



## All roads lead to Oban for The Highland Cattle Society's 131st annual Spring Show and Sale

FEATURE  
INSIDE



# Aray turbines powered by promises to community

by Colin Cameron  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

The developer hoping to erect an 18-turbine wind farm in Glen Aray has been at pains to point out its community credentials.

Oxfordshire-based Ridge Clean Energy (RCE) held a public exhibition on its plans for 'Ladyfield Renewable Energy Park' at the Inveraray Inn on Thursday February 3, following a similar event in Dalmally a day earlier.

A planning application is expected to be submitted to the Scottish Government in the summer.

If approved, the Ladyfield site would have a total generating capacity of between 50 and 100 Megawatts (MW), with turbines reaching 200 metres high to blade tips - though turbine numbers and heights may change in response to surveys and consultations.

Neal Reid, of renewable energy consultancy Riversdale



Enterprises Ltd, employed by RCE to manage the Ladyfield scheme, explained the site's attributes - it's available in a competitive market; it's windy; free of designations; and with good access - a combination which, he said, 'is becoming quite rare in the UK'.

A substation, turbine trans-

formers, an upgraded access track, construction compound, crane hardstandings and a permanent meteorological mast will also be required.

A scoping report was submitted to the Scottish Government in summer 2021, while two years of environmental surveys are due to conclude in the

next few months.

If everything goes to plan for the developer, the planning application could be submitted as early as June this year, though Neal Reid reckons a more realistic target would be the end of September at the latest.

Though not too visible from

Some of the development team: From left, Stuart Davidson of environmental consultancy Arcus, RCE's Daniela Jenkins and Toby Harrison-Turner, RCE chief operating officer Dine Glasgow and Neal Reid of Riversdale Enterprises Ltd

Inveraray town centre or the castle, most of the turbines will be clearly seen from the opposite shore of Loch Fyne, and in plain sight for residents of Glen Aray.

Present at the public exhibition was RCE chief operating officer Dine Glasgow.

Mr Glasgow and his wife Marjorie, CEO of Ridge Clean Energy, moved to the UK from America almost 20 years ago. They have since developed more than 200 MW of onshore wind power across the UK in association with US businessman Michael Tang, owner of National Material LP, an operation with a \$2 billion turnover.

He explained that RCE has plans to support the people of Inveraray, primarily by helping the community bid to buy Inveraray Pier.

'We want to contribute to the community,' said Mr Glasgow. 'We can bring our expertise in raising money to assist Inspire Inveraray and the community council.'

He added that the company is also considering other ideas, such as helping people with their energy bills as well as the recognised community funding system.

'Our goal is to tap into the interests the community has and help them realise that,' said Mr Glasgow.

RCE plans to hold further public consultation events ahead of the planning application's submission.

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# Permanent Argyll and Bute care chief named

A former mental health nurse has been appointed to lead health and social care services in Argyll and Bute.

Fiona Davies has been interim chief officer of Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) since May 2021 and has now been handed the role on a permanent basis.

Ms Davies said: 'I feel honoured to be appointed to the post of chief officer for the partnership.'

'It is a privilege to be working with all the partnership staff, partners and voluntary organisations. My focus is to continue delivering high quality health and social care services and to ensure the HSCP achieves the best possible outcomes for people living in Argyll and Bute.'

Ms Davies started her career as a registered mental health nurse and gained a wide range of experience across three of

the four UK nations in clinical, professional leadership, operational and strategic management roles.

In 2012, she moved to Lochaber and developed her strong interest in the delivery of remote and rural health and social care services. Prior to her time in Argyll and Bute, Fiona was leading mental health services for the northern part of NHS Highland. She has worked in a variety of care settings focusing on quality, governance and service development with a particular interest in stakeholder work, organisational development and innovative and transformative service planning.

'Having Fiona on board permanently will be a great asset to the partnership,' said NHS Highland chief executive Pam Dudek, 'and I look forward to continuing to work

closely with her in the future.' Argyll and Bute Council chief executive Pippa Milne said: 'Fiona has been a fantastic interim chief officer and I am very pleased she will be continuing to lead the organisation.'

Sarah Compton-Bishop, chairwoman of Argyll and Bute Integration Joint Board which has strategic oversight of health and social care services, said: 'Fiona's experience and knowledge has been invaluable in steering the important work of the HSCP.'

'I am looking forward to working with Fiona to continue the excellent work of the partnership as we plan for the future.'

**Right: Former acting Argyll and Bute HSCP chief officer Fiona Davies who has been handed the permanent role.**



## POLICE FILES

### Threatening and abusive

At 1am on Thursday February 3, at an address in Orchard Park, Ardrishaig, police responded to a report of a 29-year-old man allegedly acting in a threatening and abusive manner. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

### Assault on woman

A man, aged 58, was arrested and charged with assaulting a woman at 7.50pm on Saturday February 5 at an address in Mansecroft, Clachan. He was released on an undertaking to appear at a future date at Campbeltown Sheriff Court.

### Condition breach

On Saturday February 5 at 8pm it is alleged that a 63-year-old woman breached her bail conditions by being in an address in Mansecroft, Clachan. She was arrested, charged with the offence and kept in custody to appear at Campbeltown Sheriff Court.

## Expect delays as Minard is connected to Crarae Garden

The first phase of a £75,000 project to build 190 metres of pavement between the northern end of Minard and the access to Crarae Garden started on Tuesday this week.

Better drainage and new fencing, boundary walls and road signs are planned. Footway improvements will also be carried out in Minard village. The work is expected to take approximately three weeks and will involve clearing the area of vegetation and building a new boundary wall in advance of the main work in phase two. Traffic lights and

a 30mph speed limit will be in place during the first phase with trunk road management firm BEAR Scotland advising traffic lights will occasionally have to be red at either side of the site for short periods for safety reasons.

Temporary pedestrian routes will also be implemented to maintain safe access.

The second phase - installing the footway and associated works - will begin shortly afterwards and is expected to take around six weeks.

Eddie Ross of BEAR Scotland said: 'Trunk road safety is

paramount at BEAR Scotland and this investment from Transport Scotland will improve pedestrian access and connectivity on the A83 between Minard and Crarae Garden. The traffic management required to undertake the first phase of works is essential to keep everyone safe, so we encourage all road users to follow any signs or temporary arrangements put in place. The second phase is anticipated to start in early spring and will last for around six weeks. We will share details nearer the time.'

## Roadworks to close A83 through Arrochar

Drivers are being warned of an overnight road closure through Arrochar starting this weekend.

A short stretch of the A83 in the village will be closed just north of the junction of the A83 and A814 Helensburgh road overnight from 9pm on Sunday February 13 until 6am on Monday February 14 to enable Scottish Water to

carry out emergency repairs to a manhole. A Scottish Water spokesperson said: 'Work is being carried out during the night to help minimise disruption. All road traffic management has been agreed in liaison with BEAR Scotland and will be lifted as soon as it is safe to do so. Emergency vehicle access will be maintained throughout.'

Drivers are advised to allow extra time for their journey

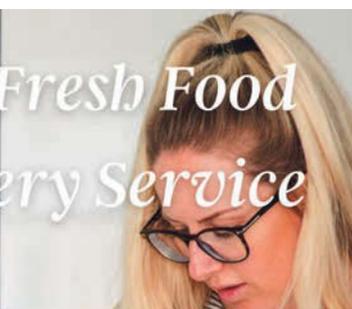
and follow the diversion route using the A819, A85 and A82 via Inveraray, Dalmally and Tarbet.

The Scottish Water spokesperson continued: 'Scottish Water apologises for any inconvenience caused and thanks residents, businesses and road users for their patience and understanding while this emergency work is carried out.'



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# Funding boost to tackle Argyll rainforest threat

An assault on a foreign invader to our shores is about to be stepped up thanks to government funding.

Purple-flowering Rhododendron ponticum is a familiar and long-established sight in the Argyll countryside, but its proliferation places our native Atlantic rainforest under serious threat.

The award of £214,000, which comes from the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund, will assist Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT) in tackling the problem.

The money will be used to improve woodland around Kilmory and at Glenan Woods in Cowal.

Both are prime woodland sites but are over-run with invasive Rhododendron ponticum which is crowding



out native tree and lower plant species.

The cash will enable the control and management of rhododendron at these sites, while supporting the appoint-

ment of ACT's ranger team and providing a polytunnel for ACT-run MAKI Pups outdoor nursery.

ACT development manager Julie Young said:

**Rhododendron ponticum is choking out our native Atlantic rainforest.**

Photograph: P Philpott.

'Rhododendron ponticum, lovely as its summer blossom may be to some, is a significant non-native invasive plant in our remnant rainforests in Argyll.

'Thanks to the Nature Restoration Fund, ACT is able to remove this barrier to rainforest restoration in two Argyll strongholds. As ACT has demonstrated elsewhere, this will allow woodland biodiversity to flourish and make it easier for us all to get in amongst the woods, learn about them, exercise more, and just feel better from being in such a wonderful green space.'

Leader of Argyll and Bute

Council Robin Currie said: 'The woodland at Kilmory Estate is an important natural asset to Argyll and Bute and it is vital we do everything we can to conserve its natural resources. Over the last few months we have brought many parts of the estate back to life through a variety of climate-friendly projects, including the creation of an award-winning outdoor learning centre and a biomass boiler which produces heat using local timber.

'The announcement of this funding from the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund to clear invasive species will greatly benefit the biodiversity of the woodland and will complement new native planting around the estate that we have agreed in partnership

with other organisations, such as ACT and Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE).'

The Nature Restoration Fund supports a range of projects aimed at increasing the biodiversity and environmental value of land and sea, with a focus on habitats and species, and supporting green skills, training and jobs where possible. Through this approach successful projects will contribute to the 'green recovery'.

The ACT project Rewilding Argyll's Rainforest is one of 54 projects across Scotland to share the additional £5 million in this round of the Nature Restoration Fund.

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www.argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

## Schools consultation on proposed changes extended

The public consultation on proposed changes to education in Argyll and Bute has been extended again, until Thursday March 31.

A consultation of pupils across the region on the Empowering our Educators plans is set to begin after the February half-term break. A further report published by the authority claims some headteachers have said they spend 70 per cent of their week teaching.

The proposals involve school clusters being created, with an executive head overseeing each cluster. Each school would have a head of school. The council insists the clusters have not been decided.

Teaching unions have previously expressed fears that the plans will cut the number of headteachers in Argyll and Bute from 84 to 14.

The further extension of the consultation means that it will now close after the next meeting of the council's community services committee, which is on Thursday March 10. It had initially been due to finish on Friday February 4 before this latest extension.

A new frequently asked

questions (FAQ) document said: 'The voice of our children is our highest priority.'

'We have been working with groups of children and young people to create the materials that schools will use for the pupil consultation which begins following the February half-term break. We very much look forward to hearing the opinions of our children and young people.'

'Teaching headteachers have told us they are spending up to 70 per cent of their week teaching. This means that they do not have the capacity to focus on the strategic leadership of the school, developing the curriculum and learning about what works well elsewhere.'

'Although non-teaching, the heads of school will still maintain a presence in classrooms in order to drive forward quality assurance and school improvement, and to maintain close relationships with their teaching staff and learners. This model is designed to give our teachers focused time to teach, and leaders focused time to lead.'

'This model has been developed by educationalists in

Argyll and Bute. It is essential that the principles of the model were as fully developed as possible to enable meaningful consultation before presenting to our stakeholders.'

'Individual school collectives have not been pre-decided. Local communities and their school will be consulted in depth before those decisions are made.'

On the possibility of heads of school being on the same level as a deputy headteacher, the report added: 'On the SNCT (Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers) salary templates, headteacher and deputy headteachers are on the same salary grades.'

'Argyll and Bute Council determines the salary for leadership posts using the national job-sizing toolkit. Part of that calculation relates to the size of the school roll.'

'It is not unusual for a deputy headteacher of a large school to be paid higher than the headteacher of a smaller school. In Argyll and Bute job-sizing is approved by the trade unions.'

The full new FAQ document can be found at empowering-oreducators.co.uk.



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Marc Pickering's award-winning photography has landed him work with Maserati and Amazon.

# Argyll forester is photographer of the year and Maserati's cameraman

by Fiona Ross  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Winning the coveted title of Scottish Landscape Photographer of the Year 2021 was the culmination of a lifetime love of the outdoors for Argyll photographer Marc Pickering.

Now he features on the popular View Finders podcast in an hour-long interview explaining how his job, his passion for Argyll's scenery and a childhood spent constantly outdoors led him to award-winning success and commissions with Maserati and Amazon Prime.

Marc works full-time in the forests of Argyll as a works supervisor for Forestry and Land Scotland, describing it as 'an ideal career for me when I love the great outdoors so much'.

Speaking on the January 27 podcast, Marc explained: 'Working outside for 14 years is really helpful for my photography as you get to know the weather so you can see the weather coming in; you can tell when the light is going to break through the clouds.'

'It has always cracked my partner and my friends up that I can say it's going to start raining in half an hour and half an hour later it starts raining. It's just something you get in tune with and it definitely helps a lot with landscape photography.'

Marc described his home county to the podcast's listeners by saying: 'Argyll can be hit and miss when storms come in; we get astounding colours. It's a lovely place. It's us, next stop Jura and then America.'

'We're exposed to all weathers, mainly westerlies, but get the cold weather from the east too. It's a good place to be out experiencing all the elements.'

'I feel Argyll is overlooked

because we're surrounded by all the famous, beautiful places and people travel past here to get to the islands, but they rarely stop off.'

The photograph that won Marc the prestigious award in 2021 should help put Argyll on the map as it is an atmospheric shot of Loch Ederline on the road from Lochgilphead to Oban. Entitled First Light, the winning picture was of a landscape very familiar to Marc.

'I pass the loch every day on my commute to work and it's one of the most picturesque little lochs in the area,' he said.

'It always catches my eye; it's always got different light on it, particularly on the nice misty mornings we generally get here. Loch Ederline encapsulates what I feel and love about the landscape around here. It's got everything I love about the area.'

**'I got the most mind-blowing sunrise you've ever seen. It's a memory that will stay with me forever.'**

Much as he loves his local landscape, Marc has travelled far and wide in pursuit of the perfect shot. He spent four nights alone in the Arctic Circle, travelling on foot in search of a great photograph.

'To get to the Arctic Circle I took a train and ferry from where my family live in Norway and spent four days hiking around there on my own,' he said.

'I couldn't afford to rent a car so I walked everywhere and am happy I did as I got the most mind-blowing sunrise you've ever seen. It's a memory that will stay with me forever.'

Not all Marc's work involves extreme expeditions in harsh weather. He was recently surprised and delighted to be offered a commission from luxury car-maker Maserati.

'One day I was at work and I got one of the most random and exciting emails I've had popping through my phone,' he explained.

'I was sitting on my tea-break out in the forest when I got an email. When I first read it I thought it's probably spam, but Maserati had come across my Instagram account and liked my landscape photography. They had their new models out and were coming up to do the North Coast 500 and wanted someone to capture images of the cars in that landscape.'

'They asked if I wanted to do it. After about a second of thinking, I said yes. It was a three-day shoot and I got to drive the car to the location and basically it was about trying to get the mood of Scotland with the cars in atmospheric weather.'

When Marc worked for Amazon Prime to promote the Outlander series, his task was to photograph all the Scottish locations used in the series.

Marc explained that working on commissions is different from his usual photography when sometimes it can take him four years of returning to the same spot to get exactly the shot he has in mind. 'It pushes you to be on it straight away which can be frustrating as I like to wait for the perfect light, but you can't do that. These commissions aren't something I actively pursue, but I love challenging myself.'

Marc's work can be seen on his website: marcpickering-photography.uk and his podcast interview can be found on viewfinderslive.com.

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# Homes wanted for litter-picking stations

## Appeal as new project to keep communities clean and tidy is launched

Can you help keep your community clean by adopting a two-minute litter pick station?

The GRAB Trust, in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council, is looking for support from businesses and community organisations to adopt and manage new litter-picking stations supplied by Devon and Cornwall-based charity The 2 Minute Foundation.

The specially-designed litter stations have proved effective in the fight against seasonal litter in southern visitor locations. The partnership now wants to encourage visitors and locals to do their bit and keep Argyll waste-free.

Travel restrictions mean the numbers of staycation visitors to Argyll has risen over the past two years and this is set to continue into 2022. Whilst, this is wonderful news for the area's businesses and economy, it can also result in an increase of litter and impact on waste management.

Christina Saunders of The GRAB Trust said: 'The trust will ensure the stations are stocked with litter grabbers and bags, but we need your help to ensure the stations stay in place and are used properly. We are looking for 15 local businesses or community organisations across Argyll to 'adopt a station'. If you are interested in adopting a station please contact the GRAB Trust at [lapickers@grab.org.uk](mailto:lapickers@grab.org.uk). We will promote your involvement and contribution accordingly,



People in Craignish are enthusiastically supporting a trial litter-picking station.



One of The 2 Minute Foundation's litter-picking stations.

whether as a business or community group.'

The new litter-picking stations encourage citizens to take two minutes to do their own mini litter-pick, which

will help keep the beauty spot clean and protect wildlife.

Participants are encouraged to photograph their achievement using the #2minutelitterpick then take the litter

collected away with them or place in a designated litter bin.

Since the scheme's introduction in 2019 the #2minutelitterpick has been used more than 175,000 times

Argyll communities have always led the way to keeping their environment clean and litter free and it is hoped communities will embrace this new initiative.

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# Heather's Treks – Beinn Odhar: The 'dun-colo



Heather Thomas-Smith runs Heathery Heights, an outdoor adventure and discovery company based in Lochgilphead, offering guided walking adventures, outdoor activities, training and experiences. She has travelled and trekked throughout the world, walked across Scotland numerous times, climbed many of its peaks and now lives in Argyll amongst the scenery she loves. All her walks can be booked as bespoke guided experiences. [www.heatheryheights.co.uk](http://www.heatheryheights.co.uk)

## Walk information

**Route:** Beinn Odhar (Corbett)  
**Distance:** 7.6km (4.75 miles)  
**Ascent:** 686m  
**Time:** 3½-4 hours  
**Terrain:** Easy access via West Highland Way, then open hillside and old mine path  
**Map/s:** OS Landranger 50 (1:50 000)  
 OS Explorer 377 (1:25 000)  
**Start/finish/parking:** Tyndrum  
**Grid reference:** NN328304  
**Public transport:** Bus and train  
**Toilets:** Yes

Clinging to the edge of Argyll are several well-known Munros and Corbetts that share ridgelines, summits or slopes with surrounding counties. Amongst these is Beinn Odhar – its southern slopes lying firmly in the county of Stirling, whilst its summit stands proudly in Argyll.

If approached from the west, north or south you could keep your toes in Argyll all day. Unless on a round of Corbetts – there are five here that make a fine challenge – it is easier to approach the Corbett via its gentler slopes from Tyndrum. This also gives the opportuni-

ty to explore the adit – access tunnel – and old lead mine on its higher slopes where the mineral vein continuation from Sron nan Colan is exposed. The Beinn Odhar lead mining venture appears to have been a short one but the views once the summit is reached are tremendous.

Leaving the car park, cross the A82 and head left passing the Tyndrum Inn, the Green Welly Stop and cross the bridge. Turn right immediately after crossing the bridge to join the West Highland Way (WHW) northwards, passing the KeyStore.

You will need to stay on the

WHW for the next 1.25km as it slowly climbs out of Tyndrum with the A82 on your left and the Crom Allt (burn) on your right until you reach the bridges over the burn and railway. Cross the bridges and go through the gate at the north end. You will be heading up on to the open hillside to your right.

You now have a choice. Either head straight up in a north easterly direction picking your own route on the grassy slopes or veer slightly right back to the Crom Allt to pick up a faint path. If you use the latter, ensure you head upwards at around NN334323. Either way you will tend to end up on sections of the old mining path as it zigs zags upwards by default due to the natural line of the slope.

Once you reach 600m – after approximately 1.3km depending on how direct your route was – the ground becomes stonier. The adit and mine are higher to your left, northwest, on the crest of the ridgeline, whereas the faint path runs just under this so if

Right: Mist catches sunlight from the slopes of Beinn Odhar near Tyndrum.



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# oured mountain'

you want to explore them it is worth scabbling up the rocks to have a look. The bottom of the adit starts at around 650ms.

Heading up from the adit and mine – or path – the route flattens out, passing a lochan and the county boundary to your left. Ahead, the final ascent is best tackled by heading northeast then northwest to follow the hill's natural line. There are no particular difficulties.

The summit views are fabulous and an excellent panorama of Beinn Dorain can be had from the steep northern slopes above Coire Luaidh.

It is easiest to return down the southwestern slopes you ascended, but other possibilities could include some of the neighbouring Corbetts, especially the longer days in summer.

## Safety in the outdoors

The described routes and accompanying information are there to be used as a guide and do not replace the use of map and compass and the skills required to use them.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the route is accurate at the time of going to print, please be aware track and path closures can happen at any time. All walks are undertaken at your own risk.

Continue to adhere to government guidelines, exercise responsibly and use appropriate clothing and equipment for your chosen activity. Inform a contact about your route/whereabouts. Don't forget your phone, snacks, drink, any medication/first aid supplies you may need and to check weather conditions. Most walks are dog friendly, but please keep your dog under close control, especially around livestock and wildlife. Please follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.



Beinn Dorain and the Black Mount hills from Beinn Odhar.

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# Get ready to meet the ancestors

Around 4,000 years ago, a young woman was buried at what later became Upper Largie in Kilmartin Glen.

Her fragmented skeleton was rediscovered in 1996 – the only prehistoric human burial from Kilmartin Glen to have survived to this day.

At the time her family and community laid her to rest, the Bronze Age was under way in Britain. Kilmartin and wider Mid Argyll was already an important ceremonial region for the people of western Scotland and beyond.

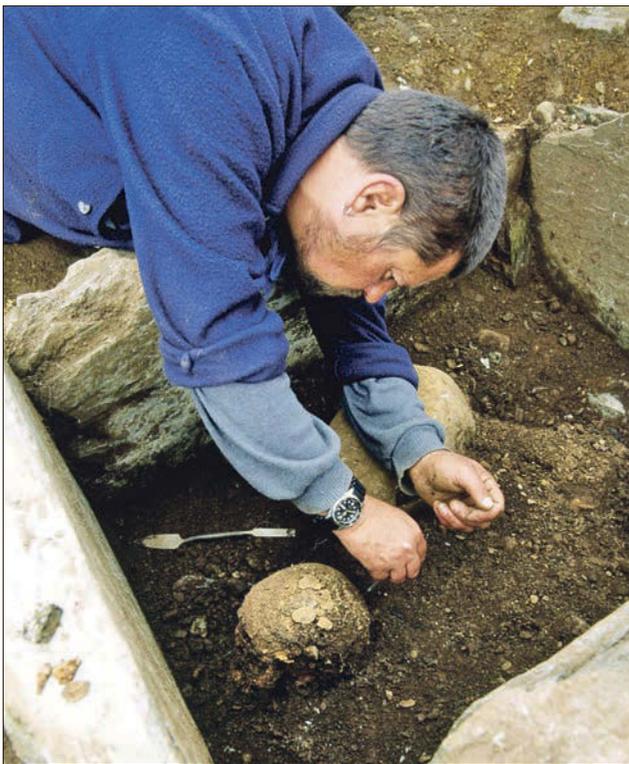
Stone circles at Callanish on Lewis and the Orcadian Ring of Brodgar were already in place, while Stonehenge

was largely complete. Beyond these shores, the Egyptian pyramids of Giza, built a century or two earlier, were gleaming.

The Sumerian civilisation – with its invention of writing – had reached its final years, while the Xia dynasty, traditionally the first such dynasty in China, was in its pomp.

Features and artefacts dating back to the stone and bronze ages through to more recent times are these days looked after by Kilmartin Museum, set up in 1997.

In 2021, the young woman's skull from Upper Largie was scanned as part of important conservation work through



The 4,000-year-old young woman's skull was discovered in 1996. Photograph: David Lyons.



The scanned 3D replica, now on its way to Stockholm, will be used in a detailed facial reconstruction.

the museum. A 3D replica was produced from that, with a second copy taken to be encased in silica and clay.

The scanned replica is now on its way to specialist sculptor Oscar D Nilsson's Art and Science studio

in Stockholm, Sweden. Sculptor and archaeologist Mr Nilsson will create a hyper-realistic facial reconstruction from the skull, enabling visitors to the newly-redeveloped Kilmartin Museum, due to reopen in 2023, to meet face-

to-face with a woman who, 4,000 years ago, lived and died in the glen surrounding the museum.

Mr Nilsson, who plans to begin the Kilmartin facial reconstruction in the spring, said: "The human face is a

motif that never ceases to fascinate me; the variation of the underlying structure as well as the variety in details seem endless.

'And all the faces I reconstruct are unique. They are all individuals.'



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## Peat and Diesel to fire up Tarbert

A sold-out Tarbert Peat and Diesel gig, twice postponed because of the Covid pandemic, is to go ahead next month.

Stornoway sensations Innes, Uilly and Boydie, who play a mix of Scottish folk music and Celtic punk and were set to headline Tarbert Music Festival in September 2020, will now perform in the village hall on Friday March 4.

'Original tickets are valid and there may be a few others available, so please give us a shout on Facebook if you want tickets for the show,' said spokesperson for organisers West Kintyre Promotions.

'We have The Ronains and Anavrin providing support, so the night will retain the original festival vibe.'

'We thank everyone for their patience and look forward to welcoming everyone for what will be a unique opportunity to see Peat and Diesel in an intimate setting.'

**GET INVOLVED**  
email [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)

## YOUR PICTURES



A misty Argyll castle is the subject of this week's featured photograph by Sharon Hiley. Sharon captured the atmospheric scene at Tarbert Castle, a much-loved historical site looked after by Tarbert Castle Trust. The castle has ancient royal connections, dating back to the 11th century. King Robert the Bruce rebuilt and extended the fortification in the early 14th century, before King James IV erected the tower house - which can still be seen today - in the late 15th century. Send your favourite photographs for publication to [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)



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# Household water costs to increase

The amount households pay for Scottish Water services is to rise.

Water and waste water charges will go up by 4.2 per cent in 2022/23 – see table below.

The new annual fees, collected alongside local authority council tax, will mean an average bill increase of 31 pence per week.

In a press release, government-owned Scottish Water said the increases were necessary 'to increase investment,

protect services against the impact of climate change, reduce carbon emissions and ensure customers have reliable and resilient services in future'.

Scottish Water – the fourth largest water services provider in the UK – serves 2.6 million households supplying 1.5 billion litres of water and removing and cleaning 1 billion litres of used and surface water daily.

Water and waste water charges, which raise almost

**'Higher levels of investment are needed to protect services now and in the long term.'**

£1 billion annually, supports service delivery, investment in ageing infrastructure and improvements in water quality and environmental protection. Around half of households in

Scotland receive financial support as they automatically have either a discount, exemption or reduction applied to their water and wastewater charges.

Scottish Water chief executive Douglas Millican said: 'Customers rely on our services for their daily water needs and to take away and clean the water they use.'

'Over the last two years those services have been vital to maintaining public health during the pandemic.'



Scottish Water chief executive Douglas Millican. Photograph: Craig Williamson/SNS Group.

'We have been recognised as leading in the water sector in the UK on customer service excellence. The quality of Scotland's drinking water remains very high and we are investing to protect the environment from pollution.'

'Higher levels of investment are needed to protect services now and over the long term, particularly in meeting the challenges of more intense rainfall, flooding, drought and reducing carbon emissions.'

'We understand there needs to be a balance between the need for higher levels of investment and the financial

challenges faced by households at present. We have set charges at a level that takes account of those challenges while being open and clear that charges will need to increase further in future.'

Water and waste water charges to licensed providers who supply businesses and other non-domestic customers will also increase by 4.2 per cent.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
email editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Council tax band	Water supply charge	Waste water collection charge	Combined charge
Band A	£147.60	£171.36	£318.96
Band B	£172.20	£199.92	£372.12
Band C	£196.80	£228.48	£425.28
Band D	£221.40	£257.04	£478.44
Band E	£270.60	£314.16	£584.76
Band F	£319.80	£371.28	£691.08
Band G	£369.00	£428.40	£797.40
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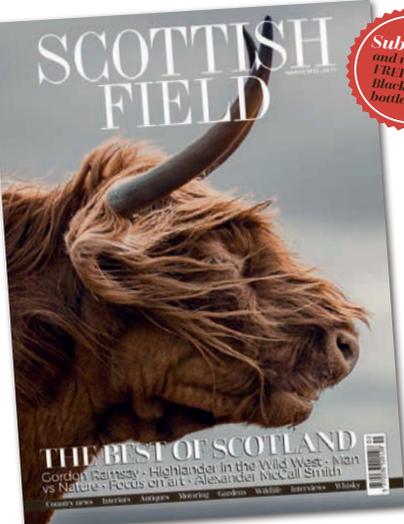
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## SCOTTISH FIELD

### March

**Photo Essay...**

Former Marine JJ Fenton's best Scottish snaps...  
 Exclusive interview with Gordon Ramsay...  
 Pastiche architecture... Inspirational Scots...  
 Stunning East Lothian garden... Artist Naomi Rae...  
 Scents of the forest... Deer management...

# Two new Jura houses planned

Plans for two new houses on the Isle of Jura have been submitted to council chiefs.

John Lithgow's proposal for the site, on land south-east of Feolin Ferry House at Craighouse, also involves the formation of vehicle access.

Argyll and Bute Council planning officers are expected to reach a decision on the plans

by the middle of March and members of the public can now view and comment on the plans.

A supporting statement written by Mr Lithgow's planning agent John Peace said: "The proposal is to form two houses to establish another stream of income for this estate.

"The location of this pro-

posal is on the footprint of existing ruined croft/barn buildings and sited in this location integrates it with Feolin Ferry House adjacent to this access into the estate. The location will also mean the running of these proposed properties will not hamper the day-to-day running of the estate, keeping any traffic they

generate outwith the estate's network of tracks. Finishes to the dwellings to integrate into the landscape with stone walls with recessed joints to the road elevation with rendered walls to the sides and rear. The site itself and the ruin is sited in open rough ground with no history of flooding. Once developed [the planned devel-

opment] will give a stronger entrance to the estate. [We are] currently also applying to form an estate workshop and deer larder behind this which will be screened by these proposed houses and the existing Feolin Ferry House. There are no plans for any additional planting other than wild flower seeding of the banking to the

rear once the parking areas have been formed to encourage bugs and insects. As the shore is open to the elements, there is a lack of trees due to the exposure.'

Mr Peace concluded by telling planning officers: 'I trust you can look favourably on this application to enable this estate to move forward and

## A raffle for Inveraray Pier lovers



Support the bid to buy Inveraray Pier for the community and bring it back to life. 06\_a21InverarayPier04

Time is running out to enter the grand St Valentine's Day raffle in aid of Inveraray Pier.

Inveraray Community Council has organised fantastic prizes for the raffle, to be drawn on Sunday February 13.

Up for grabs are a £100 voucher for dinner for two at the Inveraray Inn as well as two luxury hampers - one of which includes a voucher for 25 per cent off a couple's massage in the Beauty Bee.

Tickets are on sale at the Topsy Laird, the Oh Sugar sweet shop, Inveraray Co-op

and the Beauty Bee. All proceeds go to the fund aimed at buying Inveraray Pier for the community and bringing it back into use.

If you would like to donate at any time, visit the [www.gofundme.com/f/inveraray-pier-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/f/inveraray-pier-fund) online fundraising page or pop your spare cash into collection tins at establishments around town.

Right: Two luxury hampers and a voucher for the Inveraray Inn are up for grabs in the raffle.



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## Windfarms - who cares?

The construction of 18 wind turbines, each one 200 metres - more than 650 feet - in height, is a pretty significant addition to any landscape.

For comparison, the blade tip height is equivalent to the Blackpool Tower - plus one-third again on top of that.

The developers of the proposed Ladyfield wind farm, to the north of Dun na Cuaiche up Glen Aray, are keen to point out their community credentials, and the practical help will be welcome to the pier fundraising campaign. To be fair, the company does have a track record in community support down south. Helping the wider community is one thing, but we hear their communication with residents close to the proposed site leaves something to be desired.

Renewable energy is essential, but the sites chosen for its generation must be the right ones for communities and businesses - and not just to suit developers, landowners and far-distant investors. Is Glen Aray and Ladyfield the right place?

Onshore windfarm proliferation in Argyll is creating a semi-industrial landscape peppered with towers. Governments seem not to care about where the wind turbines go. Investors certainly don't. Here is another question - do we care?

## CONTACTUS

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## A sorry saga at the Rest

Sir,  
I write in response to the article in the January 28 edition of the Argyllshire Advertiser regarding the petition for a public inquiry into the handling and cost of the situation at the Rest and be Thankful.

I can well understand the frustration felt by councillors Dougie Philand and Donald Kelly at the frosty reception by the petitions committee of their request for an inquiry into the waste of money, delays and failures to provide a permanent solution at the Rest.

These have been many and, whether embarrassing or not to Transport Scotland, unless we learn what has gone wrong, useful progress is unlikely.

The saga has taken far longer and almost certainly cost more than the original improvements carried out at the beginning of the Second World War, without sign of any permanent result.

Jenni Minto MSP says identifying the preferred route corridor was a big step forward. I disagree.

The only feasible corridor for an expedient solution was always Glen Croe/Glen Kinglas.

Major bridges over lower Loch Long and tunnels to Bute via the Wee Cumbrae - suggested among the 11 options proposed by Transport Scotland in its 2020 consultation exercise - are mega multi-component projects with huge costs and long completion times.

In the context of the Rest, the time and effort spent on drawing up these options was wasted.

Transport Scotland's own engineers class the hillside above the A83 as dynamic and have said further major slides are inevitable and unlikely to be held by the catch pits, even if further extended.

Despite this, the digging of pits continues. Graeme Dey, in his resignation statement, claims that ground investigations - presumably on the other side of the glen - are about to start. This seems a bit late in the day.

The consultants Jacobs, in their original report to Transport Scotland, recommended mitigation - pits and nets - as the preferred option and, in passing, claimed the slopes on the south western side of the glen had much the same slip risk as those which the current road traverses.

Well, mitigation has not worked, despite £80-

odd million having now been sunk in it, and a walk over the two forestry roads on the south western side reveals that neither has suffered serious slips since their construction. That may be because the hillside above them recedes somewhat; different underlying strata; or less severe rain impact.

The fact is slips are now constant, and increasing, on the north western side of the glen, but not on the south western one. So on what did Jacobs base their claim?

Some tunnel options appeared in the consultation exercise, all of which would have raised eyebrows with the likes of Statens Vegvesen - Norway's highways department - which now has more than 200 mountain tunnels under its supervision.

Scotland has tunnels for other purposes, but so far no experience of mountain road tunnels, so perhaps it might be a good idea to ask for advice from places that do.

A Norwegian-designed tunnel wouldn't meet UK standards? Really?

I don't know if a tunnel is necessary at the Rest, but if it is, I certainly wouldn't buy one from Transport Scotland. A sorry saga.

Arthur Blue, Ardrishaig.



The Rest and be Thankful.

## Have gaming conversation

Sir,  
Online gaming plays an important part in many children and young people's lives. It provides them with entertainment, opportunities to learn new skills and allows them to stay connected with their friends.

But there are risks involved. Following this week's Safer Internet Day, which explored respect and relationships online, we are challenging parents and carers to host an online games night with their family to get to know their child's favourite platform and start a conversation on online safety and how they can support them.

Whether it's Fortnite or FIFA, talking to your child about what they're doing online is important in helping keep them safe and Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity to have this conversation.

Visit our online safety hub which provides advice and information on a variety of online safety topics at [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk).

Gail Sayles, local campaigns manager, NSPCC Scotland.

## A severe situation

Sir,  
People on low incomes across the country are being caught up in a rising tide of hardship, with the cost of living crisis combining with an inadequate social security system to pull them deeper into poverty.

The recent Ofgem announcement of an energy price cap rise threatens to turn this rising tide into a flood, as more people are forced into impossible decisions like whether to pay their rent or pay for food.

All levels of government have a moral responsibility to protect households that are reaching breaking point, but the measures announced by Chancellor Rishi Sunak fail to live up to that responsibility.

Central to the UK Government's response should be fixing our social security system so that it helps to keep people afloat, such as by increasing benefits by six per cent in line with inflation and ending unjust policies like the benefit cap.

His measures also failed to address the spectacle of energy companies making multi-billion profits while people across the country struggle to heat their homes.

A windfall tax is the just and right response to this most stark injustice.

It is clear, in the inadequacy of his measures, that the Chancellor fails to grasp the severity of the situation facing people across the country.

Peter Kelly, director of the Poverty Alliance.

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## Thought for the Week

### Be better, not bitter

I was excited to see Seville oranges in the grocers. Will you, like me, be making an annual batch of marmalade?

A key element is to get the pectin from the pips but, of course, you don't want the pips in the finished product.

One year, I made the mistake of tying the muslin bag containing the pips and pith with some 'hairy' parcel string. Unbeknown to me, the string was shedding its hairs as it bobbed around in the bubbling mixture.

That year, we had tooth tangling surprises on our toast. It wasn't a year to pass any jars on to friends, or enemies for that matter!

We use Seville oranges because of their bitterness. The intensely sharp, bitter Seville oranges hold their own, conquering the sweetness of the sugar; that fresh, intensely orange fragrance and flavour are unmatched in any preserve anywhere in the world.

They are certainly not like the easy peeler satsuma that graces a lunch box as one of our five-a-day. Bitterness might be an asset to marmalade but, in the human heart, it's a destroyer.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us in the context of living peacefully with others to watch out for its destructive presence.

'Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.' Hebrews 12:15.

It's a reminder to extend to others the grace that God has extended to us in Christ, to keep a short account of people's wrongs. Pull up bitterness as a small weed before it grows.

Be better, not bitter.

**Reverend Chris Holden, The Fishermen's Mission.**

## ROSNEATH PENINSULA

An Argyll and Bute art residency centre has announced support for creative young people based in Scotland.

Cove Park, on the Rosneath peninsula overlooking Loch Long, is offering a Youth Arts Bursary Programme for young people aged between 18 and 24 who are following a career in design, digital practice, literature and theatre. The programme supports research and the development of new work.

Support from Creative Scotland's Youth Arts Fund means Cove Park can offer four bursaries beginning in spring this year and continuing until February 2023. Early career writers, theatre makers, designers and digital artists are welcome to apply. The bursaries will include a one-month residency at Cove Park, a fee, networking opportunities, peer-to-peer support and mentoring throughout the year.

For more information on the programme and how to apply, visit [covepark.org/youth-arts-bursary-programme-2022](http://covepark.org/youth-arts-bursary-programme-2022).

All applications should be received by February 21 2021.

## LOCH AWE

Roadworks were due to have started on the A85 near Loch Awe this week.

The £300,000 resurfacing project was scheduled to start on Monday February 7 on a 1.5km section of the road just east of Cruachan Power Station. It is being carried out over eight days with Wednesday February 16 the expected end date – depending on weather conditions.

For safety reasons one lane will be closed and a 10mph convoy system will be in operation between 7am and 7pm.

A temporary 30mph speed limit will be in place outwith working hours.

Consultation has been carried out with emergency services and relevant stakeholders to make them aware of the plans in advance.

Eddie Ross of BEAR Scotland said: 'This surfacing project on the A85 between Loch Awe and Taynuilt will greatly improve the surface for motorists. The convoy is essential to ensure the safety of roadworkers and motorists, however, our teams will do all they can to complete the



Can you identify Elsa's mystery creature?

## KINTYRE

### Reader's challenge to identify animal washed up near Bellochantuy

Elsa Macdougall, formerly of Tayinloan and now living in Bearsden, last week sent the photograph, left, to the Argyllshire Advertiser's sister title, the Campbeltown Courier.

Elsa recently discovered the washed-up remains on the shoreline near Bellochantuy.

Although the beast may not be immediately identifiable to some, Elsa believes she knows what animal it is.

'It is fairly rare in Kintyre and may, in fact, have come from Ireland on the tide as I found it on a west coast beach,' she said.

'I thought readers might like to guess. It was a massive male and measured over a metre long from teeth to base of tail, making it larger than average.'

Answers on a postcard...

project as quickly and as safely as possible. The road will be operated under a temporary 30mph speed limit when works are not taking place.'

Roadworks on the Saturday and Sunday will be avoided to help minimise disruption.

## OBAN

New laboratories and offices have been opened at a marine science hub near Oban.

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands joined marine science enterprises on February 3 for the virtual official opening at Malin House on the European Marine Science Park.

The project was prompted by companies at the park looking to expand their commercial activity and came to fruition thanks to a £2 million investment by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, with construction work carried out by Argyll contractor TSL Limited.

Marine science companies Patogen AS, Tritonia Scientific Limited, Ocean Ecology, Oceanium and Shetland firm Ocean Kinetics have moved in.

Malin House is located at Dunstaffnage next to the Scottish Association of Marine Science, part of the University of the Highlands and Islands network. Work is also under way to develop three more buildings, one of which has already been granted planning permission.

## KILMARTIN

Now is the time to swap surplus plant or vegetable seeds and try something different.

Seed swaps, co-ordinated by Kilmartin's Sally Wilkin, are to take place in Mid Argyll, kicking off on March 2 with a pop-up event at Kilmartin church hall between 2pm and 4pm.

Further seed swaps will be held at Barrandaimh beaver centre near Bellanoch on March 6; Lucy's, Kilmartin, on March 13, and at Blarbuie Woodland, Lochgilphead, on March 26 – all from 11am to 2pm.

Donations are welcome, with the proceeds to be split between the Heritage Seed Library and the host venue. Email [sallywilkin@cooptel.net](mailto:sallywilkin@cooptel.net) if you would like more information.

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## Valentine's Day Menu - Delicious and on plan



### Lip-smacking starters

Pile tasty Chinese-style chicken onto steamed pak choi for a finger-lickingly fantastic starter.



### Heart-melting mains

Love a good steak? Then you'll fall head over heels for this chipotle-seasoned version.



### Dreamy desserts

These decadent desserts are a menu must for any chocolate lover. Spoons optional...

### Oban - Glenclruitten Church Hall

Wednesday - 5.30pm  
Thursday - 8am & 9.30am  
Gillian 07796 040803

### Fort William - Salvation Army Hall

Thursday - 3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7pm  
Friday - 9.30am & 11am  
Gillian 07796 040803

### Campbeltown - Masonic Recreation Club

Wednesday - 9.30am, 5.30pm & 7pm  
Tracey 07984 473361

### Lochgilphead - Lochgilphead Baptist Church

Monday - 5.30pm & 7pm  
Miriam - 07765 020776

Detailed recipes available at: [slimmingworld.co.uk](http://slimmingworld.co.uk)

Extra safety measures in place - all Covid safe



## SUPPORT LOCAL WITH LOVE OBAN VOUCHERS



### Where can you spend your Christmas Love Oban vouchers?

Many people received Love Oban gift vouchers at Christmas, but where do you spend them?

More than 80 Oban businesses accept the vouchers. From florists to a tasty treat, Oban is brimming with fantastic places to spend your vouchers.

This week we have listed just some of them.

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,' said BID4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence. 'We have a lot of new local businesses opening in the town. Given what we have just been through, it's clear the town is extremely vibrant and people have got the confidence to invest in Oban. We are a destination town and a key hub.'

*The Oban Times, in association with BID4OBAN and supported by the Scotland's Towns Partnership are helping to provide resilience for our local business community.*

### 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?

Love Oban vouchers make ideal presents for weddings, anniversaries and birthdays or just to say thank you to someone.

They come in denominations of £10, £20 and £50 and are the perfect gift for any occasion.

As well as buying Love Oban vouchers from the BID4Oban office in Stevenson Street, you can purchase them 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 <https://www.bid4oban.co.uk/overview-love-oban> and buy them there.

## WHERE TO SPEND

### CREATURE COMFORTS

Creature Comforts is your local pet shop for Oban & surrounding area. Stocking feeds & accessories for all kinds of pets & wild birds. Mail order available. 9-10 Aird's Cres, Oban, PA34 5SQ [www.facebook.com/Creaturecomfortsoban](http://www.facebook.com/Creaturecomfortsoban)



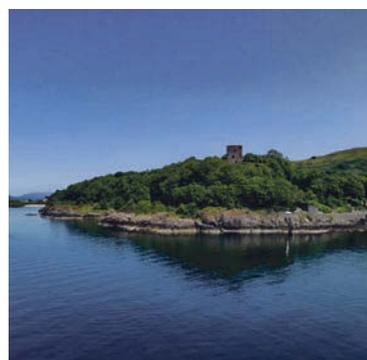
### CUAN MOR

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Travel back in time and immerse yourself in the History of Clan MacDougall. Explore the Castle Ruins, enchanting woodland grounds, visit the 1745 Museum House and outside seating cafe. Open April till October [www.dunollie.org](http://www.dunollie.org)



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### ETIVE RESTAURANT

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### FANCY THAT

A family run business specializing in gaming merchandise, Scottish gifts as well as other bespoke products.

108 George street, Oban Tel: 01631 562996



### FIOR BEAUTY

A local nail salon offering a range of services. See Facebook page for details. Fior Beauty 51 Morvern Hill, Oban, PA34 4NS Tel: 07833 088376



### FOOD FROM ARGYLL AT THE PIER

Food From Argyll is a co-operative organisation made up of food producers from throughout Argyll. Passionate about where they are and what they do. Railway Pier, Oban, PA34 4LW Tel: 01631 563636



### GELATOBURGER

Enjoy delicious, handmade burgers made with quality ingredients and choose from a selection of mouthwatering sides. Don't forget to leave room for dessert – a host of fresh ice cream!

14 George St, Oban, PA34 5SB Tel: 01631 565828



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**GEORGE STREET FISH RESTAURANT & CHIP SHOP**

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**JULIES COFFEEHOUSE OBAN**

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Tel: 01631 565952



**THE LANCASTER HOTEL & SPA**

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Tel: 01631 562587





The new team of dedicated rangers at Blarbuie woodlands.

## Woodland welcomes new rangers

A Lochgilphead woodland is to benefit from a new team of dedicated rangers.

Since Victorian times, Blarbuie woodlands have been enjoyed by walkers and nature-lovers, and in recent years have been supported by

Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT).

Now the trust has appointed rangers Philippa McKee and Dan Griffiths, plus ranger support officer Bek Hawkby-Whitwell to manage the mix of native and exotic trees as

well as the all-abilities walking trails, outdoor exercise areas, sculptures and other art work.

Starting in post last week, Philippa said: 'I'm really pleased to be joining the team and looking forward to getting started. It feels like a really

exciting time to join ACT and to have the chance to contribute to really positive local projects.'

Dan added: 'I'm ready for us all to learn and work together, with and for nature. I love the great outdoors.'

## Technology work placements on offer to graduates

Graduates throughout Argyll and Bute are being invited to apply for 50 fully-paid work placements across Scotland.

The opportunity has arisen for science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) graduates to gain skills and experience across a range of manufacturing and technology businesses, focussing particularly on new and emerging markets including green energy, space and renewables.

The placements, lasting up to six months, are aimed at recent university and college graduates of a STEM-related subject who are unemployed or struggling to find work due to the impact of Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Manufacturing Institute Scotland (NMIS) has established the placements alongside the second round of its Manufacturing Skills Academy's graduate training programme.

The placements will provide graduates with the opportunity to build in-demand skills and experience

in the worlds of digital and advanced manufacturing, with positions now available across Argyll and Bute.

Among the businesses offering placements are Lochgilphead-based Renewable Parts Limited.

The mechanical and electrical assembling specialist placed three graduates within its company last year.

Its general manager of refurbishment engineering Michael Forbes said: 'We were delighted to work with NMIS on the graduate training scheme and with the high standard of applicants.'

'The business is growing and the scheme allowed us to recruit for positions where otherwise we may have held off until a little later.'

'The placement was almost like a six-month interview, allowing us to see how the graduates integrated with the existing workforce.'

Graduates interested in the scheme should submit an application form and short video via the NMIS website before being matched to potential opportunities with an industry partner.

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North Argyll Blackface Sheep Breeders Association

## ANNUAL STOCK JUDGING

Held within United Auctions, Dalmally Auction mart  
11th February 2022, 7pm for 7.30pm start  
Open Top hogg class B.Y.O.B

# Relaunch of young farmers' exclusive training opportunity

British Wool and the Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs (SAYFC) have collaborated once more to offer YFC members shearing training for a fourth year.

As in previous years the training gives young farmers an opportunity to attend a beginner shearing course, enabling YFC members to work towards a Blue Seal award.

The course will be over two days, covering all the essential aspects of achieving a successful shearing season, including health and safety, the use

of shearing equipment and hands-on shearing practise to develop technique.

This British Wool offer is open to YFC members who have not previously attended a British Wool shearing course - at a reduced rate.

British Wool is also extending its training offer to YFC members to participate in its wool handling course.

Richard Schofield, shearing manager, British Wool, said: 'We are once again delighted to be working with SAYFC in supporting the training and

development of the next generation of shearers and wool handlers, which is crucial to a thriving UK sheep sector and for ensuring the highest standards.

'We look forward to welcoming young farmers onto our courses again this year and would encourage any interested YFC member to make contact before the closing date of March 31.'

**Excellent fleece presentation starts at shearing.**



## Hot farming topics in conference spotlight

The second consecutive online NFU Scotland annual conference and AGM is being held over February 10 and 11, with a packed programme for delegates.

Discussions have been held on current hot topics such as rising input costs, the farming labour crisis and skills shortage, as well as getting the food and farming across on social media.

Today, Friday February 11, attention turns to farm assurance schemes and the future of government agricultural support in a sustainable future for the industry.



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- Made from high-tensile steel
- All hurdles are 6 railed x 1.75m high
- A funnel is incorporated into the race-way
- All hot-dipped galvanised finish
- 3000mm (3m) long
- 20-foot race
- 60-foot holding pen. Includes all joining pins/stakes
- Total 200-feet of penning

#### PARTS LIST:

- 10 x 3m (6 railed) cattle hurdles
- 12 x joining pins/stakes
- 1 x sliding gate

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# All roads lead to Oban for Highland Cattle

The Highland Cattle Society's 131st annual Spring Show and Sale takes place on Sunday and Monday, February 13 and 14, at Oban Livestock Market, Upper Soroba, Oban – and with entries from all over Scotland and the North of England this premier sale will be worth visiting.

The February sale is predominantly a bull sale consisting of two-year-old bulls, senior bulls, aged bulls and yearlings.

There will also be females on offer, although traditionally the sale of females is held in the autumn.

The Highlander has been synonymous with Oban for a great number of years, with the sale only moving to Perth when the market moved out of Oban, and returning once the new market was completed.

Highland Cattle are one of Britain's oldest and most distinctive native breeds, with the pedigree herd book going back to 1884.

The ability of Highland Cattle to live in the hardest

of conditions and browse through rough, otherwise unproductive, uplands makes them ideal cattle for low-input extensive farming.

Their hardiness means that Highland Cattle are often brought back to the home farm only for final production and can fit into any farming system from final production on grass or fattening in sheds.

What makes them so special is that they are utilised to make a real economic contribution to hill and upland areas.

Their browsing habits also make them the cattle of choice for many conservation projects, grazing Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), establishing hay meadows,

opening up forest floors and regenerating heather moorland.

Cattle grazed at low density in natural woods, moorlands, wetlands and lochs, coastal and upland areas are playing an important role in nature conservation management. Through their grazing and dunging Highland cattle recycle nutrients and can be integral part of the natural environment leading to a greater diversity of plant species and a more complex vegetation structure.

The Highland Cattle Society looks forward to welcoming all its members and friends, old and new to this year's Spring Show and Sale.





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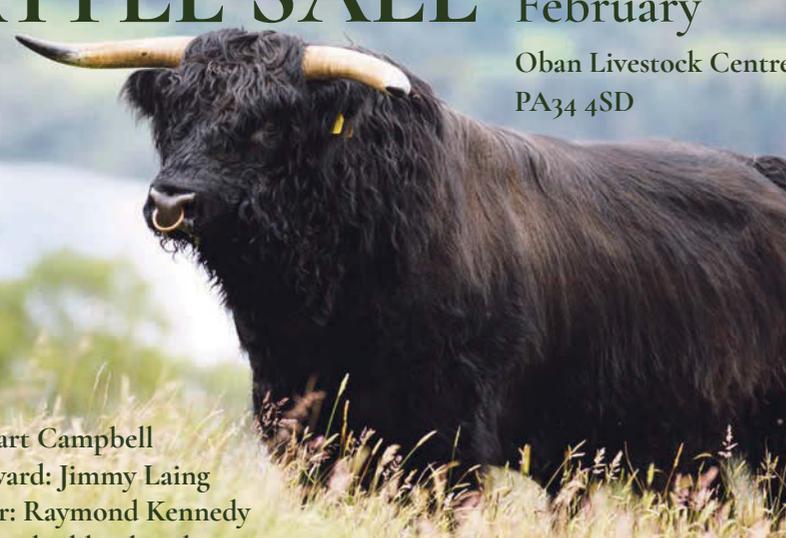
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13th & 14th  
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## This year's judge: Stuart Campbell

'I have been attending Oban Highland Cattle Sale for more than 30 years, initially as a young boy with my father, who managed the Keilbeg Fold near Tayvallich, Argyll. I remember as a child standing round the ring imagining being the judge one day. It was a dream come true to be asked to judge The Highland Cattle Society's 131st annual Spring Show.

'I started my career in Highland Cattle when working for the Lithgow family on their Ormsary Estate near Lochgilphead. I will always be thankful to Archie McArthur and his team for opportunities and viable experience that I gained there. I really caught the bug for showing when showing in-calf heifers for Ormsary where we won many a championship at the society spring sales.

'I am currently farm manager at Cladich for Jon and Queenie Strickland. In the 10 years I have been working with them, the Cladich Fold of Highland Cattle has grown from strength to strength. My biggest showing achievement at Cladich was two years ago at the last Spring Show, taking the Craig Sellar Trophy for the overall male champion.

'This was my main aim when I first started at Cladich after speaking to the late David Fellowes who originally owned Cladich. He showed me a photograph of John of Cladich, which won the Craig Sellar Cup in 1960 and it was made even more special with the trophy returning to Cladich 60 years on.

'I have had the honour to judge Highland Cattle in many countries, including Australia, Finland and Germany, but being asked to



judge this Spring Show is a very special honour. Oban is the heart of the Highland Cattle sales and as mentioned earlier, judging here is a dream come true.

'When judging Highland Cattle, I will be looking for something eye catching when entering the ring. It is very important for this part of the world that Highlanders are very good on their legs, with good locomotion, due to the Highlander having to live and forage on the hills. I am quite traditional with the West Coast type, which have to be true to breed type and also very sweet and elegant.

'I would like to thank all exhibitors who have given their time and dedication to getting animals ready for the show. I look forward to enjoying a dram with all members on Sunday night and toasting to a prosperous sale on Monday.'

## Did you know?

- Highland Cattle are one of the oldest registered breeds of cattle in the world and recognised globally.
- You do not have a herd of Highland cattle, you have a fold.
- HM Queen is not only the patron of the Highland Cattle Society; she also has a famous fold at Balmoral.
- Originally Highland cattle were black and not today's iconic red. Other colours include yellow, brindle, dun and even white.



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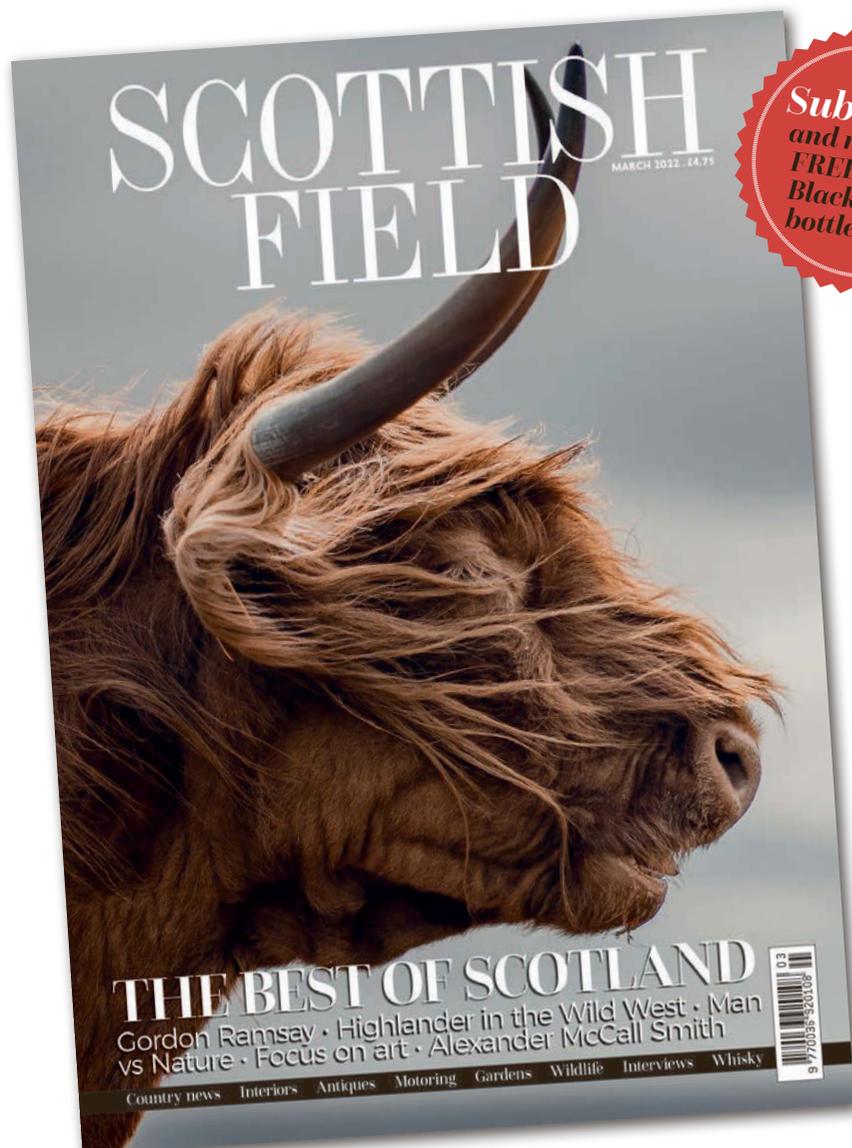


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### Argyll and Bute Council

#### 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](http://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](mailto: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
21/02652/LIB	Installation of electric vehicle charging point	Sheriff Court House, Castlehill, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute, PA28 6AN
21/01654/PP	Change of use of outbuilding and erection of extensions to form dwellinghouse (class 9). Installation of septic tank and alterations to access arrangements	Garden Ground Of Carnach, Kilmichael Glen, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute, PA31 8QL
21/02439/PP	Change of use of former agricultural land to siting of cabin and caravan for use as offices and installation of septic tank	Land West Of Auchindrain Museum, Furnace, Inveraray, Argyll And Bute
21/02423/LIB	Reinstatement of 3 wooden structures (MacCallum's Barn, Milk House and Pig Shed)	Urras Achadh An Droighinn/The Auchindrain Trust, Furnace, Inveraray, Argyll And Bute, PA32 8WD
21/02355/PP	Change of use from offices to sui genesis whisky tasting room, reception/shop and first floor office accommodation	51 Kirk Street, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute, PA28 6BW
22/00082/PP	Remove 6 single glazed timber sash and case windows and replace with 6 double glazed timber sash and case windows of the same style and finish	7 Relief Land, Main Street South, Inveraray, Argyll And Bute, PA32 8UA
22/00072/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and air source heat pump and formation of access	Plot 4, Land North East Of Ardnacross Farm, Peninver, Campbeltown, 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 Council's 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](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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### KILMARTIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### Lady Anne McArthur Knudsen Trust

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Previous beneficiaries may reapply.

All awards are at the discretion of the trustees.

Please apply in writing, giving suitable information to: -

Mrs N Bevan, Kilmartin Primary School  
Kilmartin, By Lochgilphead. PA31 8QF

**Closing date: - 11th March 2022**

## DEATHS

### BRACKENBURY

Peacefully, at a daughter's home in Essex, on January 18, 2022, aged 82, Maureen McMillan Docherty, daughter of the late Archie and Elizabeth Docherty, Killeonan, a much loved mother, granny and great-granny.

**JOHNSTON** - Peacefully at home in Glasgow on February 1, 2022, Hazel Margaret Johnston in her 66th year, dearly beloved wife of David Logan, loving mum of Caroline, cherished granny of Charlotte and Emily. Much loved daughter of Agnes and the late Duncan Johnston, dear sister of Iain, loving aunt of Sylvia and Kira and a proud great-aunt of Aila. Hazel's funeral service will take place at Linn Crematorium, Glasgow on February 14 at 12 noon, all friends are welcome to attend.

**LANG** - At the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, on February 1, 2022, Barbara Sinclair Campbell, in her 85th year, 150 Davaar Avenue, Campbeltown, dearly beloved wife of the late Ian, much loved mum of Florence and Jean, loving mother-in-law of David and Arthur, much loved granny of Angela and Chris, Christopher, Hannah and Fraser, a much loved aunt and friend to many.

**MACCORQUODALE** - Peacefully at home, with his family by his side, on February 7, 2022, Angus John MacCorquodale, in his 86th year, of 48 MacDonald Terrace, Lochgilphead, (late of Caledonian MacBrayne). Beloved husband of Sheena Stewart, much loved Dad of Neil, Fraser and Elaine and adored Pappy to Isla Grace. Respected father-in-law of Paula and Karen. A dear brother, brother-in-law,

uncle and cousin to all the family. Funeral service will be held at Cardross Crematorium on Monday, February 14 2022, at 1.15pm. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu of flowers to C.H.A.S. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**ALLAN** - Janette and Eleanor would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, letters, flowers, phone calls, text messages, emails and even the posts on Facebook, which we received following the passing of our much loved mother Florence. Also to those who paid their respects at the church and graveside, and en route to the cemetery. We would also like to thank the Rev. William Crossan and Rev. Chris Holden for the lovely service and Kenneth and Kelly at TA Blair for the dignified funeral arrangements. Thanks to Carers Direct and all the medical staff in Campbeltown for the wonderful care they gave Florence recently, but particular thanks go to Carr Gomm for all the professional and sympathetic care and kindness they showed her over the last two years. Thanks also to the Argyll Hotel for the arrangements following the funeral.

**BEGG** - Norma and Elinor would like to express their thanks to everyone who sent messages of sympathy, cards, flowers and food after the death of our Mum, Flora Begg. Very sincere thanks to all the staff who cared for Mum at Ardfenaig Residential Care Home in the last three years of her life and particularly for their compassion in the last few weeks. Thank you to Donald MacDonald

Funeral Directors for the very efficient and sensitive funeral arrangements and to Rev. David Carruthers for the beautiful service. Special thanks to Linda Dick, organist, for the lovely music and especially for "The Boys of Loch Na Corra" at the end of the service. Thanks to Flowers by Morna for the beautiful flower arrangements and to Kilmartin Hotel for the excellent purvey. Many, many thanks also to all who attended the service and graveside at Kilmartin.

**CAMPBELL** - The family of the late Mary Campbell would like to thank everyone for the many kind expressions of sympathy received by telephone, card and flowers following their recent bereavement. Many thanks also to the staff of Carr Gomm carers, Glenaray Ward, Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their guidance and support throughout and Flowers by Morna. Thanks also to the Rev. David Carruthers for a comforting service and to Cairnbaan Hotel for its excellent catering and service.

**MCINTOSH** - Hellema and family would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for all their kind messages, cards and flowers after the passing of John (Tosh) on January 30, 2022. A special thanks to the staff at Campbeltown Hospital, Dr Lazarus and Dr McGovern for their care and professional support. Also the team at Carr Gomm, in particular Keith Kirkland.

**MCLEAN** - Margaret and family would like to thank everyone for the expressions of sympathy including many lovely cards and flowers since the sad loss of Willie. Thank you to the doctors, nursing and physiotherapy staff of Campbeltown and Queen Elizabeth University

Hospital for the excellent care provided since Willie took unwell in October. Sincere thanks to Kenneth and Rhys Blair, Undertakers for providing such a professional service, Rev. Steve Fulcher for the heartfelt and comforting service, Erin who sang beautifully in the church, the Dunaverty Hall committee and Argyll bakeries for refreshments and hospitality and to all who lined the route and attended the church and graveside to pay their last respects. A retiral collection raised £830 which will be split between the Sunshine Room of Campbeltown Hospital and Cancer Research.

**MINSHAW** - Peggy Minshaw and the family of the late Andrew would like to thank everyone for all their support. The cards, telephone calls and kind offers of help and support have been overwhelming. Thanks everyone you've all been wonderful!

### MEMORIALS

**BUCHANAN** - In loving memory of a dear wife, mother, granny and nannie, Thelma, died February 7, 2021.

You were a kind lovely family lady, inspiring for us all

You will remain in our hearts forever, loved and sorely missed.

- Innes, Elaine and James, David and Leanne, Mark and Kareen and your great-grandchildren.

**CAMPBELL** - Bunty, passed away February 14, 2009.

Sadly missed but not forgotten.

- Ivor, Shauna, Robert and great-grandchildren.

**MACLULLICH** - Annette, died February 9, 2021.

Remembering with love and happy memories.

- Your loving son Alasdair.

## CHURCH NOTICES

### SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH

75 Longrow, Campbeltown  
Family Service - Sunday, 13 February 11am  
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www.springbankchurch.org.uk  
https://www.facebook.com/springbankchurch  
Contact phone number 07734178055

### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



#### South Kintyre Team Ministry

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  
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Holy Mass Sunday 12.30pm  
Fr Henry Nkob 01546602380  
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### CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH

George Street, Campbeltown



Sunday 13th February  
11.15am Worship Service  
Rev Murdo MacLeod  
11.15am Sunday School  
Wednesday 16th February  
12 noon Bible Study and Prayer (by Zoom)  
All welcome  
www.campbeltownfree-church.co.uk  
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

### SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

### CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

### SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday Worship  
10 am Skipness (SC004280)  
11.30 am Tarbert (SC002622)  
Covid guidelines apply  
Minster Rev Lyn Peden  
Tel: 01880 820158

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

01586 552160  
campbeltown@redai.org.uk  
Worship: Saturday (Vigil Mass), 6.00pm  
Sundays, Holy Mass, 10am  
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https://www.facebook.com/campbeltownrcchurch  
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Charitable Trust, a registered Scottish Charity, SC002876  
Parish Priest: Fr. A. Wood

### LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Charity no. SC011686  
Sunday 13th February  
Morning Worship 11.15am  
Rev C Holden  
Everyone welcome  
COVID Guidelines apply

### LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 13th February  
11.00am Worship service  
More info at  
www.lpchurch.co.uk  
Lochgilphead Parish Church of Scotland  
SC016311

### GLASSARY, KILMARTIN AND FORD PARISH CHURCH

Barr Mhor  
Kilmartin  
Sunday 13th February 2022  
11.15am  
Mr Jim Malcolm  
All very welcome  
Please remember to wear a mask

### NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

charity number SC001002  
Sunday 13 February  
Tayvallich Church  
10am Morning Worship  
Mr Jim Malcolm  
Booking required  
Tel 01546 870635  
Covid restrictions apply.  
Further information can be found on the church website  
www.northknappdale.org

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

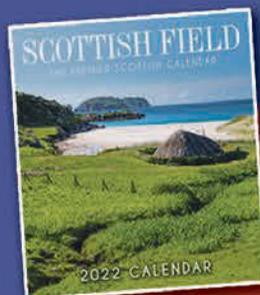
Sunday 13th February 2022  
There will be a service in Cumlodden church at 10.00am led by Rev. Dorothy Wallace. There will also be a service in Inveraray Church at 11.30am led by Rev. Dorothy Wallace. Please remember that masks must be worn while in church

### SALVATION ARMY



Sunday 13th February  
11am Worship Service  
11am Army Kidz  
6.30pm Evening Service  
Wednesdays 12pm Lunch club  
7pm Make & Munch Craft Group  
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# Arts funding boost is music to the ears as curtain rises in Craignish

New funding from national arts organisations has boosted an environment-focused arts programme at the heart of a Mid Argyll community.

After a long period of silence due to the pandemic, Craignish village hall's arts programme is now the beneficiary of money from Creative Scotland and the Touring Network charity.

The cash has been backed up by the Craignish Trust and the Seawilding charity, and has allowed the hall to provide a platform for local musicians through its Strummin' Hummin' Chattin' Chillin' sessions held on Sundays throughout January, February and March.

Thanks to the Touring Network's transition fund, these events are open to all and free to attend. The Touring Network's transition fund aims to support promoters, venues, village halls and programmers based in Highland, Argyll and Bute, Moray, Orkney, Shetland, the Western Isles and Perthshire.

The ethos behind the fund is to ensure venues can pay a fair fee to performers while giving local programming a reboot after so many enforced closures and cancellations during the pandemic.

Speaking after the first Strummin' Hummin' Chattin' Chillin' session, Craignish community village hall arts administrator Mandy Hampton said: 'It was wonderful to see Craignish village hall busy and buzzing again and a joy to welcome back familiar faces and several first-time visitors.



Above: Singer, songwriter and storyteller Nicolette Macleod will perform in Craignish later this month. Right: Reagan Hallett opened the Sunday session with a medley including covers from Amy MacDonald and Amy Wage.



It was hard to anticipate how much Covid hesitancy there may still be about attending in-person events again, but with safety protocols followed and good ventilation, everyone simply sat back and enjoyed the exceptionally high quality of music from the musicians.

'The very high numbers attending meant any fears about it being quiet were quickly forgotten and the atmosphere was buzzing and alive with happy chatter. The feedback received from the event showed that everyone had very much enjoyed the opportunity to be back out in person, catching up with friends and there is a high demand for more events. The musicians were all delighted to be playing to a real audience again and many audience members took time to say how

lucky we are to live in a community with so much talent and extended thanks to the three main performers, Andre Van Well, Nicky Coventry and Reagan Hallett, who brought a real celebration of the best of live music.'

**'The very high numbers attending meant any fears about it being quiet were quickly forgotten and the atmosphere was buzzing'**

Craignish's next Sunday sessions will be on February 13 and March 13.

The coastal community will

be taking its inspiration from the sea on February 26 when a joint initiative between Craignish Village Hall Arts, local charity Seawilding, the Craignish Trust and the Touring Network will bring to the stage a marine-themed blend of storytelling and song.

The Seawilding charity works with coastal communities to restore degraded inshore marine habitats, enhance biodiversity, improve water quality and sequester carbon. The event it is sponsoring reflects the charity's passion to conserve the sea, exploring marine conservation, exploration and the power of the sea.

Created and performed by Nicolette Macleod, *The Sea and Me* weaves together songs, stories and personal anecdotes. Armed with a guitar,

loop pedal and her acclaimed vocals, Nicolette creates a seascape of sounds overlaid with folk songs, her original songs and some popular classics. The show aims to provide an opportunity for each member of the audience to consider their personal relationship with the sea, its creatures and to contemplate the best way in which to preserve it.

Seawilding chief executive officer Danny Renton said: 'Nicolette's passion for the sea, reflected through her beautiful songs and music, aims to inspire everyone to get involved in restoring the health of our Scottish seas. This is why our

charity Seawilding is involved.

'Seventy per cent of our planet is water, and it supports incredible life-forms, of which we still know very little. Yet, we have plundered our oceans to the point that fish stocks, seabed health and our marine eco-systems are in crisis. The sea can no longer be out of sight and out of mind. We need to champion it and restore it, not just for the love of bio-diversity, but for planetary health and our own survival as a species.'

Tickets for *The Sea and Me* are available from Ardferrn Village Store and from [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)

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## Kilberry Loop Sportive announced

The popular Kilberry Loop Sportive will take place on Saturday August 6 this year.

Organised by Mid Argyll Triathlon and Cycle Club and local man John Hardie, the 40-mile open road event starts and finishes in Tarbert.

Registered as an event with British Cycling, the fun, friendly Kilberry Loop Sportive is targeted at every level of cyclist. The route is signposted, has a refuel stop half way around, is marshalled at key points and has a sweeper vehicle to provide encouragement.

Family-run restaurant The Gather on Campbelltown Road provides the start and finish point. The route takes cyclists north out of the village towards Lochgilphead on the A83 before heading onto the B8024 Kilberry single track road.

For competitive cyclists this is a challenging route with an elevation gain of 2,500 feet, but for those who are taking it a bit easier, there are lots of photograph opportunities as breathtaking views over Jura, Islay and Gigha are around every corner.

Cyclists then head east before following the coast road north, past Tarbert Golf Club, then turning back on to the A83 to return to The Gather.

Visit [www.britishcycling.org.uk/events/details/256985/Kilberry-Loop-Sportive](http://www.britishcycling.org.uk/events/details/256985/Kilberry-Loop-Sportive) if you would like to enter the 2022 Kilberry Loop Sportive.

# Established club and newcomers join forces



The Strachur team during the 2018 season.

## SHINTY

Strachur and District Shinty Club and Dunoon Camanachd will field a combined team for the 2022 shinty season.

The new side will play in Mowji South Division 2.

With dwindling youth numbers, Strachur - a club formed in 1879 - has found itself unable to field a team in recent seasons, though a number of players remain committed. Recently-constituted Dunoon has players looking to play, so the two got together to rekindle the ancient game.

Matches and training will be split between Strachur and Dunoon with the joint venture aiming to provide playing

opportunities for the many young players in both localities as well as the more experienced heads.

The playing squad for the new season will be based around Strachur players, along with players from Dunoon and Glasgow.

A training session was organised as the new team had their first get-together at Strachurmore on Saturday February 5. There was an encouraging turnout despite the inclement weather as plans for the new season got under way.

Strachur-Dunoon's opening league match is scheduled for Saturday March 5, when they host Uddingston, who are also new to the league.



Receiving their trophies from headteacher Ann Devine are senior winners Jasmine McPhie, above left, and Archie MacColl-Smith, above right.



## Lochgilphead pupils serve up badminton success

Lochgilphead Joint Campus hosted a successful first badminton championship in the first week of February, with 150 players taking part.

Winners: S1/2: girls, Tegan Stewart and boys Liam Cook; S3 girls, Emma Plummer and boys Rhys Coffield; Senior girls, Jasmine McPhie and boys Archie MacColl-Smith.

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