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Union against 'cost cutting' Argyll cluster schools plan

by Fiona Ross
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Scotland's largest teaching union is campaigning against a major shake-up of education in Argyll and Bute.

The EIS union this week urged the public to sign its petition against proposals to drastically cut the number of headteachers, stating that its members have significant concerns about the plans.

The petition refers to Argyll and Bute Council's Education Change programme which would create clusters of schools to create 'virtual campuses' led by an executive headteacher.

The EIS campaign states: 'This change seeks to establish school clusters with executive head posts which would decrease the current number of headteachers from 84 to around 14.'

'There is significant member concern about how this will affect schools, teachers and pupils. The EIS believes that

school leadership is critical and every school and its community should have a headteacher in post.

'Our starting point should always be to locate leadership as close as possible to practitioner practice.

'We believe these changes are simply a cost-cutting exercise that will not empower schools and support attainment, but rather will damage educational delivery, quality and equity in Argyll and Bute.'

On Monday Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education, Councillor Yvonne McNeilly, told the Argyllshire Advertiser: 'We know our communities are passionate about all aspects of education.'

'So am I, and that's why I welcome the interest that people are showing in our proposals.'

'We want to hear what people think and we are engaging with our school communities, including local and branch trades unions representatives.'

'I encourage people to take part in the ongoing engage-

ment exercise and share their thoughts with us - we want to hear from them and make sure their views are heard and included.'

Councillor Anne Horn, children's champion for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands, said: 'I appreciate the concerns raised as it appears that the onus is on parent councils to meet with parents and carers to discuss the proposal when some parent councils don't feel well enough informed to lead the discussion and provide robust explanation.'

After being contacted by Kintyre and the Islands councillor Alastair Redman, council business improvement manager Morag Brown replied: 'The vision of the change is to build capacity in our school leadership to give leaders the time they need to focus on continuous school improvement; to increase the appeal of leadership roles; to build a structure for schools to collaborate and share

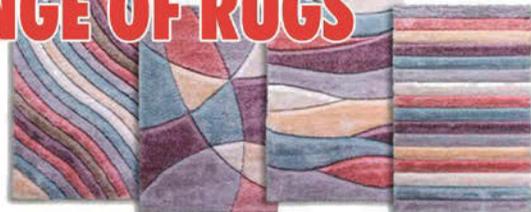
Continued on page 4



GEARED UP AT CYCLING HUB

Togged up for any weather eventuality, keen cyclists Bek (in foreground) and Susanne Hawkby-Whitwell with their snazzy e-mountain bikes joined many other pedallers to enjoy Mid Argyll Bicycle Festival in Ardrishaig at the weekend. Read all about Mid Argyll's celebration of cycling on page 5. 51_a48BikeFestival09

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ACHA meets tenants to discuss rent rise options

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) will be making presentations to its Mid Argyll tenants next week as part of its annual rent consultation.

Two tenant engagement sessions will be held on Wednesday December 1 in Ardrishaig North Hall – at 3pm to 4pm and then between 7pm and 8pm.

Introducing the consultation process, a spokesperson for ACHA said: 'It is important we get feedback from our tenants. As well as influencing the decision on the rent increase, the feedback will impact on our budget and the money we have available to spend on the housing stock and housing services.'

The association, which is a registered charity and houses more than 10 per cent of the population of Argyll and Bute, employs approximately 200 staff and last year completed 19,000 repairs and collected £23 million of rent.

ACHA has proposed a number of

'We need to ensure our services perform well and we need to invest in and maintain the quality of our houses'

options for rent increases over the next three years, starting with a rise of either 3.5 per cent, 4 per cent or 4.5 per cent next year, followed by a variety of increases during the following two years.

The spokesperson continued: 'There are a number of issues ACHA needs to consider in setting rent levels. It is not a simple decision deciding how much to increase rents by.'

'We need to ensure sufficient funds are available to help us deliver our obligations under the tenancy agreement.'



'We need to ensure our services perform well and we need to invest in and maintain the quality of our houses and meet Scottish Government standards.'

The engagement events in Ardrishaig will include a short presentation followed by a question-and-answer session with ACHA's senior staff and board members.

'We need to ensure our business plan remains viable and that we can repay loans taken to invest in our houses, your homes,' the ACHA spokesperson added.

'Importantly, we need to consider how we can balance all of that with making rent as affordable as possible to our tenants.'

'Not everything is under ACHA's control or influence as we respond to increasing costs, changes to housing standards and expectations and a challenging economic backdrop whilst working out how we all operate in the new Covid world.'

In advance of the consultation, event queries or questions can be emailed to rentconsultation@acha.co.uk

POLICE FILES

Traffic offences and abusive behaviour

At midnight on Saturday November 20 police responded to a report of a vehicle allegedly being driven in an erratic manner on Pier Road, Tarbert. Police attended, a motorist was stopped and a 62-year-old woman was identified as the driver. The woman thereafter refused to provide a specimen for the roadside breath test and was arrested. While at Lochgilphead police station the woman acted in a threatening and abusive manner towards police officers. She was charged with the offences and released from custody on an undertaking to appear at Campbeltown Sheriff Court.

Possession of drugs

In Tarbert on Friday November 19 police had cause to stop and search a 49-year-old man for a drugs at 11.40pm. He was found to be in possession of a quantity of herbal cannabis and was issued with a recorded police warning.

Speeding on A83

While carrying out a static speed check on the A83 at Glenbarr around 10.30am on Wednesday November 17, police officers observed a vehicle exceeding the speed limit. The vehicle was stopped and a man aged 21 charged with the offence. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.



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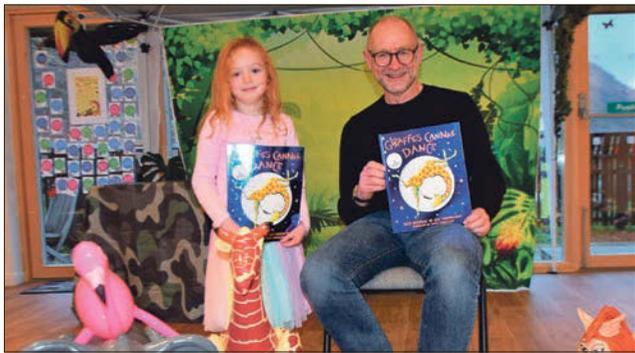
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Lexie Downs was among the many young fans who got to meet James Robertson at The Fyne Den. 51_a48CairndowAuthor01

Author draws Cairndow crowds

Fans of all ages were able to meet and talk books with author James Robertson when he visited Cairndow.

A children's event on Saturday November 20 saw 35 children and 32 adults visit The Fyne Den at the foot of Glen Fyne to hear readings from his books for youngsters written in Scots – but such was the demand it could have been filled three times over.

The event, organised by Cairndow Village Hall committee and funded by the Scottish Book Trust, concluded with an evening book signing and discussion at Cairndow Village Hall.

The well-attended evening

included James reading from his new novel *News of the Dead* and discussing his life and career with host Alan Boyter.

One attendee from Strachur said: 'For me this was one of the most stimulating events I have ever been to round here. It was beautifully hosted and structured, not to mention catered by amazing food!'

'James Robertson proved an engaging and erudite speaker who seemed prepared to give 150 per cent and has a very engaging manner. I felt very fortunate to participate especially being so close to home. I hope there are more such events.'

Twinkle twinkle Christmas lights

After council funding for community Christmas lights faded away in recent years, the slack has been picked up by volunteers and contributions from commercial firms.

Lochgilthead

Over the past two weekends volunteers from MacLeod Construction and Midton worked to repair and put up the Christmas lights for Lochgilthead and Ardrishaig.

The Lochgilthead Christmas tree is going up and there's more next week on plans for Lochgilthead's Christmas future.

Ardrishaig

The community Christmas tree has arrived in Ardrishaig and the lights were checked by a team led by Stevie McCormick of MacLeods. Volunteers are lined up to erect the tree, supplied by RDS Forestry of Tarbert.



Tarbert's Christmas tree of fishing creels is captured complete with rainbow by Kristy Florence.

A smaller tree and decorations have been donated for the newly-refurbished Ardrishaig Public Hall following a Facebook appeal by Jeanette Laughton. Boxes placed in John Law and McColls shops were filled in no time and the wee tree is set to be decorated on Saturday December 4.

Inveraray

The Inveraray Christmas lights

switch-on will be on Saturday December 4 at 5pm.

Santa is booked for a marquee at the pier and singers Abi Cuthbert and Jackie Kerr will entertain with Christmas songs – with a winter warmer thanks to Strathleven distillery.

The tradition of Inveraray's annual *Unsung Hero* award is open for nominations,

either by messaging Inveraray Community Council's Facebook page or directly to a community council member.

The community council is also running competitions for the best Christmas window display and best house/garden display.

Tarbert

Tarbert will have its grand Christmas lights switch-on at 6.30pm today (Friday November 26) with the creel Christmas tree lighting up Harbour Street. Everyone is invited to gather at the tree with lanterns and torches for a socially distanced community switch-on, and takeaways will be open especially.

Rising Kintyre trad stars Rhuvaal will be playing at Tarbert Village Hall - with TJ Mac supporting - from 7.30pm after the Christmas lights have been switched on.

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Wednesday 4.00pm

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Saturday 3.30pm

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Action on plastics at Tayvallich meeting

People living in and around Tayvallich are being invited to join a discussion on single-use plastics.

Entitled Ditching the Disposables, the meeting of the Sustainable Tayvallich project on Tuesday November 30 in the village hall will include a presentation from Zero Waste Scotland representative Miriam Adcock.

Sustainable Tayvallich spokesperson Keira Anderson said: 'We'll discuss the following questions: Are plastics the enemy? Are the alternatives any better? What practical steps can we take?'

'We'll use some of the time to share our own examples of changes we have made. So please bring along examples of ways you've found to avoid unnecessary single-use items. The meet-up is a space to come together with your neighbours to discuss, share and take positive action.'

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Pink night raises breast cancer cash

Very little excuse is needed for Tarbert folk to get dressed up, usually in pink, for a good cause.

At a recent Wear it Pink pub quiz fundraiser for breast cancer at The Corner House, an incredible £931 was raised.

Proprietors Duggie and Margaret would like to thank Lochfyne Seafarms for its generous donation to the charity.

Margaret said: 'The night would not have happened without Uncle Martin preparing and mastering a great quiz; his able assistant Allie marking and helping with everything else; Zena selling raffle tickets and thanks finally to our wonderful customers for digging deep once again.'

After a night of fun, 'Simple Minds' - Mo, Sandy, Kim and Christine - donated their £50 prize money back to the charity. 'Pink Tacos' won the prize for the best team name and the best dressed had to be Billy and Tracy with 'She sells shellsuits on the seashore'.



Billy and Tracy enter the building as 'She sells shellsuits on the seashore', which won them a prize.

Union opposes schools plan

Continued from page 1

resources more readily, improving equity of provision; to provide the best schools we can for the children in Argyll and Bute.'

Mid Argyll councillor Douglas Philand called for people to get in touch, saying it was important for elected members to hear the views of the community. 'I would urge those who are unhappy with the proposals to contact me and other elected members in order that we can then put their views forward when decisions are being made.'

Deputy policy lead for education Councillor Kieron Green said the council was committed to ensuring that Argyll and Bute pupils had access to high quality education delivered locally: 'Confirming that we have the best possible



Argyll and Bute Council policy lead for education, Councillor Yvonne McNeilly.

leadership structures in place for our schools

is an important part of that, and I look forward to seeing the results of the consultation taking place prior to any decisions being taken on the way forward.'

Ms Brown added: 'Feedback from all stakeholders will shape the final proposals before they are put to the community services committee. If approved, then local consultation would be undertaken to help determine specific school collectives.'

Parent councils are expected to receive consultation packs on Saturday January 29, while unions have been invited to make representation on November 29 and 30.

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- 1 red chilli, deseeded and chopped
- 1 heaped tbsp tomato purée
- 1 tsp each of dried oregano, smoked paprika & ground cumin
- 1 tsp chilli powder
- 400g can red kidney beans & 2 x 400g cans chopped tomatoes
- 300g dried long-grain rice
- 1 tsp ground turmeric

Method

1. Spray a large non-stick saucepan with low-calorie cooking spray and place over a high heat. Add the beef and cook for 5 minutes, breaking up any lumps with a spoon, then drain off any fat.
2. Add the onion, peppers, garlic, chopped chilli, tomato purée, oregano, paprika, cumin and chilli powder to the pan, then reduce the heat to medium and cook for 5 minutes.
3. Add the beans, chopped tomatoes, stock cube and 300ml boiling water to the pan. Bring back to the boil over a high heat, then reduce the heat to low and simmer for 30 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, put the rice and turmeric in a pan and cook according to the pack instructions.
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Jamie Joyce offers some advice and assistance to a bike owner at the festival. 51_a48BikeFestival02



All set for the led bike ride to Cairnbaan. 51_a48BikeFestival10

Mid Argyll's festival of all things cycling

The humble bicycle was centre stage in Ardrishaig last weekend for the Mid Argyll Bicycle Festival.

Dreich weather in the hours leading up to the 10am launch on Saturday November 20 may have contributed to it being something of a slow burner, but by 11am people and bikes thronged Pier Square in sunshine between showers.

Bikes of all kinds were on show - from conventional road bikes and mountain bikes to e-cargo and e-trikes. There were even bicycles without pedals for tots, known as balance bikes and aimed at teaching the balance needed to ride a bike.

Organised by the Ardrishaig Bothy cycling centre, in partnership with Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT), the day included bike maintenance tutorials by ACT project officer Jamie Joyce, ably assisted by trainee Harry Turner.

Throughout the day Ardrishaig Bothy project co-ordinator Joanne Clark was on hand to offer any help.

A guided family bike run to Cairnbaan along the canal bank proved popular, and there was even the chance to sample quality locally-made produce as Laurie Mill from Knapdale Artisan Bread came along to give out free samples using the e-cargo bike he uses to make deliveries around Argyll.

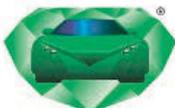


While older generations talked about bikes, young Alexander Cunningham was having great fun riding his. 51_a48BikeFestival06



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Co-op customers benefit good causes

Christmas came early for good causes as the Co-op handed out Local Community Fund cash.

On Saturday November 20 in Lochgilphead, £27,577 donated by customers was given to MS Centre Argyll (£10,079), Mid Argyll Youth Development Services (£9,091) and Mid Argyll Pipe Band (£8407). The total amount awarded

across the area since the fund began in 2016 is now £150,460. Lochgilphead store manager Mark Crawford said: 'The causes are nominated by the public and it's an incredible amount of money, particularly given the kind of year it's been.' Community cash was also handed out to other deserving causes at Co-op stores around the region.



Mark Crawford presents the donation to Michaela Bruce, Karen Poppleton and Ruby Cook of Mid Argyll Youth Development Services. 51_Co_opCharity04



Maggie Dodd of MS Centre Argyll accepts the cheque from Mark Crawford. 51_Co_opCharity03



Representing Mid Argyll Pipe Band, Rod Buchanan received the cheque from Mark Crawford. 51_Co_opCharity05



Pipers from Mid Argyll Pipe Band entertained customers as the community cash was presented. 51_Co_opCharity06

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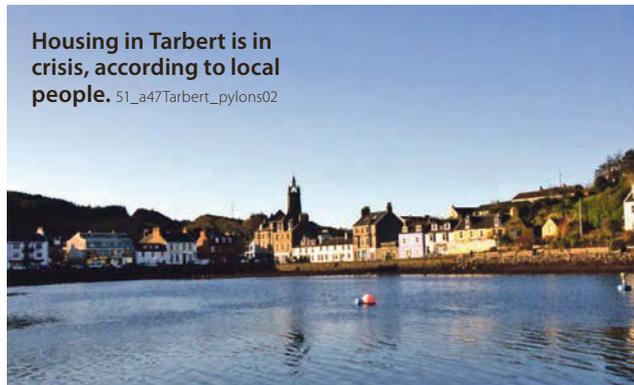
'Register need' call amid Tarbert housing crisis

Supply is failing to match demand for affordable housing in Tarbert, a situation described last week as a 'crisis'.

A drop-in session and public meeting run by Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust (TSCT) on Thursday November 18 - 'Housing need and demand: crisis or drama' - were led by recently-appointed TSCT project officer Charles Reppke, who has been looking at housing in the village and the pressures facing those with a need for different housing.

Growing second home ownership, properties bought to be used as holiday homes and inward migration has seen housing opportunities reduced over recent years.

Registered social landlords, including Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and Fyne Homes, have said they would support new affordable homes in the village in principle, with support from Argyll and Bute Council and



Housing in Tarbert is in crisis, according to local people. 51_a47Tarbert_pylons02

demand from the community. Council leader Councillor Robin Currie attended the meeting and listened to people affected by a lack of suitable housing - some seeking to move home within the village and business owners who cannot attract staff because there is no suitable accommodation for them.

Mr Reppke explained that there have been no new affordable homes built in the village since eight new ACHA

properties were completed in 2016.

Four new three-bedroom family homes are due to be completed next year by ACHA, but TSCT believes there remains a deficit of one and two-bedroom properties which were identified as a need by the council in 2016.

Pressures on existing social housing comes from young people setting up home; growing families requiring a bigger property; and older

people seeking to downsize. TSCT suggests a mix of housing including the possibility of affordable home ownership but predominantly affordable rental properties.

But Mr Reppke stressed: 'Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust has been told for many years that Tarbert needs homes, but if people don't register their need, then unfortunately it may be seen that Tarbert has a housing drama and not a crisis.'

'Be clear when I say TSCT views this as a crisis.'

'The first aim of TSCT when it was established in 2003 was to secure improvement in affordable housing, but we can't do it without input from the community and I urge anyone with a housing requirement to register it with HOMEARGYLL.'

Visit www.homeargyll.co.uk to register your housing requirements.



Tables groaned under the weight of fabulous local produce.

Christmas cakes and crafts for seniors

A fantastic turnout of people enjoyed Inveraray Senior Citizens Club's Christmas Fayre.

Held on Saturday November 20, there was a tombola along with Christmas crafts and gifts, jams and chutneys and home baking which were snapped up in no time as always.

The club would like to thank everyone for their donations, support and for going along.

Their generosity was outstanding and funds raised will go a long way to help running the Inveraray Senior Citizens Club and the upkeep of the Nicoll Hall.

In a new move for Inveraray Senior Citizens Club, it now has its own Facebook page.

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Details of investigation into Islay councillor revealed

Boundaries Scotland has released details of its investigation into Argyll and Bute councillor Alastair Redman from Islay, after he was suspended and expelled by the Scottish Conservative party.

Councillor Redman, pictured, who represents Kintyre and the Islands, was suspended for the second time by the Tories in August 2021 pending an investigation, though the party gave no detail why.

Last week, a spokesperson for the Scottish Conservatives confirmed: 'Following disciplinary proceedings, Alastair Redman is no longer a member of the party.'

Councillor Redman, who has changed his status to Independent, said claims he used different names to respond to a public consultation were used by Central Tories as 'a tool' to take him out of the

party. Boundaries Scotland, the body responsible for reviewing the number of wards for local government elections, has now given details of its investigation into Councillor Redman.

Boundaries Scotland explained it was 'directed by the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 to conduct a review of electoral arrangements for the six council areas with inhabited islands'.

'The commission conducted a 12-week public consultation on its proposals, for councillor numbers and ward boundaries, for Argyll and Bute Council area from November 4 2020 to January 26 2021.

'The commission invited respondents to submit comments via its consultation site. In late December 2020 it became apparent that a number of responses, opposing the

commission's proposed Islay, Jura and Colonsay ward, came from the same source. One of those responses was from Councillor Redman.

'At this time we phoned Councillor

Redman and he admitted submitting responses purporting to be from other people as part of our statutory consultation.

'Councillor Redman advised he had notified the individuals he had notified the responses could not be considered by the commission and that they would be deleted. As far as we are aware none of those names submitted a later response.



There were no further suspicious responses received after that telephone call.

In February 2021 the commission wrote a letter of complaint to the Commission for Ethical Standards

in Public Life, copied to Argyll and Bute Council. In late March the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life responded and advised they are taking no further action on the letter of complaint regarding Councillor Redman's actions.

'The commission was disappointed in this response and agreed to write to [the] Scottish Government regarding the Councillor Code of Conduct.

'In June 2021 the commission wrote again to Councillor Redman stating its disappointment with his actions. Councillor Redman did not respond to this.'

A Boundaries Scotland spokesperson said: 'Staff of Boundaries Scotland noted that a large number of

responses to its consultation portal were coming from email addresses with foreign domains (.lv and .ru) as well as other unusual domains and these were deemed suspicious.

'All came from the same browser and following an internal IT investigation, the same IP address. All the responses argued against the commission's proposals concerning Islay, using similar language. The first response from that browser and IP address came from Councillor Redman.'

Councillor Alastair Redman reiterated: 'I certainly don't believe for a second that helping out my constituents fill out forms for the boundary changes in what was a successful campaign to stop the changes was the wrong thing to do.

'However it is my personal opinion that this matter was used by the Central Office Tories as a tool for taking myself out of the party.

'I believe the real reason for my expulsion was myself being unwilling to blindly toe the party line and for being too much of a maverick and independently minded for the modern iteration of the Scottish Conservatives.

'Putting loyalty to your con-

stituents before loyalty to your party will often put a target on your back unfortunately.'

'I will be seeking re-election next year as an independent candidate in the local elections and I promise to continue to put the people before any political party or special interest group without fear or favour.'

The former postmaster in Portnahaven Post Office, Islay, added: 'I would add that when I was in the post office I used to help out my constituents fill out forms all the time. So I really don't see the issue here.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'We are aware of and accept the decision made by the Ethical Standards Commission that there has been no breach of the Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors.'

A Scottish Government spokesperson added: 'It is important that those in elected office, including councillors, adhere to the highest standards of behaviour.'

'The Councillors' Code of Conduct which sets out openly and clearly the standards that are expected of councillors was recently revised and approved by the Scottish Parliament and is expected to come into effect on December 7.'



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Meet Argyll and Bute's consultant psychiatrist

An introduction to consultant psychiatrist Dr Paul Morrison, submitted to the Argyllshire Advertiser by Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)



Dr Paul Morrison is based at Mid Argyll Integrated Care Centre and Community Hospital in Lochgilphead.

Dr Morrison has over 20 years of experience in the treatment of a wide range of mental health conditions.

Following initial medical and psychiatric training in Glasgow, he studied neuroscience in Chicago before completing his training as a psychiatrist and psychopharmacologist at the Maudsley Hospital in London.

Dr Morrison's previous professional psychiatry career roles have included three years in addictions and working with patients with treat-

'I am now happy to be based in Scotland and working with some great colleagues in Argyll and Bute'

ment-resistant mental health disorders.

He has also previously worked as a consultant at the renowned National Psychosis Unit in South London.

The National Psychosis Unit is a national treatment centre for patients with schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders.

Dr Morrison said: 'I was very fortunate to work with some great clinicians, researchers and managers in London and I am now happy to be based in Scotland and working with some great colleagues in Argyll and Bute.'

Recognised as an expert in pharmacology and neurosci-

Argyll and Bute HSCP consultant psychiatrist, Dr Paul Morrison.

ence, he is committed to the best, most modern practice in psychiatry.

He is also an honorary clinical senior lecturer in psychopharmacology at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London.

Dr Morrison is also the lead author on the highly-regarded Maudsley Guidelines on Advanced Prescribing in Psychosis which offers psychiatrists and other mental health practitioners an essential guide for treating psychosis on an individual level.

As an academic psychiatrist, he is recognised as an international expert in the relationship between cannabis and major mental illness and is a specialist in the treatment of a range of psychiatric conditions, including psychosis, anxiety, substance dependence and schizophrenia.

Nicola Gillespie, HSCP service manager for mental health and addictions (adult services), said: 'Consultant psychiatrist Dr Paul Morrison makes a significant contribution to developing and maintaining excellent clinical standards within mental health services across Argyll and Bute.'

YOURSTORY

email us at editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk
telephone 01546 602345

Inveraray hotel recognised at trade awards

The George Hotel was one of the winners at the Scottish Licensed Trade News (SLTN) awards on Thursday November 18.

The famous Inveraray institution, owned by the Clark family for generations, won the Magners-sponsored award for Best Outdoor Space.

Hotel management announced the honour on The George Hotel Facebook page, posting: 'Thank you to everyone who helped, played, worked and visited and made it a really special place to spend the spring, summer and autumn in 2021. We can't wait to reopen the place to you in spring 2022.'

The Coll Hotel was another richly-deserved Argyll SLTN award-winner, scooping the casual dining Restaurant of the Year honours.



The George Hotel was recognised for its fantastic outdoor space.

Energy Efficient Scotland: Area Based Scheme



Did you know that grants are available to eligible households in Argyll & Bute to install insulation to their homes?

Installing insulation can make your home warmer, reduce energy bills and reduce carbon emissions.



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Home Energy Scotland provide impartial advice on energy saving, keeping warm at home and have access to a range of funding to assist households to improve the energy efficiency of their home.



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Garden gifts to brighten the winter gloom

As we near the festive season, look no further than your garden for the gift of simple yet beautiful decorative displays.

A great use for your winter prunings is to arrange bare or lichen-covered twigs in a tall glass vase and festoon with tea light holders or use lengths of trailing ivy and evergreen foliage twisted into swags for looping along mantelpieces or winding round banisters.

Sprigs of aromatic leaves and herbs - bay, rosemary, sage, thyme and anything else you can lay your hands on - arranged around a large candle on a deep fluted dish make a fragrant table centrepiece.

If you can't source your Christmas greenery from your own garden, garden centres will have everything you need. Small living Christmas trees

can be bought in pots for children, so that each year they can be brought inside for the festivities and be part of your Christmas tradition.

Alternatively, you can create your own permanent Christmas decoration in the garden. Buy a larger living Christmas tree and plant it in a good position allowing for future growth. You need to plant it no later than the beginning of January.

In the depths of winter, the quiet charms of plants with strikingly coloured bark come into their own. The stem colours and textures of trees and shrubs attract the eye and brighten the winter gloom.

By planting, for example, dogwoods, snake bark maples, willows and white washed brambles, you can create a



stunning winter effect in any garden or landscape.

Most winter stems are best planted in groups to maximise their impact and in locations

where they can be seen and appreciated. They perform well in full sun and in deep, moist, loamy soil so try to avoid shallow and chalky soils.

Dogwood and willow shrubs will need pruning each year in March, almost to ground level, to ensure that a fresh crop of the brightest coloured

Colourful stems can brighten the winter gloom.

stems are produced in the next winter.

December is definitely a time to catch up on indoor gardening jobs and have a rest, but for those who are out and about the Royal Horticultural Society has some tips:

- Carry on harvesting winter crops such as parsnips, kale, leeks and sprouts. Don't forget to pick sprouts from the bottom of the stalk upwards.

- Collect empty plant pots and seed trays and wash them ready for next year, together with garden tools.

- Collect the rest of the leaves that have fallen from the trees for composting as leaf mould.

- Do some early wrapping by covering any large outside containers with bubblewrap, fleece or hessian to help prevent the pots cracking in frosty weather.

- Don't be too much of a tidy gardener - leave some seed heads and berries on plants for animals and birds to eat.

- Provide clean water for wildlife to drink.

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TRANSMISSION

IN-PERSON PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENTS CANCELLED

Following the notice in last week's Oban Times advertising SSEN Transmission Planning Advice Notice (PAN) Public Consultation Events for An Suidhe, Crarae, Craig Murrail and Crossaig North Substations and the proposed Sheidrim Windfarm project on the 30th, 1st and 2nd of December, we have made the difficult decision to cancel these events in person due to Covid-19 levels currently affecting Argyll and Bute.

We are disappointed that we have had to cancel, however, our top priority is the safety of the residents of Inveraray, Carradale and Lochgilphead and our colleagues. We hope you understand that unfortunately there is no safe way to go ahead with these events in person at this time.

If you have any queries about joining the virtual consultation, or if you would like us to send you a paper copy of the consultation booklet, please contact the Community Liaison Manager:

Caitlin Quinn
07901135758
caitlin.quinn@sse.com
1 Waterloo St, Glasgow, G2 6AY

In order to provide an opportunity for you to share your views with us, we will be continuing as planned with our virtual consultation and providing an enhanced virtual offering. Live IM chats with the project team will be held on the following dates and times:

Wednesday 8th December 2021:
10-12 Noon

Thursday 9th December 2021: 5-7pm

You will find further information about the virtual consultation, the project & the planning applications, access to the virtual consultation room and the feedback forms via the project webpage:

www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/argyll-and-kintyre-275kv-substations/

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YOUR PICTURES



Shepherd Iain Shaw sent us this week's photograph.

Taken on Wednesday November 17 while gathering sheep on the hills near Ardfern to go to the tup, it shows the low-lying land at the head of Loch Craignish in the distance enjoying a glimpse of sunshine.

Also in the photograph are Iain's keen-as-mustard working collies on the quad bike - the younger dog Jill is eagerly sitting up, lugs cocked, but the more experienced Whisp is sitting down waiting to be called into action.

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

A photograph of a doorway with a white door. A brown doormat with the text "DO THE TEST" in black capital letters is placed on a white tiled floor. The tiles have a hexagonal pattern. The background shows a glimpse of the outdoors through the doorway.

A wee reminder.

Let's stop the spike.

[NHSinform.scot/testing](https://nhsinform.scot/testing)

Pupils raise plenty of Pudsey pounds



Mrs White, one of the enthusiastic band of cheerleaders.

It was an all-action day of raising charity cash at Lochgilphead Joint Campus.

Friday November 19 was Children in Need day, so pupils and teachers put in a huge shift to raise a final total of £1,713.27.

Lochgilphead primary and pre-five unit ran a pyjama day and had a Pudsey colouring competition, with some amazing drawings in the mix – and superheroes even made an appearance.



The high school organised a raffle, non-uniform day, football matches and, last but not least, an ice bucket challenge for the teachers - 17 of whom put their names forward, with pupils paying 50p per vote for the teachers they wanted to see



Action from the S6 v staff football match.

soaked. Proceedings kicked off with an S1-S3 seven-a-side boys and girls' football tournament, with more than 140 pupils signing up.

Both finals were extremely tight, with captain Freya McKellar's girls' team clinching the decisive goal in the last 30 seconds to win 2-1.

The boys' competition went right down to the wire, with captain Euan Donan's team winning on penalties.

A massive 850g Cadbury chocolate bar, raffled at lunchtime, went to principal teacher of learning support Mrs McDermitt.

After lunch a football match between S6 and staff saw good skill on both sides as a staff and pupils' cheerleading team boosted morale from the sidelines.

The pupils were triumphant after a hard-fought game.

The climax of the day came with the ice bucket challenge which, mysteriously, seemed particularly popular with the pupils.

Mrs Peace, Mrs Baxter and



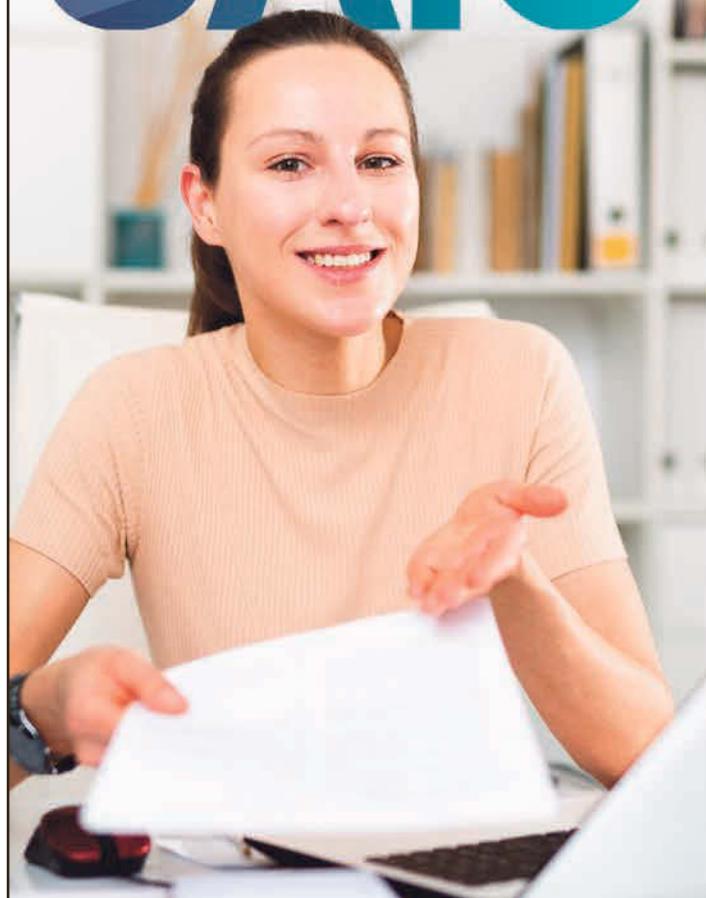
Mrs McDermitt and deputy head girl Jasmine Mcphee with that huge chocolate bar.

Mr Robertson all deserve special thanks for braving the freezing water.

Lochgilphead High School head boy Archie MacColl-Smith said: 'I am delighted with the total raised across the joint campus.'

'I am particularly proud of my fellow pupils for everything they have done considering all the limitations and pushbacks we have had with the Covid restrictions.'

SAIC



Are you a woman aged 25 or over and ready to get back into the world of work?
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- Reboot and restart your career – gain additional upskilling and training to get back to work
- Boost self-confidence to re-enter the workplace
- One-to-one tailored support to meet specific needs
- Help to gain financial independence

For more information and for an application form
<https://wisa.scottishaquaculture.com/opportunities/women-returners-programme/>

Spaces on the programme are limited to just 40 and the closing date for applications is 17th December.

Join the conversation about the programme:

 Twitter: @mywowscotland Twitter: @sustain_aqua

 Facebook: @MyWorldofWork #DiversityMakesUsWiSA

Skills Development Scotland Twitter: @skillsdevscot

The Women Returners Programme is funded by the Scottish Government and administered by Skills Development Scotland.



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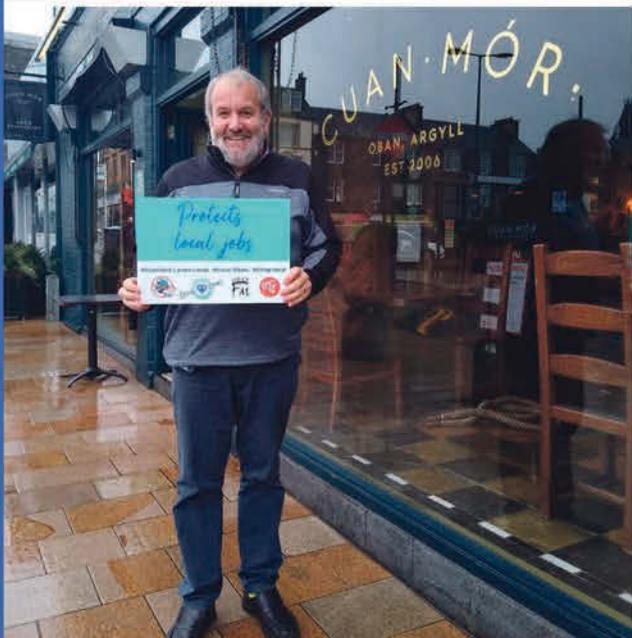
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This Christmas has been a long time coming and life will be all the better for it.

In 2020 we did our best to keep everyone's spirits up and urged them to make the most of things.

This year we are so pleased to say get out there and enjoy yourselves - while still keeping Covid safety guidelines in mind.

So do just that! Get out, have a good time, meet up with friends you haven't seen for ages and enjoy yourselves

At the same time remember to say thank you to all the volunteers, committee members, fundraisers and donors who help to make community events possible with Christmas tree

lights and festivals around our towns and villages.

The fact that Scotland hosted the COP26 summit - the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow - has made us all more aware of the need to combat pollution and waste.

We can dream of a white Christmas and still have a green one. The best advice is to cut down on your carbon footprint by staying closer to home for your shopping and festivities and keeping any waste to a minimum. That is as good for your budget as it is for

the planet. We have so much to offer here in Kintyre, Mid Argyll and Islay, with a wide range of shops and some incredible establishments offering fantastic food and drink.

Food grown and raised here is as natural as natural can be, from the land or sea, and our food producers thrive because they have gone for quality, not quantity.

So from the Wyvex Media family to yours, here's wishing you a very Merry Christmas.

Make sure it is a good one.

Christmas

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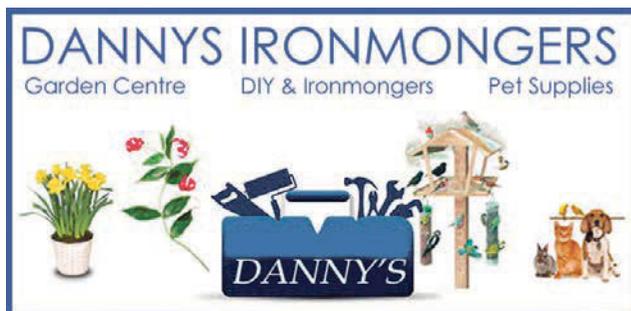
FESTIVE CRAFT FAIR

Sunday 12 December 11am - 4pm

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Kintyre and Mid Argyll community

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There is something special about Christmas in a shore-side community; the loch waters and the sea provide such a wonderful backdrop, reflecting the lights and adding a unique atmosphere.

We are so lucky to live here in Kintyre and Mid Argyll, Islay and the islands. We will all be out celebrating with lights and trees but much of the festivities are a little subdued this year because of the continuing worries about the spread of Covid.

Even if there isn't a parade or gathering to join in, make sure you wrap yourself up warm and go for a walk after dark to enjoy looking at all the lights.

And a big thank-you goes to the community groups and organisations that have once again worked so hard with the fundraising, planning and installation of the lights. The stars aren't always at the tops of the trees - and you are all stars.

So check with our journalist colleagues'

reports on the news pages for the final timings and confirmations.

Campbeltown: the lights go on tonight (November 26).

Tarbert: lights to be switched on tonight; Father Christmas will be visiting the village at a date to be confirmed.

Inveraray: the Royal Burgh will be switching on its lights on Saturday December 4.

Loch Awe: St Conan's Kirk will hold its Christmas Tree Festival on the weekend of December 3 - 5.

Glenbarr: The last two weekends before Christmas, it is planned for Santa and Mrs Claus to visit the village store and garden centre.

Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig are yet to announce their final plans. Keep checking our news pages for details of what is happening.

Many stores in Lochgilphead will be joining in late night shopping on Thursdays and extended weekend opening.



Our Hotel is sitting with spectacular views bordered by the historic Crinan Canal and Loch Gilp, close to where they both flow into Loch Fyne.

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Upgrade your reservation with a bottle of house wine for only £10 in advance.

ALL WELCOME!

Christmas celebrations



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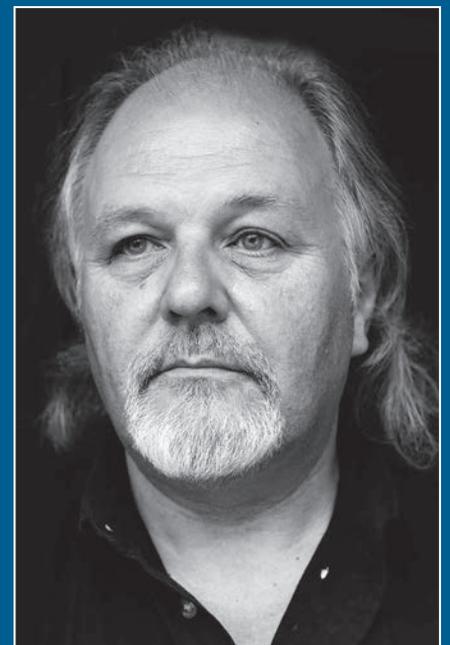
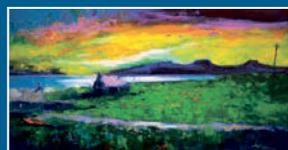
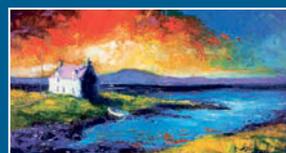
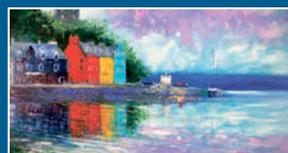
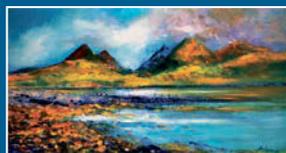
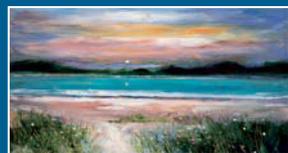
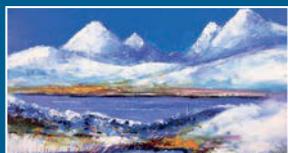
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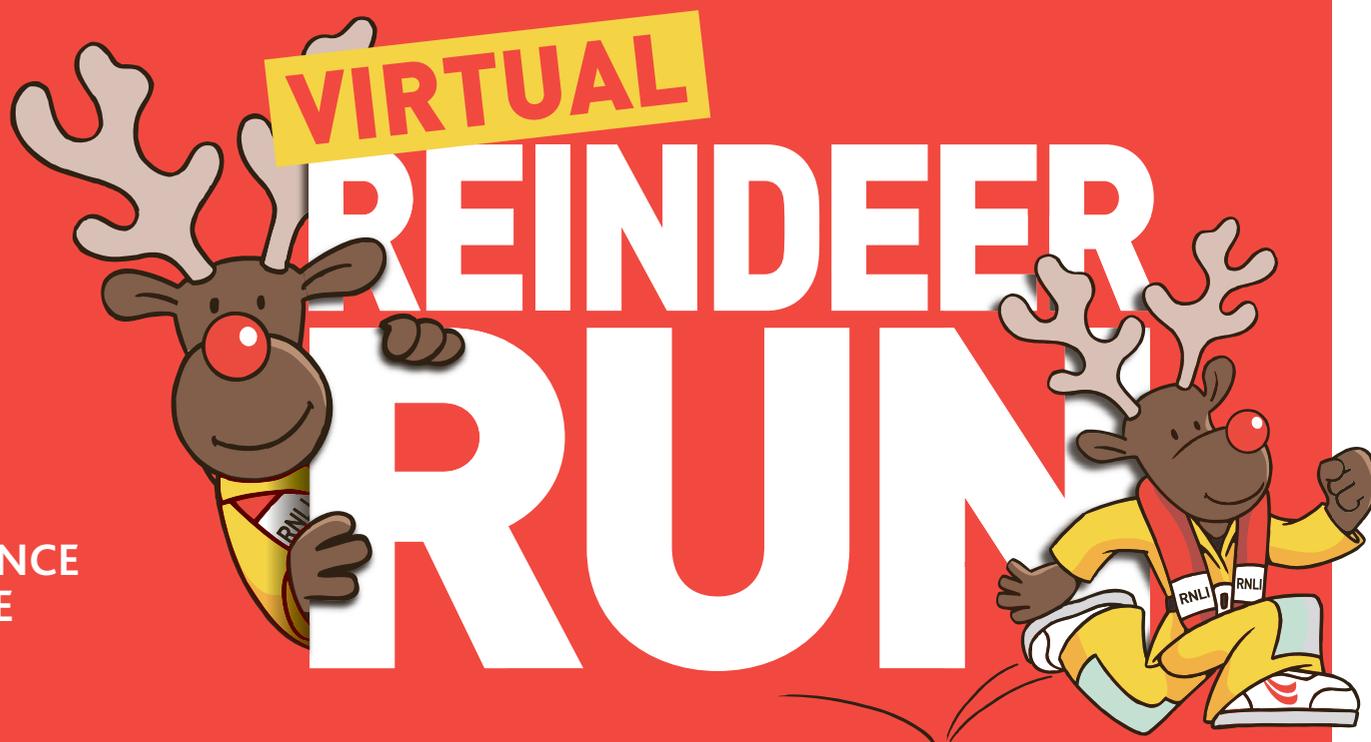
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and a thoughtful gift is
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That perfect present for the ones you love

The well-thought out gift, large or small, makes someone feel special.

Everyone should feel, or make someone else feel, special at Christmas, even if only for a moment; with a compliment to someone you know or a smile and a 'thank you' to a hard working shop assistant or waiting staff.

It is all part of the Christmas spirit.

When it comes to buying presents for your nearest, dearest and best, then it is time to find that present which is something special.

It might be an incredibly luxurious or expensive main present or it might be just a tiny stocking filler that you bought because you know it will make them smile.

In a world full of chain stores stocked floor-to-ceiling with the same gift boxes, it is good to know that we have shops packed with unique special presents.

Gifts fall into three categories: consume, own or experience.

Consume? Just think of all the fine food and drink made here.

Think splendid malt whisky and the clearest of gins; that hand-made box of chocolates, or a cake, ice cream, jams, sauces and freshly-roasted coffee. What about some beer?

Surprise a cheese-lover with a locally-carved board, artisan cheese, pickles and crackers.

It doesn't have to be a food and drink gift. How about locally-made soaps, lotions or candles?

When it comes to things to own, choose a cosy scarf, blanket or throw, or perhaps a piece of handmade or up-cycled furniture. There are some talented wood turners, leather workers, weavers and potters earning their living here. They not only sell locally but send their work nationwide and world-wide via their websites.

We have galleries in our towns and villages or at home-based studios, all full of original art, prints, sculpture and carvings from our talented artistic community.

And don't forget the jewellers, some of them highly-talented gold and silversmiths. Just the thing if you are thinking of making a Christmas proposal.

For children we have makers of cuddly toys and wooden toys and puzzles. If you haven't got time to knit, pick out a lovely cardigan or jumper for them from one of our knitters. Is there anything more cute-looking than a young child in a woolly jumper they can grow into?

What about the person who has everything?

With lockdowns and travel rules, what could be better than a break being pampered nearer to home in a luxury or boutique hotel? Or treating your mum and dad or grandparents to a posh afternoon tea? You could even add a taxi to whisk them there and back without breaking the bank.

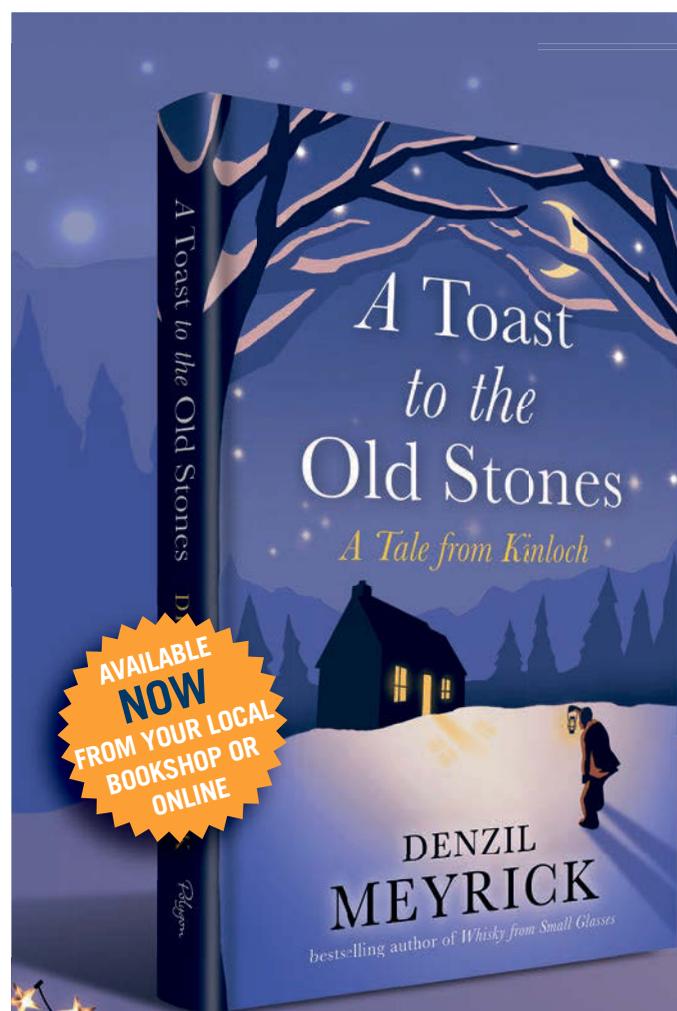
Many hotels have their own spas so you can make the trip extra special with some treatments. We also have a growing number of beauty therapists and salons and they all have gift vouchers ready and waiting to solve your gift problems.



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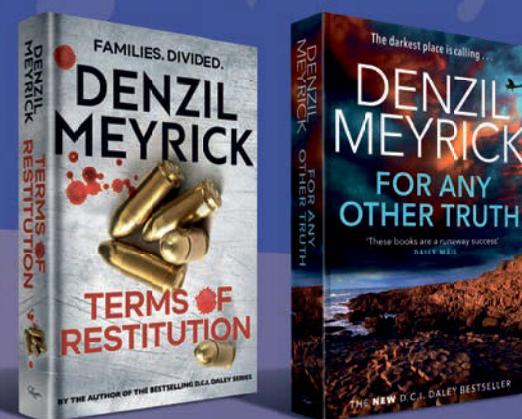
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Cosy at Christmas

Naughty or nice ways to stay cosy this Christmas

Isn't it nice to be cosy and warm at Christmas? Snuggle up and courie doon whatever the weather is doing outside.

And talking about weather, we have our own naughty list of climate change and rapidly rising energy bills to get under control.

If the Covid crisis was not enough to contend with, this year, from out of nowhere, we have been hit with horrendous hikes in energy costs.

This is not nice, in fact, it is downright naughty. Energy companies have been going to the wall and many families have had to scabble round to find new suppliers only to end up with terrifying tariffs. Being blind-sided like this is the last thing family finances need right now.

So what are we going to do about it? Cut

back on waste and make sure that every unit of gas or electricity we buy earns its keep and is money well spent. Poorly maintained boilers and heating systems are throwing your money down the drain so keeping them in peak working order is an investment.

Love your lagging and make sure hot water tanks and pipes are as snugly wrapped up as you are or they will leak money or water during a hard frost.

Chimneys, fireplaces and wood burning stoves all need to be kept in good condition as well so get the chimney sweep booked before Christmas. Santa Claus is not the only one who will appreciate a well-swept chimney.

It also makes sense to do a pre-Christmas check on oil tanks, log stores and solid fuel bunkers. Make sure they are all are in working order and get them topped up. Running out would be a catastrophe.

It is good to know Argyll has so many



WATT WHISKY

WISHES YOU A
MERRY CHRISTMAS

With thanks to our local stockists,
Halls of Campbeltown & the Ardshiel Hotel,
and to all our customers.



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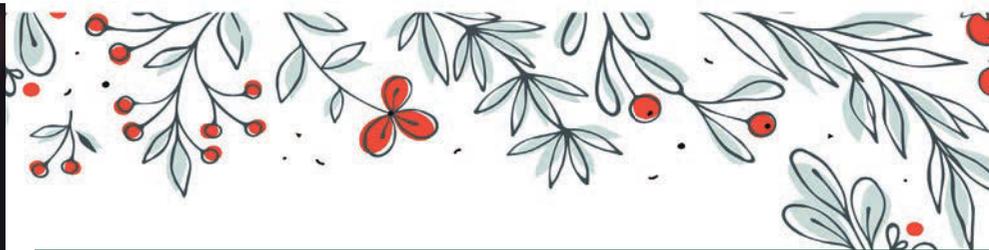
Please contact us

07464 138911 or email

info@kintyrefirewood.co.uk

Building #90 | Machrihanish Airbase | Campbeltown | Argyll





MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM McIVORS CAMPBELTOWN

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our customers for taking the time to shop locally and for supporting McIvors throughout 2021.

There is still time to deck your halls and arrange gifts for loved ones so we welcome you to visit the shop on Longrow Campbeltown, or give us a jingle on **01586 552386**.

We have a range of beautiful Christmas trees, handmade holly wreaths, floral arrangements, hampers and a host of festive gifts to ensure your festive season is full of cheer.



For family and friends living far away consider our award-winning INTERFLORA range with delivery available worldwide.



long-established, successful and qualified heating engineers, log-stove suppliers and installers alongside a legion of heating-oil, Calor gas and firewood suppliers and traditional fuel merchants.

Think 'insulation, insulation, insulation'. You don't need to glue yourself to the M8 to prove your point – just thinking about the fuel bills to come should convince everyone.

Insulation is not just for buildings. Yes, put another layer on with improved loft insulation but also put another layer on you!

An extra jumper, fleecy slippers, a throw to snuggle under on the sofa while watching the television or add another blanket on the bed - and some bed socks.

Keeping warm and cosy is part of maintaining our well-being and lifting our spirits.

So raise a glass, or mug, of something warm and get those scented candles and throws, knitted socks, mulled wine and hot chocolate in action.

Light the candles, get the Christmas tree lights twinkling and the log burner blazing away.

Show that naughty list who is the boss and have a nice, cosy Christmas.

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Barcaldine OBAN Argyll PA37 1SG Tel. 01631 720539

Backwoodsman supplies warmth and a wealth of stove knowledge

If you are looking for a stove for a small space, the dinky 3kW Charnwood Aire 3 might be just what you need. Not only for conventional houses, it's also for cabins, yurts, home offices or similar spaces. With an efficiency of 86 per cent, it has a large ceramic glass window, single air control for easy use, cool-to-touch handle for safe reloading but perhaps, best of all, it meets all the criteria set for Ecodesign 2022 with a Clear Skies rating of 5 stars.

Available either with or without a log store, the Aire 3 can be situated on a simple 12mm floating hearth and just 100mm away from ordinary plasterboard with a heat-shield fitted.

If you are struggling to achieve the safety requirements for a stove in a tight space, you could also consider the clever Charnwood Stove Pod, highly compatible with this stove.

As is the case with many other industries, lead times on stoves are considerably

longer than is usual for this time of year and we therefore advise you to allow more time for any installation arrangements you might have planned.

Call us to discuss your ideas further on **01631 720539** or go to www.backwoodsmanstoves.co.uk



Budget for a well balanced Christmas

May your Christmas be merry and bright, full of lovely presents, food, drink and as much good company as there can be. We all need to banish the Covid blues and have a great time.

That doesn't sound very frugal, does it? Shouldn't we be writing about turkey carcass soup and making your Christmas crackers from loo-roll tubes?

Forget that!

We are all getting used to a 'new normal' for Covid and beyond and that needs a new way to spend our time and money for the

The Courier Centre

Late night opening tonight
10% OFF all purchases

- Charity Christmas card packs
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Open Sunday 28th November (12pm-4pm)

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Rotary  Club of Mid Argyll

SANTA'S GROTTTO

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH HALL

Saturday 4th Dec 2021
2:00pm - 4:00pm

 **Santa's Grotto - £7.50**
per child (includes present & photo)

Raffle Draw

No home-baking/teas/coffee (Covid rules apply)

best result. Get your thinking caps on and you need not fear frightening festive bills.

Your best budget

To have a successful family budget that works for you take a long, hard look at your options.

A good budget is one that you can stick to, realistically, and one that balances with the right ratio of money and time to match your circumstances, the ability to minimise waste and gives the most beneficial outcome for you and your finances.

More money than time: we spend on convenience items and ready meals to buy us time. If you are exhausted by working from home, home schooling, caring for older relatives, recovering from having Covid, then paying for this extra help/time is money well spent. You are supposed to enjoy Christmas, not collapse in a heap.

More time than money: this scenario means meal planning, shopping around for best prices and preparation of those meals we used to buy in. Can be tough if you have other commitments, but the money saved brings peace of mind.

Beware the false economy: if you know your roasties are like bullets and your gravy is grim don't spoil the money spent on the rest of the meal and stress yourself out. Buy in what you need to.

So look at how rich or poor you are with money and time and your culinary strengths and weaknesses and create a perfectly balanced Christmas feast and budget.

Waste control – your secret weapon

Boost your budget by identifying areas of waste and cutting them out.

Good purchasing, portion control and stock rotation can make or break any café or restaurant.

How many times have you said to your children 'you treat this place like a hotel'? Well start running it like one!

Well stocked: know what is in your cupboards, fridge and freezer and keep them clean and orderly with food used in date rotation.

Portion control: think back to last year and all those Christmas dinner plates piled up with food. How much ended up in the bin? Serve smaller portions and offer seconds.

Big is not always better: how many half-empty giant-sized bottles of soft drinks did you throw away because they were flat?

When you know that you have as little waste as possible, you can spend with confidence knowing you are getting true value for money.

Kilmartin Hotel Pre – Christmas Menu

Parsnip and Honey Soup served with Bread and Butter (v) l

Murrays Smoked Salmon on Tatty Scone with Horseradish Cream l,f,g

Goats Cheese Soufflé served on Salad with Red Onion Chutney and Balsamic Glaze l,g

Homemade Chicken Liver and Brandy Pate served with Apple and Plum Chutney and Oatcakes l,g

Roast Turkey served with Traditional Trimmings l,g

Grilled Fillet of Salmon served with Asparagus Risotto and an Orange Hollandaise Sauce f,g

Honey Roast Ham served with Chilli and Apple Sauce

Vegan Cajun Spiced Sweet Potato Roulade (v) l,g

All the above are served with Mash, Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables

Traditional Christmas Pudding served with Brandy Sauce or Custard l,g

Cranachan Cheesecake served with Ice Cream l,g

Mirrored Chocolate Truffle Torte (Vegan) G/F

Selections of Ice Cream

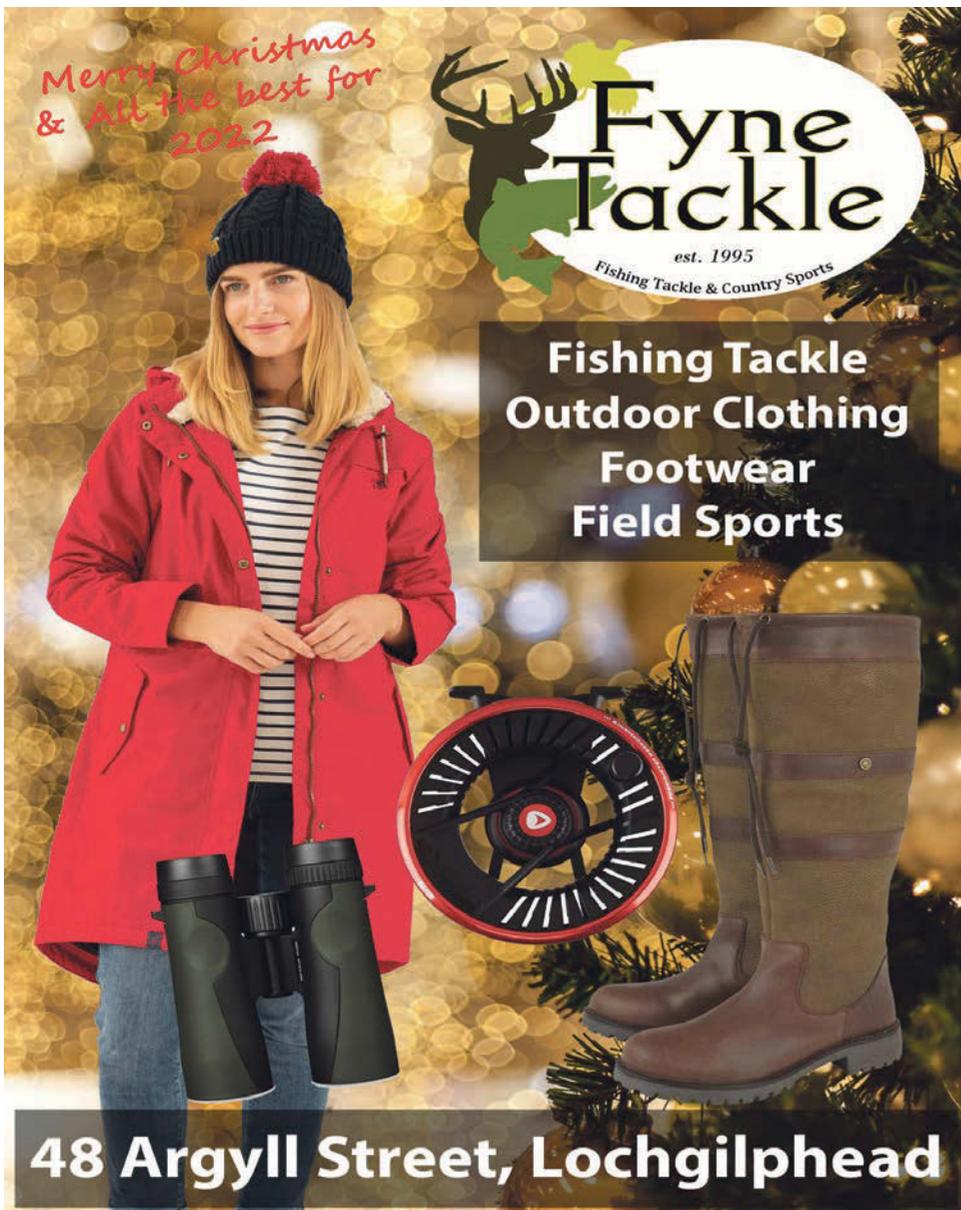
2 Courses £18.95 3 Courses £22.95

We will be serving throughout December and that booking is necessary and that we are working along side government guidelines.

Email: Kilmartinhotel@googlemail.com

Call 01546 510250

Merry Christmas & All the best for 2022



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Any gift ideas packaged for Christmas can be sent directly, you can also buy gift vouchers just drop me a message.

GNS is now part of the Scotland loves local scheme and cards can be redeemed in store.

I would like to thank all my customers, old and new for their support throughout the last 12 months and wishing each and everyone of you a healthy 2022.

Facebook **Tel 078814 26616**
email morvenandrew@yahoo.co.uk

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DISCOVER GIFTS YOU'LL LOVE TO GIVE THIS YEAR.



Top trends for Christmas



Among the top gifts this year are ones that are eco friendly, in the spirit of COP26, held in Glasgow. Even if you are buying the big ticket top favourites, there is always space in Christmas stockings for some greenery.

Mid Argyll Arts Association - Concert

Sunday 5th December
A Christmas Celebration

A feast of Seasonal Music
3.00pm , Ardrishaig Public Hall
90 minute concert, no interval

Book tickets at: <https://buytickets.at/midargyllartsassociation>

Always remember that if in doubt: chocolate, whisky, beer or gin! All can be sourced from local manufacturers, many of whom have won numerous awards for their products. When you buy from the people who make them, the carbon footprint is as low as it can be.

For children, the big 2021 gifts remain Barbie, Paw Patrol, Lego, gaming and radio controlled vehicles and toys, especially animatronics.

Among the must-haves are Star Wars animatronics that look like tiny Yoda characters.

They are suitable for children over three and not to be allowed anywhere near a West Highland border collie or Labrador unless you own a stomach pump.

What is it about children and dinosaurs? Larger sized models are a big seller this year. Anything to do with the monsters is always a hit with primary school ages.

Good old Meccano's come back continues and guess what? They have kits to make dinosaurs. So do Lego. We predict these will be a winner with present-hunting grandparents.

ISUZU S&S SERVICES SUBARU

Use your local award winning dealer this year and put a new car under your tree!



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Swedish company Urbanista has produced the world's first self-charging wireless headphones. Solar cell material converts all light, outdoor and indoor, into energy to deliver virtually infinite playtime. Never stops charging when exposed to light. They come complete with carrying case and USB Type-C charging cable for the West Highland climate.

www.urbanista.com



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The Ideal Gift

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01586 551710 shop@cadenhead.scot **Opening Hours - 10am - 5:30pm Mon - Sat**

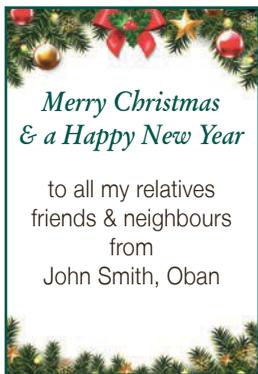
Tables laden with local treats

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

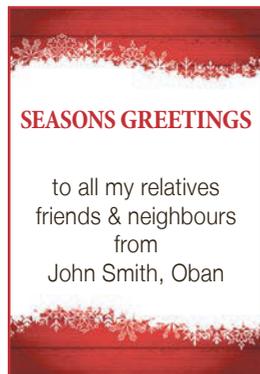
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*(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

In Mid Argyll, Kintyre and on the islands, nature grows great produce and local people create delicious foods for festive feasts. Climate change shows that reducing food miles is essential. Aren't we lucky to have so many good things on our doorsteps.

From your smoked salmon starter to your freshly-roasted coffee and handmade chocolates, as you sit and savour a fine malt at the end of

lockdown and continuing restrictions has taught us is that the company of family and friends old and new needs to be celebrated - and where better than around a table laden with good local food.

Our whiskies, beers, liqueurs and the ever-expanding gin market, which is also bringing home accolades, should all be on our holiday menus.

Look back 20 or so years ago and you see pioneers of the produce market which is now thriving in Argyll.

They paved the way for today's army of small businesses; all incredibly talented artisans who are passionate about the food they produce - and you can taste that passion in every sip or bite.

It is wonderful to see so many talented local young people returning home after learning their skills at colleges and prestigious venues in big cities, all wanting to set up their own businesses and raise their families here. They deserve our support.

In the face of closures and scaling back by creameries, plus continuing

low milk prices, our dairy producers are turning their hands to ice cream, cheese, butters and milk. Who would have thought that the humble glass milk bottle would return to our doorsteps, thanks to the Isle of Gigha.

Try the world's finest

The finest award-winning hotels and restaurants throughout the UK and across the world boast our produce on their menus and it is all here, on our doorsteps waiting for us.



the meal, every course of your Christmas feast can be sourced here at home.

With farm-reared geese, turkeys and game birds, the best produce is here on our doorsteps.

The Christmas and Hogmanay season extends beyond the December 25 dinner and we have beef, pork, salmon, trout, hill-reared lamb and venison to enjoy across the holiday.

One thing the pandemic and its subsequent

Murray Smoked Products
The **PLAICE** for **FRESH & SMOKED** Fish

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A traditional pharmacy offering a wide range of interesting gifts including perfumes and aftershaves.

For all your winter essential needs
Free prescription delivery now available

Open Monday - Friday 9.00am to 5.30pm
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BOARD GAMES, JIGSAW PUZZLES FOR LITTLE & LARGE, STOCKING FILLERS, XMAS GIFT WRAP, KIDS ACTIVITY BOOKS, KIDS TOYS SUCH AS PADDINGTON BEAR, THE BFG, CHRISTMAS COOK BOOKS, ADULT COLORING BOOKS & VARIETY OF FICTION, NON-FICTION, SCOTTISH BOOKS & 2018 CALENDARS, DIARIES & MANY MORE!

ARGYLL BOOK CENTRE

MORE THAN JUST A BOOK SHOP!

Argyll Book Centre
Lorne Street,
Lochgilthead,
PA31 8LU
Tel: 01546 603596

Anchor Hotel

The Anchor on the harbour side at Tarbert, Loch Fyne, is now in the ownership of the Beaton family and Ross and Norma are looking forward to growing into the community and building friendships.

‘The welcome has been incredible. The whole community and other hoteliers have been very supportive,’ said Ross. ‘I was born in a hotel in Inverness that my father owned and it must be in the blood.’

The couple and their children have moved to Argyll from Aberdeen.

With core staff staying within the hotel, including chef Gavin Barr, the couple are increasing their team of full and part-time staff.

The Anchor has 13 letting rooms; six come with some of the best harbour views in Argyll. There are five standard doubles, a family room and a triple room. All are well-appointed and modern with a wonderful décor that complements the historic west coast village setting.

The Sea Bed Restaurant, as the name says, serves locally-landed shellfish and has an

excellent reputation for steaks. Vegetarian and vegan dishes are available and this is an area of the menu which is expanding. All dietary needs can be catered for.

Alongside the restaurant is the Loch Fyne function suite which can accommodate a good-sized family event as well as being perfect for business meetings. Meals are also served in the bar area.

Restaurant theme nights, which were so popular under the previous owners, are part of the Beaton family plans. Norma’s South African heritage will be soon be featuring on the menu.

‘We are family-owned and run and this Christmas we will have a breakfast with Santa for children to enjoy with a raffle in aid of Alzheimer’s Scotland for their mums and dads,’ said Ross. ‘My mother had Alzheimer’s so this is a cause dear to us.’

Ross and Norma have completed their power boat level two qualification since moving to Tarbert and as a keen golfer, Ross is looking forward to getting back on the course as soon as business allows.



Anchor Hotel and Seabed Restaurant
Christmas Menu 2021

Starters

- Butternut Squash & Chestnut Soup
Rustic bread
- Goats Cheese & Caramelised red Onion Tartlet
Sun blushed tomatoes, toasted pine nuts & rocket salad
- Duck & Orange Pate
Micro herbs, Melba toast & Grand Marnier syrup
- Smoked Salmon Trio
Hot & cold smoked salmon, salmon pate, Arran oatcakes, lemon capers & pickled vegetables

Main Course

- Roast Turkey
Chestnut, apricot & sage stuffing, pigs in blankets, roasted root vegetables, Brussel sprouts, rosemary & garlic roasted potatoes
- Roasted Rib of Beef
Honey glazed parsnips, carrot puree, red wine jus, buttery mash
- Crispy Pan-Fried Sea Bass Fillet
Seared scallops, pickled carrot, baby turnips, celeriac puree, crushed potatoes
- Butternut Squash, Beetroot & Spinach Risotto
Pine nuts, parmesan & rocket

Dessert

- Christmas Pudding
Brandy sauce
- Vanilla Pana cotta
Pistachio crumb, glazed figs, berry coulis
- Sherry Trifle
Honeycomb biscotti
- Hot Chocolate Fondant
Salted caramel center, raspberry and Kirsch

£29.50pp

Bookings: anchorhotel@lochfyne-scotland.co.uk
or 01880 820577

The Anchor Hotel

CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS
10TH, 17TH AND 18TH DECEMBER 2021

Starters

- Roasted Red Pepper & Tomato
Basil crème fraiche, rustic bread
- Goats Cheese & Caramelised red Onion Tartlet
Sun blushed tomatoes, toasted pine nuts & rocket salad
- Rannoch Smoked Duck Breast
Parma ham & pomegranate salad
- Smoked Salmon Trio
Hot & cold smoked salmon and salmon pate, Arran oatcakes, lemon capers and pickled vegetables

Main Course

- Roast Turkey
Chestnut, apricot & sage stuffing, pigs in blankets, roasted root vegetables, Brussel sprouts, rosemary & garlic roasted potatoes
- Roasted Rib of Beef
Honey glazed parsnips, carrot puree, red wine jus, buttery mash
- Crispy Pan-Fried Sea Bass Fillet
Seared scallops, pickled carrot, baby turnips, celeriac puree, crushed potatoes
- Butternut Squash, Beetroot & Spinach Risotto
Pine nuts, parmesan & rocket

Dessert

- Christmas Pudding
Brandy sauce
- Vanilla Pana cotta
Pistachio crumb, glazed figs, berry coulis
- Sherry Trifle
Honeycomb biscotti
- Hot Chocolate Fondant
Salted caramel center, raspberry & Kirsch

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT WITH Tj MAC £34.50PP

XMAS DAY LUNCH

@ FORTY TWO

Served 12 noon – 4pm 5 courses £80 per person

STARTERS

SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER COCKTAIL BY JON

CORN FED CHICKEN

Pigeon & black pudding terrine, fig toast, prune & Armagnac relish

WILD SALMON

Scallop & langoustine ballontine, boudin of leek, saffron & beluga

WILD MUSHROOM & TRUFFLE BROTH

Pearl barley, basil crystal, horseradish crème fraiche, blue cheese crisps

MAINS

CHERRY, GRAPE AND WATER MELON ICED YOGURT

Warm spiced champagne sabayon

PAN ROASTED GOOSE BREAST

Pomme anna, hispi cabbage, roast onion and hazelnut pan gravy

PAN FRIED TURBOT

Brown shrimp croquette, spinach, parmesan & sun blushed tomato steamed pudding, smoked bacon cream reduction

SQUASH, CHESTNUT & CAULIFLOWER TART

sprout leaf remoulade, braised celery and caramelised apple

STEAMED AND ROASTED PAUPIETTE OF TURKEY

Confit leg, apricot sausage stuffing, roasted honey glazed parsnip, heritage carrots, duck fat fondant potato, sage & lemon thyme pan juices

DESSERT

CLEMENTINE & VANILLA POD BAKED CHEESE CAKE

Clotted cream, blueberry & bitter chocolate praline

TRADITIONAL TWICE BAKED CHRISTMAS PUDDING

Brandy butter, fresh egg custard, sesame seed & caramel glaze

CHOCOLATE, RASPBERRY & HONEY COMB TORTE

Marmalade bread & butter pudding ice cream

KINTYRE CHEESE SLATE

Chutneys, relish, biscuits and warm bread



XMAS PARTY NIGHTS

@ FORTY TWO

£38 per person

STARTERS

CURRIED PARSNIP & APPLE BROTH

Horseradish crème fraiche, pumpkin seeds

POTTED SMOKED TROUT & BROWN SHRIMP

Cinnamon and paprika tortilla, date relish, fried caper berries

SLOW COOKED PIG CHEEK

Crispy ear, pearl barley, lemon and fennel, bramble and stem ginger, soya reduction

INTERMEDIATE

EGGNOG, TEQUILA & LIME SHOT

Ginger beer foam

MAINS

STEAMED & ROASTED PAUPIETTE OF BRONZE TURKEY

Goose fat fondant potato, apricot stuffing, cabbage, chestnuts, bacon and pan sage gravy

POACHED MONKFISH TAIL

Maple baked sweet potato, braised celery, wild mushroom and lemon grass cream

SPINACH, HOWGATE BLUE, CELERIAC AND SQUASH ROULADE

Spiced tomato chutney, sprout leaf and avocado

VENISON, ROOT VEGETABLE, BLACKCURRANT AND CLOUDY LEMONADE CASSEROLE

Creamed potato, sticky cabbage

DESSERT

CHRISTMAS PUDDING

Rum ice cream, lavender and basil custard

GLAZED LEMON TART

Mulled berries, clotted cream

COFFEE AND CHOCOLATE MOUSSE

Caramel crumble, biscotti biscuit

WARM BRIE RAREBIT

Sultana toast, redcurrant jelly, frozen grapes



We have risk assessed our kitchens allergens: because of our nature of our food operation, we can not fully guarantee that any food will be completely free from these allergens. If you have any allergy, please speak to a member of our team before ordering. Full allergen/nutritional information is available on request. Menu items subject to availability. Although nuts may not be in the dish of your choice, we must advise that nuts are used on the premises and therefore may be present in any subsequent dish prepared. Please note: menu items subject to change and availability GF Please ask about our gluten free options (GF) Gluten free (V) Vegetarian

WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

GORDON & THE TEAM

WINTER WARMERS

@ FORTY TWO

RED WINE, STOUT AND CLOUDY LEMONADE BRAISED VENISON CASSEROLE

Mulled sticky red cabbage, creamed potato

OR

BEER BATTERED HADDOCK

Fat chips, mushy peas, tartar sauce, lemon and red slaw

THEN

MARMALADE BREAD AND BUTTER PUDDING

Fresh egg custard

2 courses £15

NOVEMBER

Wednesday, Thursday &
Friday Evenings 6pm – 7pm

DECEMBER

Wednesday & Thursday
Evenings 6pm – 7pm

Winter warmer menu will
change weekly

Vegetarian & gluten free options
available on request

Main menu and seafood boards
available along side this delicious
winter warmer offer

LIVE MUSIC

@ FORTY TWO

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

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End of era as Donald Morrison steps down

After a career spanning 48 years, Donald Morrison is set to retire from United Auctions at the end of year, after serving the west coast since he was 17 years old.

Having stood down from his auctioneering role in 2018, Donald, who turned 65 this month, will pass on the baton for the west coast sales to the existing team of Raymond Kennedy, Peter Wood, Ross Fotheringham, Murray Steel and Derek Anderson who have been in place since 2016.

Donald's last day as a director of Scotland's leading livestock auctioneers will be December 31 but he will continue to be a familiar face at the sale rings at Stirling, Dalmally, Oban, Islay, Tiree and Uist markets to buy livestock on behalf of farmers

and crofters. Donald, area managing director for Argyll and the Islands, said: 'It was always my plan to retire at 65 and though it's the end of an era for me, customers will continue to be in the capable hands of this young, experienced team who have been working together for five years.'

During his time at the company as both an employee and board member, Donald has been instrumental in helping to secure the long-term sustainability of the west coast markets.

The crofter's son from South Uist advocated for the company's investments to upgrade the United Auctions-owned Dalmally and Islay marts and the facility at Moleigh near Oban.



He also played a major role working with the communities of Tiree and Lochboisdale to ensure that their community marts were built.

Donald was also a key part of the team in securing the reappointment of United Auctions

as operators at Oban Livestock Centre.

Donald said: 'From where the markets were when I took over as manager more than 20 years ago to where they are today, it's night and day.'

'After significant investment,

Well-known auctioneering figure Donald Morrison will retire in December after a career spanning 48 years.

the west coast markets are up-to-date and fit-for-purpose premises, with the lairage facilities, they will be there to serve the farmers and crofters into the future.'

He added: 'Although I'll no longer be working for United Auctions in the new year, I'll always be a UA man through and through.'

Managing director of United Auctions George Purves said: 'For almost five decades Donald has diligently served

Scotland's west coast crofters and farmers.

'Working with Donald for over 20 years has allowed me to learn the great warmth, kindness and fun that can be experienced in the Scottish islands.

'He leaves a lasting legacy having secured the sustainability of the area and a strong team who have gained experience and knowledge working with him for years. We wish him all the best for his retirement.'

A presentation to mark Donald's contribution to United Auctions and to the farming and crofting communities in Scotland will take place at the Christmas sale at Oban Livestock Centre on Tuesday December 7.



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Better teaching?

It is interesting to note that Scotland's major teachers' union is against the council's plans to create school clusters, incorporating a number of schools under a single headteacher.

Union members are reported to have concerns over the removal of local leadership, believing that rather than enhancing performance it could damage educational delivery, quality and equity.

Remote control rarely works as well in practise as it appears in theory. At a time when it is imperative to increase the number of young people living in Argyll and Bute, will this improve our chances?

Many parents are vehemently opposed to it, with some believing this will pave the way for the closure of rural schools to make way for centralised 'super-campuses'.

It might save money short-term, but it will surely do little for community identity and local teaching - and in the long term runs the risk of making our places less attractive to families.

A lighter note

Hats off to the volunteers doing their bit to bring Christmas lights, trees and creels to Mid Argyll and Tarbert.

Now the council has divested responsibility, the efforts of local companies and individuals is much appreciated.

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Becoming independent

Sir,
For years Councillor Alastair Redman, a former Westminster Tory candidate, told us the Conservative party and Westminster were the answer to all our prayers.

But, ironically, now he's going to stand as an 'independent' candidate in next year's council elections - the same man who campaigned against Scottish independence, telling the Union was safe in the Tories' hands.

Since it's good enough for Mr Redman to go it alone and be independent, then it's good enough for the nation of Scotland to go it alone and be independent.

What's good for the goose is good for the gander, as the saying goes.

Colin M Campbell, Port Charlotte, Islay.

Let's talk student money

Sir,
Earlier this month I spoke to students, parents, and universities, as part of the government's Talk Money Week.

The conclusion? It is starkly apparent that all of us with children studying at university - or whose children one day hope to - must do more to talk about students, mental health and money.

The national state of student mental health is worse than any time in my 20 years of clinical work.

The recent Kortext State of UK Student Mental Health research revealed that nearly one-third of students have been diagnosed with a mental health condition. That is significantly more than the national average.

Financial anxiety is playing a major part of this negative spiral.

Things were difficult pre-pandemic, with tuition fees rising to more than £9,000 a year, future home ownership seemingly out of reach and hidden costs, such as textbooks, adding thousands. This financial uncertainty had become one of the most common factors in my case work with students - leading in some cases to extreme mental health breakdowns.

Economic pressure has massively increased since the first lockdown as most students received no financial support.

Worse, many had to continue paying for housing they could not live in and face-to-face

lectures they could not attend. Students told us in the annual National Student Survey they were unhappy with their universities' responses to blended learning, citing value for money as being an issue. This has had a significant impact on their mental health, and we cannot afford to turn our back on our young people when they need us most.

It is likely that this generation will be the one that pays for the pandemic. It's time now to focus on how we can support them.

As a start, can we all simply start to have open conversations with our children about their education finances?

Money talk is still taboo for many in our society, and if Talk Money Week allows us to open those conversations, then that alone would make a real difference.

If we don't, we will be letting down a generation.

Dr Dominique Thompson, student mental health campaigner and clinical advisor for Student Minds.

Argyll earthquake

Sir,
I write about the Achnamara earth tremor of Tuesday November 16.

The British Geological Survey maintains a series of earthquake monitoring stations around Britain, the only one in Argyll being in Lochavich. Seismograph readings are transmitted by satellite to Edinburgh for analysis - visit www.earthquakes.bgs.ac.uk/helicorder/heli.html for real-time seismograms.

The seismogram for the Achnamara tremor can be viewed by following the link, selecting LAWE under Station, then Short Period, and the date. It occurred at a depth of 12 kilometres, and was of 3.3 magnitude on the Richter scale.

For comparison, the 7.9 Richter earthquake in Haiti on August 14 this year can be found under LAWE, very long period, and the date.

Tony Dalton, Lochavich, by Taynuilt.

Change focus on qualifications

Sir,
Recent government figures showed that job vacancies have hit a record high of 1.2 million, an increase of 20 per cent in the past three months. It's seems like a no-brainer that our young people should be able to train to fill these roles.

Many of the sectors continuing to battle with

skills shortages, such as construction, manufacturing and hospitality are reliant on level two vocational qualifications as a direct route into jobs in these industries.

Yet the government has failed to prioritise these lower level, work-ready qualifications, instead focusing their post-16 policy and funding at qualifications of A-level standard and above.

The government has a chance to close the skills gap and the disadvantage gap that is so significant among 16-19-year-olds, boost the economy and give young people the future they deserve.

But to do this, they must ensure a wide range of high-quality, employer-endorsed options are available at all levels.

Campbell Robb, chief executive, social justice charity Nacro.

Don't ignore pancreatic cancer

Sir,
I'm writing to highlight the importance of learning the symptoms of pancreatic cancer.

Our new survey tells us that nearly a third of people in the UK would wait three months or more to see a GP if they had potential symptoms of pancreatic cancer - at least three times longer than recommended.

It also shows the pandemic is deterring people from contacting their doctor, with 31 per cent saying they would delay seeking help for longer than usual. Pancreatic cancer symptoms - which can include tummy and back pain, indigestion, unexplained weight loss and oily floating poo - are common to less serious health conditions and, tragically many people are diagnosed too late for lifesaving treatment.

In Scotland nearly 1,000 people are diagnosed with the disease each year.

I would urge anyone who experiences some, or all, of these symptoms persistently for more than four weeks to contact their GP. Early diagnosis is vital for the best chance of survival.

Pancreatic Cancer UK has made a short video explaining the symptoms - www.pancreatic-cancer.org.uk/the-common-symptoms-of-pancreatic-cancer and our specialist nurses are available on our confidential support line on, Freecall 0808 801 0707.

Dianne Dobson, Pancreatic Cancer UK specialist nurse.

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Thought for the Week

As a child, I would have been in dead trouble if I had ever used the name of Jesus as a swear word, but for many people these days, it seems to be commonplace.

A lot is said about what is acceptable and unacceptable language. Much of it associated with rivalries between football clubs, racial slurs or gender-based slanders, some of which, if used, can get you arrested.

The most offensive swear words used to be religious. They go against the command in the Bible: 'Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.'

To do so was so serious that a whole lot of coded language was developed so that people could go on swearing and not get punished, technically known as 'mincing' your words.

It disguised the word you wanted to use just enough to keep clear of trouble.

In the Middle Ages, ordinary people would have commonly spoken of the Virgin Mary as 'Our Lady' – as Roman Catholics still do.

So the oath 'By Our Lady' was minced into the swear word 'bloody'. That word has to be at least 500 years old.

Other examples include the words 'cripes' and 'crikey', which were disguised forms of 'Christ'.

'Blimey' came from 'God blind me', which was a way of looking for God's punishment if you were not telling the truth.

These days, swear words seem to be commonplace, and do not cause offence to many people – indeed, we hardly notice them.

But the words we use can still offend and hurt.

Jesus' advice was simple: 'I tell you, do not swear at all... simply let your Yes be Yes and your No be No.' (Matthew 5 verses 33 and 37)

Why not give that a try?

Reverend Steve Fulcher, Church of Scotland, South Kintyre Team Ministry.

KINTYRE

Kintyre branching out to new kind of green energy

Machrihanish Airbase Community Company (MACC) has secured £181,170 of funding through the UK Government's UK Community Renewal Fund which will be used for its Hydrogen Futures Project.

This builds on previous work on the development of hydrogen production and supply from the former RAF Airbase.

'It is great news for MACC to have secured this funding,' said MACC chairman Cameron McNair.

'Sustainability is at the core of the MACC purposes and the possible opportunities that hydrogen offers communities is very exciting.

'This project will allow MACC to make significant strides towards realising those opportunities.'

Green hydrogen can be used in areas where electrification can't or won't reach, such as heavy transport and high temperature industrial processes. The Hydrogen Futures Project will investigate potential consumer markets for green hydrogen in the Argyll and Bute region and how to implement the production and distribution of green hydrogen on the MACC site.

ScottishPower, with a number of onshore wind farms in Argyll and Bute, will partner MACC on the project.

The news came as plans for a battery storage facility near Carradale were discussed by Argyll and Bute Council's planning, protective services and licensing committee. Battery storage systems enable energy from renewables to be stored and then released when customers need power most.

Intelligent Land Investments Group submitted a pre-application notice to Argyll and Bute Council for a site south of Auchnasavil Farm.

The applicant has indicated that it intends to launch a project website and hold a public consultation in Carradale Village Hall.

A council planning officer said that no formal planning application can be lodged until December 24 at the earliest, 12 weeks after the pre-application notice was submitted.

BUTE

New Scots project to build links

Volunteers are being sought on Bute to take part in a new project which aims to further strengthen links between the local community and recent arrivals – 'new Scots' – to the island.

The project, named Sawa (Syrian Arabic for 'together'), will enable new Scots to develop language skills and give islanders the opportunity to get to know them better by working in partnership and sharing experiences.

As part of the project, the Mount Stuart Trust has offered new Scots the chance to volunteer at the trust and support the staff team doing a range of things including work in the gardens, house, holiday accommodation and cafe.

Argyll College is also offering vocational qualifications in horticultural and preparation for employment skills, while liveArgyll is providing tailored sport and leisure opportunities.

Volunteer mentors will have the opportunity to support the new Scots and accompany them at one or some of these opportunities.

The project has received funding of £98,872 from the Scottish Government and will build on the successful Sharing Lives Sharing Language mentoring project that was previously funded by the Scottish Refugee Council.

Argyll and Bute Council leader Councillor Robin Currie said: 'The Island of Bute has welcomed new Scots with open arms and this funding announcement will enable them to continue to build on this and strengthen relationships within the community.'

'This will be a positive experience for everyone and I would urge people to get involved.'

ISLAY

Bowmore water works upgrade starts

Work on Scottish Water's £3 million water network improvement project in Bowmore



Almost four miles of water mains around Bowmore will be replaced over the next 18 months in a £3 million project.

started earlier this week. Nearly four miles of water mains on streets across the town will be replaced over the next 18 months.

Georgina Reid, Scottish Water's corporate affairs manager for the west, said: 'We are delighted to be starting what is a hugely significant investment for Islay.'

'Much of the existing network is old and prone to frequent bursts which cause distress, inconvenience and understandable annoyance.'

'This investment will ensure we continue to deliver a reliable source of fresh, clean water to our customers and to the many visitors to the island.'

The vital project to replace ageing infrastructure will be delivered in phases by contractor McFadyens (Campbeltown) Ltd.

Traffic management, agreed in liaison with Argyll and Bute Council, may include temporary traffic lights and will be in place as required as the works progress across the town.

Ms Reid added: 'We are a little later starting than originally planned due to the logistical challenges of an island community.'

'Inevitably, there will be some disruption but, as always, we will do all that we can to keep it to a minimum.'

'We would like to thank customers and road users for their patience and understanding.'

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There's no need to fight the internet and deliveries this year, Oban has everything you need from fluffy socks to handmade works of art. Come and explore and dont forget some shops are open late for shopping every Thursday, starts November 26th till December 24th.

1. Fancy That



A family run business specializing in gaming merchandise, Scottish gifts as well as other bespoke products.
Address: 108 George street, Oban

2. Cancer Research



Charity retailer offering donated, second-hand items including books, clothing and household goods.
Address: 101 George St, Oban

3. Bay Bath & Body



Newly opened shop offering beautiful Skincare, Body-Care, Candles and Artisan Gifts
Address: 98 George Street, Oban

4. Regatta



Outdoor clothing store for men, women and children who want to enjoy the great outdoors.
Address: 94 George St, Oban

5. Trespass



The Great Outdoors is for everyone, whether you're mad for the mountains or a high street hiker. Your kind of adventure is their kind of adventure. Afford to explore more with Trespass
Address: 81 George St, Oban

6. Oban Whisky & Fine Wine



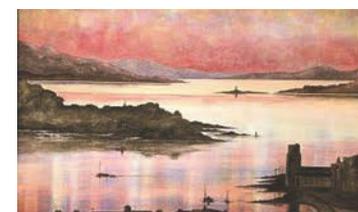
Experts in rare and unique Scotch, particularly from the West Coast. Specialists in shipping whisky worldwide.
Address: 19 Stafford St, Oban

7. Room 15



A small, independent gift shop selling a range of quirky, Scottish and handcrafted gifts, together with more renowned labels.
Address: 15 Stafford St, Oban

8. The Wee Gallery



In here you will find a wide and varied selection of artwork by local artists. Everything from original watercolour paintings of Scottish scenery and animals to unique jewellery produced in Oban.
Address: 3 Stafford St, Oban

9. Highland Soap Co



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Address: 64 George St, Oban

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11. Button Nose Boutique



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Address: 12 Ards Crescent, Oban

12. The Sports Shop



More than you think, not only a proper sports shop that stock footwear, clothing and equipment along with expert advice but also stocking great gift ideas from major brands.
Address: 4 Macgregor Ct, Oban

13. Made in Argyll



A great shop full of arts, crafts and gifts that have been handcrafted by 40 local artisans.
Address: Railway Pier, Unit 5, The Waterfront, Oban

14. Alba Kitchen Garden



A busy delicatessen stocking fine cheese, cold meats and other goodies!
Address: 6 Albany St, Oban

15. Alba



A small but perfectly formed art shop specialising in framed prints, unusual gifts and hard-to-find art materials.
Address: 6 Albany St, Oban

**Pictures are for illustration only*

16. Oban Tweed Centre



We are one of the largest retailers of Carloway Mill Tweed here in Oban. Stocking over 100 bolts of single width Tweed along with Coats and Jackets Handbags etc.
Address: Argyll Square, Oban

17. The Wool & Needlecraft Centre



Stocking a good range of knitting yarns, haberdashery, needlework kits & supplies & gorgeous patchwork fabrics & notions
Address: 13 Argyll Square, Oban

18. Taste of Argyll



Shop come cafe stocking locally sourced produce from a quality meat Scotland farm. Ready to eat foods, preserves, homemade bread, milk, ice cream, fish, veg and lots more. Also handmade crafts and coffee.
Address: 7 Ard's Place, Oban



Santa's Sleigh is back

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PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008

Notice of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be published in a local newspaper under regulation 7(2)

E POWER LIMITED, the prospective applicant, hereby gives notice of a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application to Argyll and Bute Council for a prospective development comprising up to 14 wind turbines, with tip heights of up to 180m and associated ancillary infrastructure with an installed capacity of more than 20MW at land around Sidh Mor, South of Lochan Anama and West of A'Chruach Wind Farm.

Further information in respect of the prospective development may be obtained by contacting E POWER LIMITED, 15 Pitreavie Court, Dunfermline, KY11 8UU.

A public event which will include a presentation of the prospective development and opportunity or public discussion with the prospective applicant is to be held at the Ford Community Hall on 12 November and 26 November between the hours of 3pm and 6pm.

Any persons wishing to submit comments should submit these to the prospective applicant at 15 Pitreavie Court, Dunfermline, KY11 8UU before 10 December 2021.

Persons submitting comments in response to Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) are advised that comments submitted to the prospective applicant at this time are not representations to the planning authority; in the event that prospective applicant submits a formal application for planning permission then there would be an opportunity to submit representations to Argyll and Bute Council as the planning authority at that time.



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A83 TRUNK ROAD (CAMBELTOWN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) ORDER 2021

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, temporarily prohibiting traffic on that length of the A83 Tarbet - Lochgilphead - Campbeltown Trunk Road from its junction with Glengyle Road, Campbeltown in a general south easterly direction in Millknowe Road then Aqualibrium Avenue and Kinloch Road to its junction with Old Quay Head, Campbeltown, a distance of 540 metres or thereby. The Order is required to facilitate the Campbeltown Christmas Parade 2021 and will be in operation from 26th November until 27th November 2021. It is anticipated that the restrictions will be in place for approximately 30 minutes from around 19:30 hours and will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs. The Order does not apply to vehicles being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes or a vehicle being used for facilitating the holding of the relevant event.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

An alternative route is not required. A copy of the Order and this notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org

S R LEES

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Roads,
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road,
Glasgow G4 0HF



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
21/01628/PP	Use of land for the siting of a caravan, erection of garden shed and installation of septic tank (retrospective)	Stacan Na Mara Caravan, Muasdale, Argyll And Bute
21/01095/PP	Re-painting of the doors and window frames from white to Ivory	One Fyne Deli, Harbour Street, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute, PA29 6UA
21/02182/PP	Demolition of chimneys and re-installment of roof	Afton, Barmore Road, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute, PA29 6TW
21/01959/PP	Change of use of residential annexe to form dwellinghouse	Anchor Cottage, Dunmore, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute, PA29 6XZ
21/02192/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land North East Of Tigh Cuileann, Achnagoul, Inveraray, 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
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Dochas Carers Centre AGM
16 December 2021
11.45 am at the Dochas Centre.
All welcome.

PENINVER VILLAGE HALL AGM
MONDAY 6TH DECEMBER
7.30PM
ALL WELCOME

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

B Mundell Limited of Bardaravine, Tarbert, Argyll PA29 6YF is applying to change an existing licence as follows:

To keep an extra 2 goods vehicles & 10 trailers at the operating centre at B Mundell Limited of Bardaravine, Tarbert, Argyll, PA29 6YF

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre (s) who believe that their uses or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.

Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

TRUST

Local press in print and digital is THE MOST TRUSTED source for local news and information

Local press in print and digital 74%
Local commercial TV 73%
Search engines 43%
Social Media 22%
Other websites 39%

Source: YouGov 2018

PERSONAL NOTICE

I am looking for Charles and James Ferguson, who are possibly living in the Lochgilphead area.

They formerly resided in Ellesmere Port where Charles worked at the Shell Refinery.

I would like to make contact with them again.

Norman Dunn
0151 339 5132

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MAKI Pups Outdoor Nursery A first for Mid Argyll! Exciting opportunities for **Outdoor Nursery Practitioners**

MAKI Pups is Mid Argyll's first fully outdoor nursery, providing childcare for 3-5 year olds at Kilmory Walled Garden in Lochgilphead. We are looking to expand our team due to the popularity of this new and exciting service.

We are looking for skilled, experienced, and enthusiastic practitioners to come and join our dynamic team.

Full Time and Part Time positions available with varying hours worked over four days

Salary scale £18.5K – £21.5K pro rata. We are a Real Living Wage Employer.

For full details and an application form or if you would like more information, please contact

MAKI Pups Manager, Erin Kennedy on
07741582560 or email: erin@act-now.org.uk

Or apply via HIJOBS

www.act-now.org.uk

Closing date: Friday 3rd December at 12 noon.



Dochas Carers Centre Supporting Unpaid Carers

The Dochas Carers Centre is a charity based in Lochgilphead. We provide a person-centred support service (information, advice, emotional and practical support) to unpaid adult carers living in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands. We currently have vacancies for the following posts for Mid Argyll areas.

Support Worker £12.33/hour - 18 hours/week
You will be based in the centre to provide information and advice, run support groups and carry out other related tasks.

Time for Me Worker £10.00/hour – Sessional
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.

These posts are subject to PVG scheme checks.

For a recruitment pack and more information, please contact 07496 918 688 or email wanida@dochasfund.org.uk. **Closing date: 24 December 2021**

Full time positions available for the following:

Joiners (Mid Argyll & Oban)

Bricklayers (Mid Argyll & Oban)

Electrician (Oban)

Labourers (Mid Argyll & Oban)

Quarry Machine Operative
(Mid Argyll)

For more information call 01546602989 or email jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk



Visit hijobs.net Visit hijobs.net
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Maintenance/ Tradesperson

Candidates must have:

A trade and/or proven track record of property maintenance and repairs

A willingness to learn new skills and undertake training

A proven ability for problem solving

An understanding and respect for Health and Safety regulations

Ability to work within a small team and on their own

An ability to work at heights

Must have a valid driving license and be eligible to work in the UK.

Salary range £22 – 26K depending on skills and experience.

Deadline for C.V.s is Friday 3rd December. Full job description available from the website and via:

enquiries@maccdl.co.uk 01586 551555

Development Officer

Ardrishaig Community Trust is seeking to appoint a Development Officer to assist the Board with establishing and implementing a management and marketing strategy for the community owned halls as a financially sustainable community business. This a 3 year funded project. The job will be based in Ardrishaig.

Essentials:

- self-motivated with a strong work ethic
- good organisational skills
- able to multi-task
- excellent verbal and written communication skills
- good interpersonal skills, confident to work with people
- good networker
- computer literate and experienced with office software packages

Desirable:

- knowledge of relevant health and safety regulations
- experience of social media for marketing purposes
- demonstrable work with third sector organisations
- marketing experience

Applications by covering letter and CV which should be no more than 4 sides of A4 in total and should focus on relevant skills and experience for the appointment.

A more detailed job specification can be found on the Trust website at www.ardrishaig.org.

Deadline for application is 17th December 2021 with interviews as soon as possible thereafter.

Applications should be submitted:

by email to info@ardrishaigcommunitytrust.org (preferred)

or by post to **Ardrishaig Community Trust, 61 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX.**

If you have any questions, please email us at

info@ardrishaigcommunitytrust.org or phone 07484 366977



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Are you welcoming and self-motivated with outdoor skills you'd love to share? We are recruiting a **Ranger** to be our woodland steward, welcoming visitors and maintaining facilities for visitors to enjoy. Our Ranger will lead on our volunteering and maintenance programmes and work with the ACT Team to deliver our range of projects including at Blarbuie Woodland and MAKI Pups Outdoor Nursery.

This is a one year post for 21 hours per week.

Salary: £27,300 (pro rata)/£15 per hour

If you would like more information or to discuss anything about the vacancy please contact ACT Development Manager, Julie Young: julie@act-now.org.uk - you can apply online at www.act-now.org.uk/news/vacancy-act-ranger or via HIJOBS.

Closing date for applications is **Monday 13th December** at 12 noon. Interviews will be held on Thursday 16th December.



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www.facebook.com/campbeltowncourier

Job Opportunity with North Ayrshire Council

Technician (Roads) | NAY08552
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Closing date 3 December 2021

For further details and to apply visit
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GRADUATIONS



JENNIFER MARY KELLY -
recently graduated from Robert Gordon University,
Aberdeen with a Bachelor of Laws. Jennifer is the eldest
daughter of Donald and Rhona Kelly, granddaughter
of May Kelly and the late Donald Kelly and of the late
Charlie and Amy Hastie.



BETHANY AMY KELLY -
recently graduated from Edinburgh Napier University
with a Bachelor of Nursing with Distinction. Bethany
is the youngest daughter of Donald and Rhona Kelly,
granddaughter of May Kelly and the late Donald Kelly and
of the late Charlie and Amy Hastie.

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NEW CAR INDEX



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ENGAGEMENTS

TAYLOR - McLEAN - The families are delighted to announce the engagement of Amy Taylor, Southend, and David McLean, Langbank, on November 16, 2021.

DEATHS

CAMERON - Peacefully at her home on November 17, 2021, after an illness borne with great dignity and courage, Valerie (Val) Cameron, aged 80 years, Tayvallich and formerly of Bellanoch. Former proprietor of The Square Peg, Lochgilphead. Dearly loved and loving wife of Alan Cameron; much loved mother of Paul and Suzi. Cherished mother-in-law of Fergus. Adored Granny of Daniel, Samuel and the late Hannah. An esteemed and valued friend to many. A private family service was held in Tayvallich Parish Church on Thursday November 25, 2021, followed by interment at Carsaig Cemetery. Donations may be made in Val's memory directly to the MS Centre Lochgilphead and Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, or via Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors.

CLEMENTS - Peacefully at Isle View Nursing Home, Aultbea on November 19, 2021, Margaret Helen (nee Robertson), formerly of Muasdale, loving wife of the late Sidney (Clem), loving mother of Adrian and Penny and a loving grandmother and great grandmother. Private cremation at Inverness on December 2, family flowers only. Donations to British Heart Foundation.

CURTIS - Peacefully on the November 22, 2021, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Glasgow, after a short illness borne bravely, Mary Ann Curtis, nee MacGregor, in her 78th year, of 47 Glenfyne Park, Ardrishaig, loving wife of the late Charles Brian Curtis. Devoted Mother, Nana, Great Nana, Sister, Sister in Law and Mother In Law. A dear neighbour and good friend to many. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her. A private family service will take place in Ardrishaig Parish Church on Friday November 26, 2021. Additional mourners are welcome to join with the family at Achabreac Cemetery or as the funeral cortege leaves Ardrishaig Church at approx. 12.30/12.45pm. Bright Colours preferred.

McCALLUM - Peacefully at home, 29 Lorne Campbeltown, on

the November 12, 2021, Margaret nee McTaggart, in her 89th year, formerly of Meadows Avenue, Campbeltown, dearly beloved wife of the late Archibald McCallum, much loved mum of Johnny, Elizabeth, Patsy, Jimmy and Dougie and a loving and much loved granny and great-granny.

McCORMICK - On November 18, 2021, peacefully at Ardnahean Care Home Dunoon, Mary Frances (Fay) McCormick, nee Snowden, formerly of Whitehouse, in her 87th year, beloved wife of the late Peter McCormick and much loved mother of William, Peter and Patricia and dear grandmother of two and great grandmother of seven. A graveside service will take place at Clachan Cemetery on Monday November 29, at 12noon, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Flowers welcome. For those wishing to pay their respects, the cortege will come through Clachan Village at 11-45am.

McCULLOCH - (née Reid), Martha (Pat), Whitecross. Passed away peacefully at Strathcarron Hospice on Sunday, November 14, 2021. Pat, much adored wife to Iain, loving mum to Lorne, special sister to Joanne and Sheena and amazing auntie to Emma, Oliver and Alasdair. Funeral service to be held at Falkirk Crematorium on Friday, November 26 at 15:15 to which all are welcome. No flowers please. Donations if desired in aid of Strathcarron Hospice can be made via justgiving.

McLACHLAN - Peacefully at the Kintyre Care Home, Campbeltown, on November 19, 2021, Helen Millar Rankin (Ella) in her 85th year, formerly of Erinville, Dell Road, Campbeltown, dearly beloved wife of the late John McLachlan, much loved mum of Anne, John and Gavin, a loving mother-in-law and a beloved granny of Gavin, Ryan, Scot, Megan and Fraser. Ella's funeral will take place on Tuesday November 30, 2021 at 1.00pm in the Lorne and Lowland Parish Church. The cortege will leave the Church at 1.30 p.m. We will travel up Longrow, Aqualibrium Avenue and round the Cross on our way to Kilkerran Cemetery. Anyone wishing to pay their last respects to Ella may do so along our route. Alternatively you may attend the service in the church or at Kilkerran Cemetery. Family flowers only please.

NASH - Suddenly at home 19 Park Terrace, Campbeltown, on November 18, 2021, Paul Nash, in his 58th year, dearly beloved son of Ted and the late Anne Nash, much loved brother of Julie, Andrew, David and Antony and much loved uncle. Paul's funeral will take place jointly with his mum Anne's on Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at 1.00pm in the Lorne and Lowland Parish Church. The cortege will leave the family home at 12 noon on Wednesday November 24, 2021. We will travel through Machrihanish village on our way to the Lorne and Lowland Parish Church. Anyone is welcome to attend the service in the Church. Alternatively you may pay your last respects to Paul and Anne along our route. A private cremation will take place at a later date. Family flowers only please.

STEWART - Peacefully at home, 7 Ramsay Place, Campbeltown, on November 18, 2021, Agnes Stewart nee Mitchell, in her 85th year, dearly beloved wife of the late Allister, forever loved mum of Agnes, very special gran of Kirsten, respected mother-in-law of Iain and a loving aunt. A Celebration of Agnes's life will take place in the Highland Parish Church on Friday, November 26, at 1.00 p.m. Thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery. The cortege will leave the Church at 1.30 p.m. We will travel along Argyll Street, down Main Street the Cross on our way to Kilkerran Cemetery. Anyone is welcome to attend the Service in the Church alternatively you may pay your last respects to Agnes along our route.

WARD - Suddenly but peacefully at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, on November 21, 2021, Angus McDonald Ward, in his 60th year, Rockfield Farm, Campbeltown, much loved son of Jane (Sheena) and the late Rodney Ward, loving brother of Fiona and Alastair, respected brother-in-law of John, an adored uncle of Connor and Caleb and a loving nephew of Anne. Angus's funeral will take place on Saturday November 27 at 11.00 am in the Highland Parish Church. The cortege will leave the church at 11:30 am. We will travel along Argyll Street down Main Street and round the Cross on our way to Kilkerran Cemetery. Anyone is welcome to attend the Service at the Highland Parish Church,

alternatively you may pay your last respects to Angus along our route.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GRAY The Family would like to thank all who attended the funeral of our late Mum, Waltraut Gertrud Gray, to David Carruthers for the beautiful service, to Fiona and Cameron and all at Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors who have been so kind, supportive and professional in all, here at Ardrishaig service and at the Interment at Fodderty Strathpeffer. Thank you also to all the staff and friends at Caledonia Court who enriched Mam's life over her time there, Bel and Jim, Violet, Anne and Dee, Shirley and Mary, Fiona and friends at Thursday Card nights, Maggie and Liz, Dochas. Special thanks to Anne MacGilp for her support and love over many years. Thanks to Billy Johnstone, Kathleen MacKay and Kirstie Miles, Social Care Department. Thanks also to all the staff at Ardfenaig for their kindness, love and support over last three years. Thanks to Robert and Jane at the Dental Unit at Lochgilphead Hospital for all the wonderful work and kindness to Mam especially in her final year. To Professor McCaul and his wonderful team at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Glasgow for all their kindness and support and to our local Doctors, Nurses, District Nurses who all helped and cared for Mam over the many years she was able to enjoy here in Argyll. Now At Peace.

IN MEMORIAM

ANDERSON - Isobel passed away on November 24, 2016.

A special word to say thank you for the happy times we shared from day to day. Much loved sister of Angus and Margaret.

MACLEOD - Treasured memories of Murdo, who died November 29, 2017. Loved and missed every day. Jane and family.

CHURCH NOTICES

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures for ever.' 2 Chronicles 20 verse 21

Join us in Springbank Church on **Sunday, 28th November 2021** at 11am for our morning service
Wednesday, 1st December at 7.30pm - Prayer and Bible Study
To join either of these events on Zoom send your email address to officespringbankchurch@gmail.com and you will be sent a link.
www.springbankchurch.org.uk
<https://www.facebook.com/springbankchurch>
Contact phone number 01586 551237 - Church Secretary

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 Filcher
Revd Christine Fulcher 01586 830504
www.kintyreparishes.org.uk

ST. MARGARET'S RC CHURCH

Lochgilphead
Holy Mass Sunday 10AM
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Holy Mass Sunday 12.30pm
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All Welcome



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GOLDEN WEDDING

Happy Golden Wedding

James and Josephine MacIvor
married on November 27, 1971 in
Letchworth

From Sandra, Trevor, James, Catriona,
Barry, Alison and the grandchildren
James, Sophie, Robbie, Leah and
Lachlan

SALVATION ARMY



Sunday 28th November
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

CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH

George Street, Campbeltown



Sunday 28th November
11.15am Worship Service
Rev Dr Colin Dow
11.15am Sunday School
7.30pm Sunday Fellowship (by Zoom)
Wednesday 1st December
12 noon Prayer and Bible Study (by Zoom)
All welcome
www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk
Scottish Charity Number:
SC046745

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Christ Church, Lochgilphead
Sunday 11am
Holy Eucharist
St Columba, Poltalloch
9am Holy Communion
1st Sunday of the month
6pm Evensong
3rd Sunday of the month
(SCO13787, 31391)

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH



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

LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 28th November
Morning Worship 11.15am
Triple C Gen 1
Rev W Crossan
Everyone welcome
The service will be followed by a Congregational Meeting
Covid 19 Guidelines apply

SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

There will be a weekly service at Skipness 10am & Tarbert 11.30am - Rev. Lyn Peden
Please wear a face covering and stay 1 metre apart for the services
Contact Rev. Lyn Peden 01880 820158 for pastoral care Charity number Tarbert SC002622 Skipness SC004280

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<https://www.facebook.com/campbeltownrcchurch>
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Parish Priest: Fr. A. Wood

ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES

28th November
Advent(ure) Begins (Luke 1)
Services in:
Ardrishaig at 11:00am and Achahoish at 12:30pm
Reflections will continue to be available at the gates of the churches.
Wednesdays
from 12:45pm to 1:15pm in Ardrishaig Church
"A Time for Reflecting"

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH



Sunday 28th November 2021
11.00 am
WORSHIP SERVICE
Rev Robert MacLeod
Saturday 27th November
10.00-12 midday
COFFEE MORNING
More info at
www.lpchurch.co.uk
Lochgilphead Parish Church of Scotland - SC016311

GLASSARY, KILMARTIN AND FORD PARISH CHURCH

Barr Mhor, Kilmartin
Sunday 28th November 11am
Mr Jim Malcolm
All very welcome
Please remember to wear a mask

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 28 November
Tayvallich Church
10am Morning Worship
Mr Jim Malcolm
Booking required
Tel 01546 870635
Covid restrictions apply.
Retiring Offering for Poppy
Scotland raised £134.

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

Sunday 28th November 2021
There will be a church service in Cumlodden Church at 10.00am and in Inveraray Church at 11.30am
This is 'children's gifts', giving Sunday
Masks must be worn when attending either church.
Charity No: SC016665

Centenary for Inveraray's Fyne set of peal bells

By Ewan Halley

It's the tallest building in Inveraray and you've probably passed it numerous times, but you may be unaware that the tower of All Saints Church houses one of the world's most important sets of bells.

They are the second-heaviest ringing peal of 10 bells in the world, after Wells Cathedral in Somerset, as well as the heaviest peal of bells in Scotland.

Commissioned by Niall Campbell, 10th Duke of Argyll, the tower was built as a memorial to soldiers from Clan Campbell who died in the First World War - more than a thousand of them.

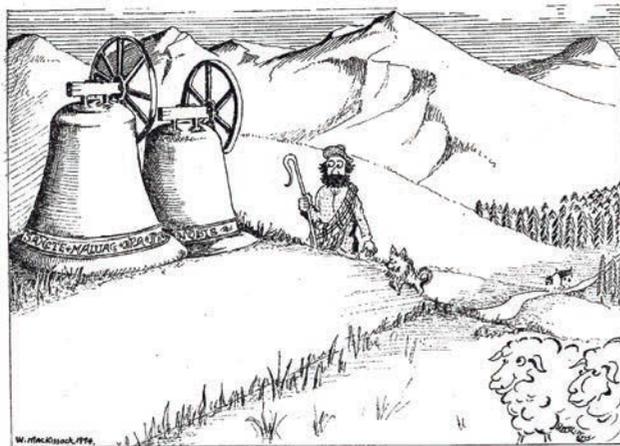
With a combined weight of 8,131 kg (about eight tons), the bells are named after Celtic saints with connections to Argyll.

From lightest to heaviest, these are Saints Maluag, Columba, Mundus, Brendon, Maelrubha, Blaane, Mary, Murdouche, Brigida and Molaise.

This month marks 100 years since the bells arrived in Inveraray.

Their journey in November 1921 from the bell founders John Taylor & Co of Loughborough was dogged with difficulties.

One of the delivery lorries broke down en route south of the border and had to be substituted.



Mo chreach! Noch chunnaic mi riamh an leithid sin. (My grief! I never saw the like.)

A cartoon from a commemorative booklet in the 1970s immortalised the trials and tribulations of getting the bells over the Rest 100 years ago.

Then the steep climb of the Rest and be Thankful proved too much for another lorry and its load of five bells and their supporting ironwork.

The lightest bell - still weighing in at a mighty 311 kg/686 lb - was unloaded, but even that wasn't enough to get the lorry to the summit and a second bell had to be jettisoned.

Having stopped the traffic (road closures are nothing new on that infamous route), the lorry driver was helped by some obliging motorists.

Its cargo thus lightened, the lorry took the remaining bells to their destination and returned next morning to retrieve its jetsam.

A cartoon from a commemorative booklet from the 1970s immortalised this escapade.

The bells were temporarily housed in a wood-slatted shelter, which still stands in the grounds of the church, until the tower was completed in 1931 when they were installed in their final hanging place high up in the belfry.

Nowadays, the bells are pealed regularly by visiting bands of ringers, many of whom come to achieve a full peal.

The 10 bells can be rung in any order, giving a possibility of many thousands of sequences; a full peal comprises more than 5,000 pulls of the bell

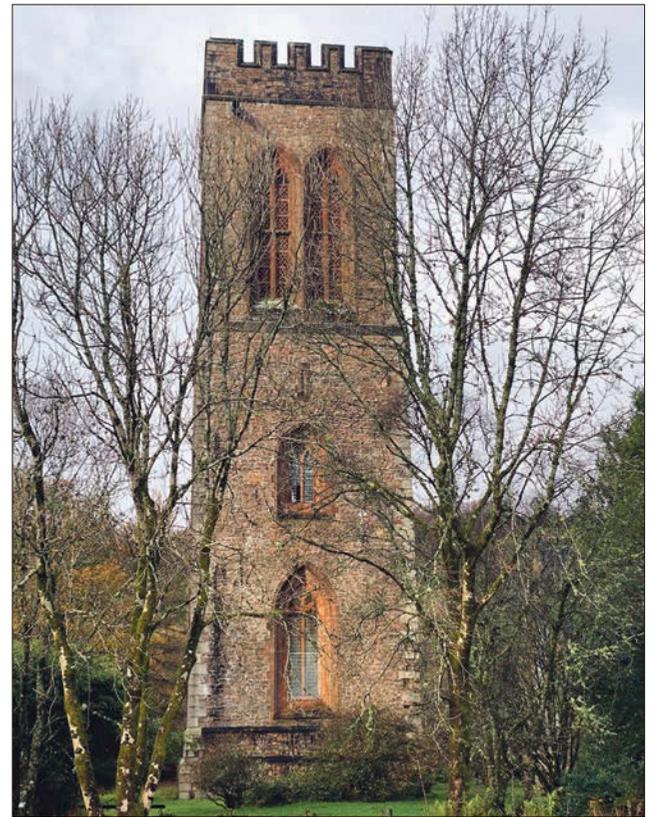
rope ('changes') and takes about three to four hours.

The bells were rung most recently on Remembrance Sunday, when the heaviest bell was chimed before the wreath-laying ceremony at Inveraray war memorial, and on Saturday November 20 a group of ringers from far and wide put the bells through their paces to commemorate the centenary of their arrival.

The next opportunity to hear the bells is the evening of Friday December 17 before the start of the Christmas carol service at 7pm in All Saints Church.

Pandemics permitting, each July sees the Inveraray Ringing Festival, when campanologists

The bells are pealed regularly by visiting bands of ringers, many of whom come to achieve a full peal.



Above: Inveraray's iconic bell tower, built to house the second-heaviest ringing peal of 10 bells in the world.

from the world over come to the Royal Burgh to ring these celebrated bells.

The tower is also usually open seasonally to the public; as well as the impressive sight of the bells themselves, the battlements give spectacular

views over the town up and down Loch Fyne and beyond.

But like all old buildings, the tower is in need of some maintenance, and a campaign is planned to raise funds to take this Argyll landmark into its next century.



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The keen young rugby players who took part in the final Dalriada tournament of the year in Fort William.

Mid Argyll P4/5s win rugby's autumn Dalriada

Mid Argyll P4/5s won the autumn series of Dalriada rugby festivals after remaining unbeaten at the final tournament in Fort William.

On a glorious autumnal afternoon Lochaber Rugby Club hosted the final Dalriada Tournament of the year with a fantastic turnout of players from Lochgilphead, Campbeltown, Oban, Taynuilt and Mull joining the host teams.

There was some fantastic rugby on display from both age groups with great running, attacking, some cracking tackles in defence, and loads of energy and enthusiasm on display.

The P4/5 Mid Argyll age group were the team to beat and produced some amazing rugby to remain undefeated on the day.

This means that Mid Argyll win the autumn series for the P4/5 group after being pushed all the way by Kintyre, who finish in second.

Special mentions to Etive Vikings and Mull who continue to improve game by game.

In the P6/7 games there was some fantastic rugby on show. Kintyre were going for the clean sweep at this age group.

Organisers were delighted to see Mull compete in this category

for the first time this season and they will have learnt a lot from this outing.

The Lochaber team were keen to win their home tournament and defended with real vigour in every game with some fantastic tackling on display.

It was their defensive efforts which laid the foundation for their victory, with the visiting teams struggling to match their physicality, and they never lost a game to secure the victory.

Kintyre may have lost the battle but they won the war and were deserved winners of the autumn series by being incredibly consistent over the four festivals.

The next festival takes place in March 2022 when the focus switches to the secondary schools.

Yesterday (Thursday November 25) there was due to be a Girls Development day at Lochgilphead Joint Campus from 12-3pm with Lochgilphead High School hosting Tobermory, Oban and Islay High Schools to play games at U14/ U16 and U18 in the first event between the schools.

The hope is that each school/club will host an event over the coming months.



Mid Argyll take on Mull in the final Dalriada of the year, in Fort William, which saw the P4/5s take their year group's title.



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