bruce Colville (Bruce), in his 80th year, 20 Lingmill Road, Redcar, Cleveland. Dearly beloved and devoted husband of Marion McLachlan, loving dad of Jane and the late Caroline and a very proud grandad and great-grandad. He was a cherished father-in-law, brother, brother-in-law, uncle and friend to many. Bruce's cremation has already taken place at Kirkleatham Memorial Park on January 28, 2022 and in memory of his love of dogs, it is kindly asked that any donation may be made

to: Maxi's Mates Rescue & Rehoming Centre, Redcar. Contact details: maxismates@gmail.com or 07507104636.

GALBRAITH - Peacefully at home, Dunolly, Carradale, on January 25, 2022, Alexander Galbraith (Sandy) in his 77th year, a very beloved husband of Doreen, much loved dad of Lesley, Linda and Alex, loving papa of Lara, Carly, Alex, Cameron, Connor, Emma and James.

SIMPSON - Peacefully at Campbeltown Hospital, on January 23, 2022, April Simpson, in her 92nd year, 2 An Croit, Hillside Road, Carradale, dearly beloved wife of the late Andy Simpson, much loved mother of the late Arthur, a loving and much loved aunt, sister and friend.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CARMICHAEL - Michael, Samantha, Fiona, and Kirsty would like to thank everyone for the many kind expressions of sympathy after the loss of Vivien. She received exceptional care throughout her illness from the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Glasgow and Campbeltown Doctors practice. During her final days, the Campbeltown Hospital nurses and staff treated her with great kindness and were generous with their time making arrangements for visiting. Thank you to TA Blair Undertakers and Kenneth for funeral arrangements. Vivien lived in Campbeltown for fifty happy years, brought up three daughters, had many friends and was proud to call it home.

LAFFERTY - All Jenny's family would

like to sincerely thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the flowers, cards and many expressions of sympathy and for showing us such kindness after the loss of our beloved Mum. Our grateful thanks to all of the Community Nurses, Specialist Nurse and Dr G Anderson, whose collective effort ensured Mum remained in her home. A wish fulfilled. Father Tony Wood, you gave our Mum a fitting and touching service that she thought wouldn't be possible. Thank you. Grateful thanks to Kenneth Blair and all the Blair family for advice and professional arrangements. Thank you to all at Ardshiel Hotel for refreshments and your hospitality. Special thanks to Dr Alejandro Toledo, the care and respect shown to our Mum on every visit and your kindness and compassion shown to us in Mum's final moments will never be forgotten. Se agradece. On such a windy day, thanks to all who paid their respects at Range Road and throughout the town on our way to Kilkerran. To all NHS staff who stood at Ralston and Kilkerran Road, it was very poignant, thank you. Finally, to everyone who joined us at Kilkerran Cemetery, thank you all. Jean Anne, Kenneth, Maureen, Clark and Graeme.

NORRIS - Lilibet and the family of the late Sandra would like to sincerely thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the lovely cards, flowers and food hampers after the sudden loss of our Mum. A very special thank you to Dr Toledo for the kind care and attention and home visits to Mum. Grateful thanks to the doctors and nurses involved in Mum's care. Thank you to Kenneth Blair and staff for funeral arrangements and to Rev Chris Holden for a lovely service in Mum's garden which was so well attended. We would also like to thank everyone who lined the streets and stood outside the shops to pay their respects to Mum on route to the cemetery. Thank you to Stronvaar Bowling Club for the lovely venue and Argyll Bakeries for the beautiful purvey. Thank you to everyone who also paid their respects at the graveside.

SANDLER - Davina's family would like to thank family, friends and

neighbours for the cards and flowers received after her passing. A special thank you to Carr Gomm for everything they did for Davina including the compassionate and professional care shown to Davina and her family, this is extended to Mairi and the community nurses, Rhys and all staff at TA Blair for their professionalism shown.

TIMMINS - Paul, Stuart, Niall and Innes, would like to thank everyone for the many kind expressions of sympathy and for the thoughtful cards and beautiful flowers received in memory of Sheila. Special thanks to doctors and staff at Tarbert Medical Practice, care workers, Carr Gomm, friends and Tarbert Pharmacy, for all the kind care and attention received. Thanks also to Lyn Peden for a comforting service, Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for professional services and to all who lined the route and attended at church and graveside to pay their last respects. The collection for MS raised £260.

MEMORIAM

ELSTOB - James Eric, June 22, 1959 - February 8, 2021.



Gone too soon, a loving family man. A kind and quiet man with a good heart and a great sense of humour, James was born in Australia, emigrating to the UK in 2010, spending ten years in Lincolnshire, but the last seven months of his life near Campbeltown. His presence and laughter are sadly missed.

CHURCH NOTICES

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH
75 Longrow, Campbeltown Family Service
Sunday, 6 February 11am
Kelvin Moller, Clachan
ALL WELCOME
www.springbankchurch.org.uk
https://www.facebook.com/springbankchurch
Contact phone number 07734178055

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
George Street, Campbeltown

Sunday 6th February
11.15am Worship Service
Mr Iain K MacLeod
11.15am Sunday School
7.30pm Youth Group (by Zoom)
Wednesday 9th February
12 noon Bible Study and Prayer (by Zoom)
All welcome
www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

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

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Baptist Church Pastor Mark Jasper 01586 554 092
pastor@campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk
www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk
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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
Minister Rev Lyn Peden
Tel: 01880 820158

ST. KIERAN'S, ST. JOHN STREET, CAMPBELTOWN
01586 552160
campbeltown@rcdai.org.uk
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Sundays, Holy Mass, 10am
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Charitable Trust, a registered Scottish Charity, SC002876
Parish Priest: Fr. A. Wood

LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH
Sunday 6th February
Morning Worship 11.15am
Gen 1 Triple C
Rev C Holden
Everyone welcome
COVID Guidelines apply

ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES
Sunday 6th February
Psalm 138
Ardrishaig at 11:00am 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 6th February
11.00am Worship service
More info at
www.lpchurch.co.uk
Lochgilphead Parish Church of Scotland
SC016311

GLASSARY, KILMARTIN AND FORD PARISH CHURCH
Sunday 6th February 2022
11.15am
Rev Dr Roderick Campbell
Communion
Joint Service with Tayvallich
All very welcome
Please remember to wear a mask

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH
Sunday 6 February
united Communion service at 11.15am in Kilmartin Church
Rev R Campbell
Covid restrictions apply.
Please remember to wear a mask

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND WEST LOCHFYNESIDE (Cumlodden, Inveraray and Lochgair)
Sunday 6th February 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: SCO16665

SALVATION ARMY

Sunday 6th February
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 SCO09359

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Live learning in the outdoors

Almost 100 young people have had the chance to learn new life skills as part of an Argyll and Bute outdoor education programme.

A report to go before community chiefs has revealed increased confidence and self-esteem were among the skills learned by youngsters on the Youth Work Recovery Outdoor Education Programme.

The scheme was operated by the area's Community Learning and Development (CLD) service, which recently came under the control of Live Argyll.

The report was discussed at Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Community Planning Group earlier this week.

A CLD service spokesperson said: 'We offered young people the opportunity to achieve accredited awards and the experience of quality outdoor learning, whilst developing personal and team skills.'

'The programme was delivered by Community Learning in partnership with Hebridean Pursuits Outdoor Learning, secondary schools and the Education Psychology Service. All of Argyll and Bute's secondary schools were allocated up to 10 places on the programme.'

'Activities were delivered to achieve increased confidence, self-esteem and resilience, building life-skills, encouraging self-respect, introducing coping mechanisms, improving mental, physical

and emotional wellbeing and developing aspirations for the future.

'There were many outcomes achieved and positive impacts which included 99 young people taking part in outdoor learning experiences that challenged them.'

'Forty five young people gained SQA Health and Wellbeing awards, 23 young people achieved Dynamic Youth Awards and 14 young people achieved Hi5 awards.'

'Eighty per cent reported their wellbeing improved, 53 per cent increased their re-engagement with education and 40 per cent saw their choices and behaviour improve.'

The report also gave an update on the No-one Left Behind employability delivery model which continues to operate in the area. The spokesperson added: 'We continued working with learners through another year of Covid lockdown [in 2020/21] and supported a further 17 people via online and non-face to face provision to help them develop their skills and move into positive destinations, improve their chances of employment, address barriers and challenges and gain accredited qualifications.'

'This resulted in six learners entering further education and five people entering into employment. We continue to work with the other six learners who are still working towards positive destinations by the end of March 2022.'

Young riders learn how to prepare ponies for travel

Argyll South Pony Club held its second event of the year at Rhoin Farm near Campbeltown on Sunday January 30.

It was an unmounted rally where the young riders learned how to prepare their ponies for travelling as well as correct loading techniques for safe trailer journeys.

Instructors Sheila MacCallum and Mairi Ralston made the learning a fun and enjoyable experience as can be seen by the happy smiling faces.

The club is looking forward to a busy and successful year.



The smiling faces say it all at Argyll South Pony Club.



Young riders learn how to prepare their ponies for travelling.

Transport charity's annual general meeting

A charity which provides a vital transport service and kept many people connected during Covid lockdown will hold its annual general meeting later this month.

Mid Argyll Transport Volunteers runs a car transport scheme to help elderly and disabled people unable to use local buses. Transport is provided for shopping, medical appointments and social

outings across Mid Argyll and Tarbert. They also take people to and from hospital appointments in the central belt and Oban.

The meeting will be held at the MS Centre in Lochgilhead - and streamed via Zoom - on Tuesday February 22, starting at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, email tighndarroch@btinternet.com.



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Mid Argyll youth bolsters Oban rugby

While Mid Argyll under-18 rugby players took the field at Slockavullin on Saturday January 22 for their first match in two years - as reported in last week's Argyllshire Advertiser - three other Mid Argyll youngsters were playing that day, but 30 miles away in Oban.

Murray MacDonald, Vinnie Buckley and Rhys Coffield helped Oban Lorne to a 63 - 24 victory over Loch Lomond

in the West Youth Under-16 Cup. In the match, played at Glencruitten, Murray bagged a hat-trick of tries and, not content with simply crossing the whitewash, he banged over eight conversions.

The next match for Mid Argyll under-18s is away to Glasgow High Kelvinside (GHK) on Sunday February 6, followed by a home tie versus Whitecraigs on Saturday February 19 at Slockavullin.



The Mid Argyll under-18 team which took on Ayr-Wellington at Slockavullin.



Lochgilthead inside centre Murray MacDonald dives over the line to score for Oban Lorne in the under-16 match v Loch Lomond at Glencruitten. Photo: Kevin McGlynn.

Registration opens for Scottish Rugby Schools Week

Primary and secondary schools in Argyll and Bute are being invited to sign up for Scottish Rugby Schools Week 2022.

Following the success of the inaugural event supported by Saltire Energy in September 2021 the programme returns for a follow-up week from Monday March 21.

Over 16,000 pupils engaged with the event last year with 287 schools signed up to participate and nearly a quarter

delivering new or rekindling their rugby activity.

To meet the challenges presented by Covid the programme was largely delivered digitally, with teachers offering practical and classroom-based rugby activities based on resources provided by Scottish Rugby.

This year the 2022 Scottish Rugby Schools Week programme will provide equipment, in-person and digital support to schools on

a national and regional basis.

All resources have been designed specifically to enable schools to facilitate rugby activity to any age group, irrelevant of playing and coaching experience, and in line with the Curriculum for Excellence.

Planned schools' events including festivals of rugby, and training sessions, with local rugby clubs and development officers, will also be delivered.

Last year, 101 schools across

the country engaged with a local club development officer and it is hoped the continued collaboration between these groups will see a strengthening in relationships and partnerships between schools and rugby clubs.

Gav Scott, Scottish Rugby's director of rugby development said: 'I'm looking forward to working with schools and clubs to build on the success from the inaugural programme.

'The easing of Covid-19

restrictions means that this year, members of the rugby development department will be able to offer tailored, in-person support to schools over the course of the week and support them to build relationships with local clubs and development officers.

'The programme also allows more young people to enjoy the benefits of rugby and promotes wellbeing through an inclusive sport where there is a place for everyone, no matter their gen-

der, ability or level of fitness.' Schools are now invited to register to take part in Scottish Rugby Schools Week 2022 on the Scottish Rugby website.



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