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Volunteers light up Christmas for communities

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

The second Christmas in the pandemic is just around the corner, and volunteers have worked hard to make sure there will be plenty of seasonal cheer to brighten the Covid gloom in our towns and villages.

The lights are up in Lochgilphead thanks to the Christmas lights committee and in Ardrishaig, with necessary paperwork completed by Ardrishaig Community Council.

But the practical work was done with the invaluable help of volunteers from firms including MacLeod Construction, Midton and Mellex who repaired the Christmas lights and put them up last week.

RDS Forestry of Tarbert again stepped forward to supply trees.

Ardrishaig Community Trust's appeal for decorations for a tree in the public hall met with generous donations and it will be decorated this weekend.

An appeal has also been issued for young people to submit Christmas artwork to be displayed in the newly-refurbished Ardrishaig Public Hall windows, and a great response is reported.

The Inveraray Christmas lights switch-on is planned for tomorrow (Saturday December 4) at 5pm.

Inveraray Community Council volunteers were helped by Argyll Estates, which again provided the tree and Michael Swales, who repaired a cherry picker kindly lent by the George Hotel.

Santa will be at Inveraray Pier and local singers Abi Cuthbert and Jackie Kerr will entertain with Christmas songs. And the winner of Inveraray's annual Unsung Hero award will be announced.

Impressive as the others are, there would be only one winner if there was a Christmas tree competition - the creel tree in Tarbert.

The Tarbert Christmas light switch-on took place on Friday November 26. The village, in fact,

has three trees - one at the fire station, one on the Beilding and the beautiful tree of fishing creels.

Tarbert minister Reverend Lyn Peden thanked everyone for coming on what was forecast to be a wild night and she was joined by Katy-Ellen Mellish, who was in charge of pushing the button to flood the village with light.

Santa's elves Ava Laing, Jack Sinclair and Rosie Little were also on hand to help organisers spread some Christmas cheer.

The organisers want to thank the volunteers who put the creel tree together and to all the fishermen who rallied round donating creels to make sure the village looks fabulous.

Elves for the Tarbert Christmas lights switch-on last Friday with the impressive creel tree - Ava Laing, Jack Sinclair and Rosie Little. Photo: Janet West



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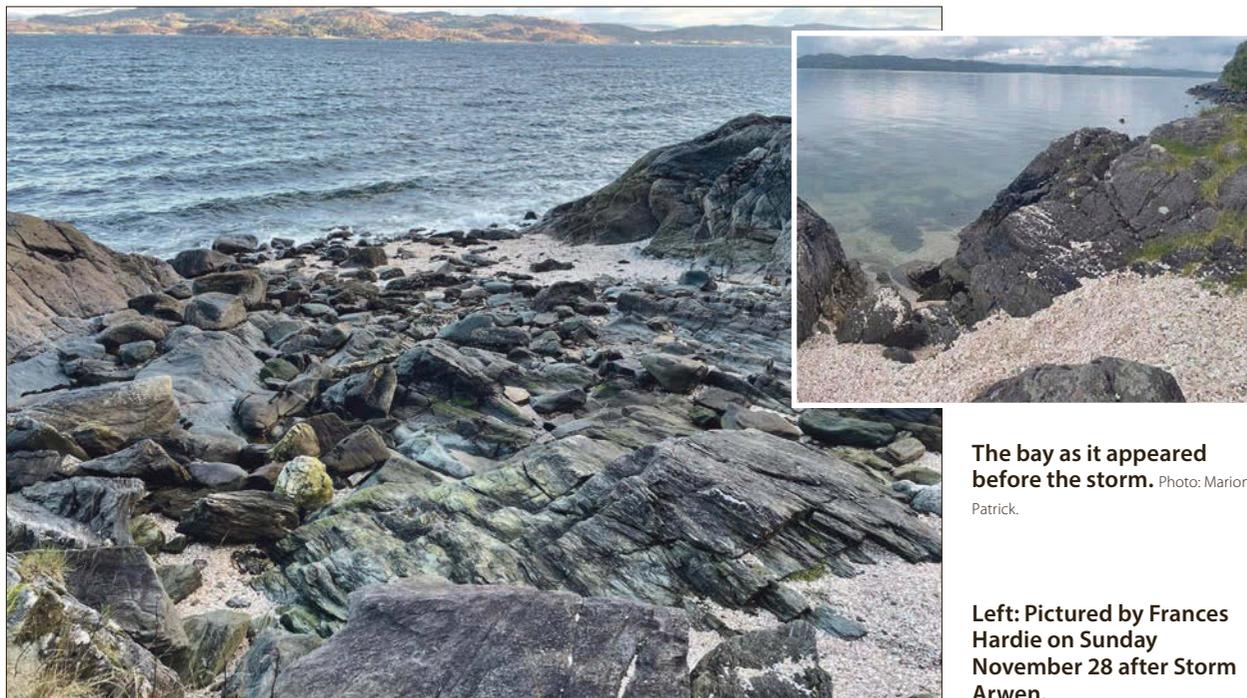
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The bay as it appeared before the storm. Photo: Marion Patrick.

Left: Pictured by Frances Hardie on Sunday November 28 after Storm Arwen.

A shell of its former self

The east coast may have experienced the worst of Storm Arwen, but Argyll did not escape entirely unscathed, with ferries cancelled and other transport links affected by fallen trees and debris. In Tarbert there was dismay as a much-

loved area of shoreline lost its covering of shells in seas whipped up by Arwen, exposing bare rock below. 'Shell beach' may have gained its name as the result of discarded shells from former shellfish processing in Tarbert augmenting natu-

rally-occurring material and collecting in small bays on the shores of Loch Fyne. But those familiar with storms on the loch believe that all may not be lost, and it is likely that the shells will be re-deposited with time and tides.

POLICE FILES

Drugs

A 38-year-old man was found in possession of herbal cannabis at Islay police station, Bowmore, on Sunday November 21 at 9pm. He was issued with a recorded police warning.

Vandalism

Between 5pm on Saturday November 13 and 5pm on Sunday November 14 it is alleged concrete barriers were removed causing damage at an address in School Street, Port Ellen.

Window

A window was allegedly vandalised at the White Hart Hotel in Port Ellen between 11.30pm on Sunday November 21 and 6am on Monday November 22.

Appeal

Between 3pm on Monday November 22 and 9am on Tuesday November 23 it is alleged that an unattended parked car was vandalised at an address in Port Ellen. Inquiries are continuing on this and the above vandal-

isms and police are appealing for anyone with information to contact 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Dangerous driving

On Sunday November 22 at 7.30pm police responded to a report of a road traffic collision on the A83 at Ardrishaig. A 23-year-old man was subsequently charged with dangerous driving. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Drink driving

At 1.45am on Sunday November 28 police stopped a motorist at Kiduskland Road in Ardrishaig. The driver, a 42-year-old woman, subsequently failed the road side breath test. She was arrested and charged with driving whilst under the influence of alcohol. She was released on an undertaking to appear at Dunoon Sheriff Court.

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Co-op defends its Argyll and Bute pricing policy

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

It is central to many rural communities, but the Co-op has faced recent criticism of its pricing and stocking policy in Argyll.

What the Co-op does have in its favour is excellent local staff in these stores, but the cost and variety of goods has been questioned - something beyond the control of store staff.

Peter Bates, deputy convener of Tarbert and Skipness Community Council, has taken up the cause after noticing substantial differences in the price among a variety of goods between Oban supermarkets and the Tarbert Co-op branch.

On November 9 he wrote on the All Things Tarbert Facebook page: 'The Co-op board and executive really

need to have a hard think about their pricing policy, stocking policy and supply issues. The price differences between shops in Oban and the Co-op was made startlingly aware to me on our last shopping trip:

'Honeydew melon - Oban £0.95, Tarbert £1.80;

'Pineapple - Oban £0.75, Tarbert £1.25;

'Terry's chocolate orange - Oban £0.99, Tarbert £3.50;

'Heinz Baked Beans (four pack) - Oban £2.50, Tarbert £3.00.

'Tarbert Co-op has de-stocked several items over the past year, but they are readily available on the Lochgilphead Co-op shelves. It is not 'green' to have to do a 29-mile car journey for essentials.

'The Co-op also seems to be replacing many branded items with their own products which are nowhere near as good.'



Co-op acknowledged 'patchy disruption to the availability of some products' but said Argyll store pricing policy is the same as across the UK.

He believes this policy is 'pricing out rural living', and continued: 'It is particularly hard-hitting for those less mobile, non-car owners and the elderly. Come on Co-op, a change needs to happen.'



His post attracted a big response - with people in other parts of Argyll and Bute supporting his views.

Mr Bates has since written directly to the Co-op, but emphasised: 'The excellent

hard-working management and staff at the Co-op in Tarbert are a big part of our community and are very helpful and kind.

'They have no control over pricing and stocking policy, which is decided by the board.'

Stressing that the supermarket operates a UK pricing policy, a Co-op spokesperson said: 'Co-op is committed to serving and supporting its rural communities, conveniently, including areas where other retailers often do not trade due to the increased operational costs.

'Like all retailers, Co-op has experienced some patchy disruption to the availability of some products, and it is working with suppliers to re-stock as quickly as possible.

'Alongside well-known brands, Co-op's award-winning own-brand products

provide shoppers with choice - delivering quality and value, while also enabling customers and community causes to unlock additional value and benefits through its membership programme.'

Mr Bates added: 'The Co-op bosses in Manchester need to realise that the Tarbert Co-op and others in rural locations are not convenience stores.

'These are often the only store for miles and are therefore lifeline stores. If they do not understand this, then they do not understand the communities they are serving.'

Speaking on Wednesday this week, Mr Bates said he had received no reply from Co-op management.

He said '...apart from an automated receipt reply, I have heard nothing further.

'I intend to send the e-mails again.'

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Causes gain Inveraray Co-op cash

Three local good causes benefited from customer fundraising at Inveraray Co-op. The total raised in the latest round of local fundraising came to a whopping £7,657.85.

Lochgoil Community Trust will use its money for outdoor covered seating at its newly-created meeting place and gardens for the community.

Helped by its share, Inveraray charity First Aid 4 Gambia distributed hand sanitiser to households, ran first aid courses, installed a defibrillator in the primary school and is now looking to install another in the village.

Ardroy outdoor education centre in Lochgoilhead is using the funds for an outdoor seating area.

Martin Islip, of Inveraray Co-op, thanked Lucy Hennessy, Co-op pioneer, and customers for using member cards in the store.

Bill Nelson of First Aid 4 Gambia was delighted to receive the donation from the Co-op.



Covid jab admin errors apology

The interim chief officer for Argyll and Bute's Health and Social Care Partnership has apologised for administrative mistakes made during the Covid booster vaccine programme.

Fiona Davies, who has led the partnership (HSCP) on an interim basis since Joanna MacDonald moved on earlier this year, admitted 'a considerable number' of communication errors had been made.

However, she also expressed hope that the groups identified for a booster vaccine will have received it by the end of 2021.

She also paid tribute to the hard-working staff who have delivered booster and flu vaccines over the last few weeks.

The details feature in a report which went before the HSCP's integration joint board (IJB) at its virtual meeting on Wednesday November 24.

Ms Davies said: 'I would like

to acknowledge that whilst a huge effort has been under way to ensure that all our population required to have Covid-19 vaccinations through the autumn, a considerable number of errors in communication of available clinics and appointment letters have occurred.

'I would like to apologise for the uncertainty, anxiety and inconvenience that this has caused.

'Lessons have been learnt as we have been progressing and changes to appointment booking has been made. I hope this will bring an improved experience to our communities.

'At the time of writing we are scheduled to complete the tranches identified for vaccine this season by the end of December and we await JCVI guidance beyond that point.

'I would like to thank everyone who is involved in the vaccination programme

work in delivering the boosters across Argyll and Bute.

'I would also like to add my thanks to our GP colleagues who have been delivering the flu vaccines to our population.'

Ms Davies also hailed the launch of the community link worker (CLW) service in Argyll and Bute, regarded as a key element in the modernisation of primary care services.

She added: 'CLWs recognise that social issues such as debt, relationships, employment and loneliness can affect people's health and wellbeing and will connect people to sources of support or resources within their community.'

'This service will make a significant contribution to improving people's health and wellbeing and is part of an expansion of services delivered within GP practices and people can be referred to the service via their GP.'

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Loch Fyne pipe band performs in Tarbert.

Loch Fyne Pipe Band marches on in Argyll

The talents of the Loch Fyne pipe band have been enjoyed throughout Mid Argyll in recent weeks with the band supporting a variety of community events.

On Remembrance Sunday, the band played at the service on November 14 at Skipness Church and then in Clachan for the event at Kilcalmonell Church. A wreath was laid at each of these locations and also at Tarbert.

On Saturday November 20 the band was presented with a

cheque from Tarbert Co-op as part of the Co-op Community Fund programme.

Prior to the presentation band members gave an impromptu performance across from the store.

Spokesperson for the band Brian Hastings said: 'We would like to thank the Co-op and everyone who chose us as their cause.'

The pipe band's next performance will be at The Gather on Saturday December 4 for the Christmas Fair.

Action needed on 'severe' lack of Argyll care staff

Social care chiefs must take action in Argyll and Bute to resolve a lack of carers and social workers in the area, the council's leader has said.

Councillor Robin Currie, pictured, told a meeting of health and social care officers that the situation was 'a severe problem'.

He was commenting after Jane Fowler, Argyll and Bute Council's head of customer support services, detailed how

the authority supports young people into a career in care.

The discussion took place during a meeting of the area's health and social care Integration Joint Board (IJB) on Wednesday November 24.

Graham Bell, a non-executive member of the IJB, said: 'It seems to me that the



pandemic has been particularly difficult for young people coming into the job market and getting settled.

'We are going to need a lot of young people coming into services, and I am just wondering what is being done, particularly face to face?'

Ms Fowler responded: 'We've had the council 'grow your

own' programme in place for a while now, and we have a team designing our SVQ programme.

'We have a dual role, as an employer but also as a facilitator, to start talking about what the opportunities are for working in the public sector.'

'We have taken a lot of information from colleagues at Highlands and Islands Enterprise.'

'I understand what Jane says, but I am a simple guy and like to say things like it is,' said Councillor Currie. 'Simply and practically, we have a severe problem on our hands right now. I have never had email correspondence before the way I have now, regarding the lack of carers and social workers in Argyll and Bute.'

'I would suggest that we, as an IJB, recognise this as a priority, and do whatever it takes to try and resolve it.'

Story fun returns to Lochgilphead library for wee ones

A scheme that brings together parents, carers and pre-school children for educational fun is returning to Mid Argyll.

Bookbug sessions featuring stories, songs and rhymes are restarting at Lochgilphead Library.

Sessions run every Monday



at 2pm and need to be booked in advance due to limited spaces and to facilitate the track-and-trace scheme.

Bookings can be made in person at the library or by email at: lochgilpheadlibrary@liveargyll.co.uk or by calling 01546 602072.

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Your oxygen mask of hope at Christmas

A view by health and wellbeing campaigner Barabel McKay, chairwoman of the volunteer Mid Argyll-based Health and Care Group

'Be kind to yourself.' Easy to say, difficult to do.

And there is the new, guilt inducing, one: 'Be kind to your future self.' No more quick fixes that come back to bite you. The best advice I have been given this year came from a nearly 95-year-old.

She suggested leaving unplanned spaces in life to allow for time overruns, unexpected events; keeping a handful of little white lies, so that pressing demands could be evaded without offence.

Women in particular can find difficulty in saying 'No'. Caring for others becomes a



Barabel McKay

habit, you can forget that it is necessary to care first for oneself. She added: 'Make sure your own oxygen mask is working before you try to help anyone else with theirs.'

We all have different things which feed our soul.

For many this year, the situation may seem desperate and out of control. You are not alone. Shakespeare put it, 'All lost! To prayers'.

In the difficult times of the past, people got together for testimony meetings, where

they encouraged each other by sharing what happened as a result of prayer.

You may have heard of the Dochas Centre; dochas meaning 'hope'. You may not know that it came into being after John and Catherine Paterson prayed in their own desperate moments.

It provides the help you may need for all sorts of difficulties. Across the road is the MS Centre, with an amazing reservoir of support. Just ask!

And there is Argyll and Bute Citizen's Advice Bureau, in new Lochgilphead premises but offering the same invaluable service. Many other groups are out there to offer support.

The health and care group aims to represent the views of service users and their families. Email barabelmck@gmail.com for more.

A tale of energy at

Words and photographs by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

A Loch Fyne-side community group is leading the way for Scotland in renewable energy, according to MP Brendan O'Hara.

The Argyll and Bute member was speaking at the opening of a new exhibition in Cairndow telling the story of Here We Are's renewable energy ventures.

Born of an idea back in 1998, community enterprise Here We Are has been thinking differently about the development of Cairndow for two decades.

The project has been driven by Christina Noble, backed by an able and supportive group of board members, staff, supporters and funders.

Ever since its centre at Clachan, beside the Tree Shop, was opened in September 2001, community identity and heritage – but more importantly a sustainable future for Cairndow – have been at the forefront of Here We Are.

But with funding tight early



in its operation, the project was seeking ways to support itself.

Sparked by a 2004 exhibition Our Power, about hydro power generation in the locality, the Here We Are team began researching community power generation.

Using local timber, a

wood-chipping plant was established under subsidiary company Our Power, supplying a boiler at a nearby salmon hatchery.

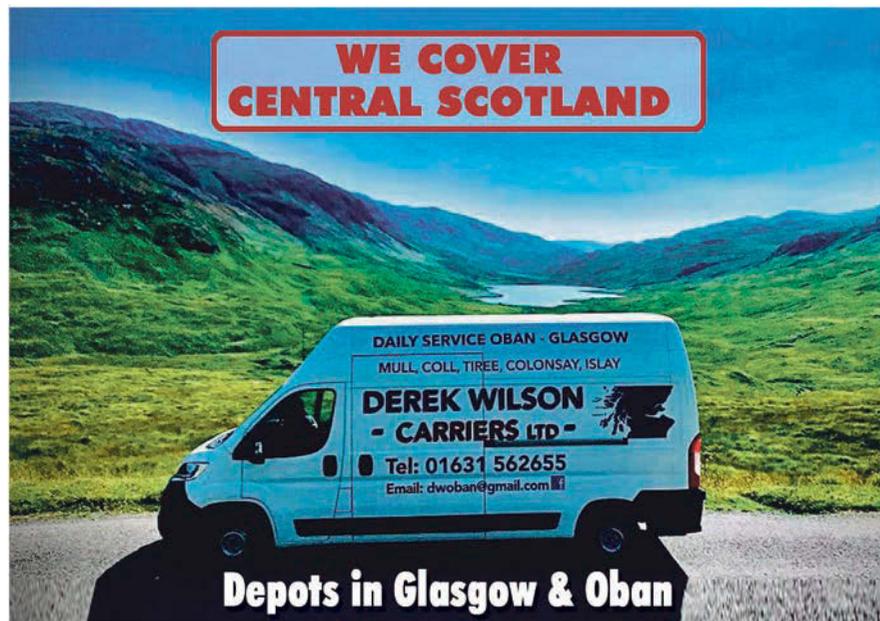
This has since developed and it supplies many Argyll biomass boilers to this day.

Here We Are then considered a small-scale community

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the head of Loch Fyne



hydro-electric scheme.

From initial discussions in 2006, a partnership was formed with the aim of installing a 1MW hydro-electric plant in the Merk Burn catchment area in Glen Fyne.

After much fund-raising, planning permissions, establishment of a formal partner-

ship structure and a great deal of hard graft, the first sod was dug in 2013 and the scheme came online in August 2015.

Under Merk Hydro LLP, a partnership of four companies including Here We Are, the scheme generates 4.4 million kwh per annum – enough to supply more than 1,000 homes.

Speaking at the launch of Here We Are's renewable energy exhibition on Friday November 26, Brendan O'Hara MP said: 'I want to congratulate Here We Are on the exhibition and what you're doing for the community of Cairndow.

'Here We Are really is an

Far left: Brendan O'Hara MP is shown round the exhibition by Christina Noble, the driving force behind Here We Are. 51_a49HWA_exhibition01

Left: The exhibition tells the story of Here We Are's remarkable renewable energy story so far. 51_a49HWA_exhibition02

example to other small communities in Argyll and Bute as to what can be achieved with a dedicated, focused and determined group of individuals who want to better their community.

'What you're doing fits in exactly with where Scotland and the wider world is in terms of renewable energy and reducing emissions. Yes, government and international action is important, but that cannot happen without local action. I think we have to set the example for governments to follow, and Here We Are is doing exactly that.'

The free exhibition is now open at Here We Are.

Historic society celebrates wealth of resources

A valuable local history resource was the focus of the most recent meeting of the Inveraray History Society.

Duncan Beaton gave the society a rare insight into family history research he has undertaken with the help of the Inveraray Castle archives.

For many years Duncan has assisted in researching the Argyll Papers, finding the records of the management of these estates, particularly from the late 17th century, to be the most useful for family history research.

The papers include extensive information about people living on the land, their houses and occupations and reveal background to how, and where they lived and worked.

Strachur history fans joined the Inveraray members to hear Duncan relate the history of the Argyll Campbells.

His talk included details of a large collection of writs, approximately 500 charters from 1315, and transcripts of the Argyll Papers compiled by Sir William Fraser, the 10th

Duke of Argyll and others.

In all, the documents amount to approximately 250 volumes and 100 bundles. The most important collection, the Argyll Transcripts, contain handwritten copies of many of the earliest records.

A spokesperson for the society said: 'Hearing of personal papers of families associated through marriage, including Callander of Ardkinglas and Craigforth, as well as Campbells of Craignish, Southall, Barbreck and Glendaruel, added to the evening's interest. Inveraray has much to thank local historian Rae McGregor for the 14 boxes of her valuable collection of papers and photographs gathered over many years and now part of the huge resources in the Castle Archives.'

The society's next meeting will be held on Tuesday December 7 in the church hall, when everyone is welcome to come along and hear Ken MacTaggart speak about The Medieval Pilgrim Way to Loch Awe.

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Leisure hopes revealed for derelict Arrochar loch site

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

The new owners of Arrochar's former torpedo range put themselves in the public firing line as they presented their aspirations for a new development on the eyesore site.

Around 30-40 people turned out to the Three Villages Hall on Monday November 29 with a mood of caution, given that a previous leisure resort plan for the site failed to materialise.

Having finalised the purchase the previous week, the new owners were there - Peter Wylie, a Paisley-based actuary, originally from Dunoon; marine engineer Keith Russell; and Ian Henderson, with a background in property and leisure developments.

Paisley architectural firm Framed Estates is leading the design and company founder

and director Sheenagh Gray opened proceedings by pointing out that everyone involved in the scheme was a 'west coaster' and committed to the area.

The purpose of the informal evening, said Peter Wylie, was to explain the outline plans - though these are at the earliest stages of development - gather opinion and ideas and 'to stop rumours flying around' about the development.

Sheenagh explained: 'We want to see the site given a new lease of life. We are at a really early stage and are talking to planners about what can be done.'

The idea is to create a marine development with an element of leisure, including a marina, holiday lodges, a camping/glamping area alongside a number of loch-side, self-build plots. A boat maintenance cen-



tre and facilities for divers may also be included. A cafe and leisure facilities would be open to the public. In time, the hope is to bring larger passenger vessels to the site's pier.

Any development, said the designers, should 'nestle

into the environment and be well-fitted'.

In reply to a question about the budget available, Mr Wylie said there is 'no ball-park figure yet'. Points raised from the floor included potential harm to the marine environment of

The new owners of the former Royal Navy torpedo range, from left: Ian Henderson, Keith Russell and Peter Wylie.

Inset: The derelict former torpedo range. Photo: Phil Champion, geograph.org.uk/Creative Commons.

Loch Long, which Mr Wylie said should be minimal given modern vessel design. On the problem of marine rubbish collecting at the head of the loch, Mr Wylie said he was interested in measures on the Thames estuary to tackle a similar issue.

The capacity of Arrochar village to cope with an influx of visitors was also of concern, given the lack of public toilets, litter bins and other amenities.

Ian Henderson responded: 'The development will

hopefully bring footfall to Arrochar, and though there are obstacles we aim to work with the community to overcome those.'

Should planning permission be sought and granted, the first job would be to clear the site of vegetation and building debris, for which local firms would be invited to tender, and the intention is to involve local companies and the wider community throughout.

'I've lived here all my life,' said a gentleman from the floor, 'and Arrochar used to be able to have plenty of steamers coming in, the place was full and we coped fine.' Another added: 'Anything that removes that eyesore is welcome.'

Sheenagh concluded: 'This is just a preliminary discussion. We hope to come back some time in January with a more developed scheme.'

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Published on 10th December

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YOUR PICTURES



There is a real autumnal feel to this week's striking featured image looking across the sound of Jura from Knapdale, sent in by reader Gordon Doughty from Kilmory Knap, Achnamara. Gordon said: 'I took this photo on Remembrance Day, Thursday November 11, while on a wee midday walk. 'The Paps of Jura were looking good over what were still strong autumn colours on the trees and bracken, even in mid-November.' Send your favourite photographs for publication to editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

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Former Lord-Lieutenant honoured with freedom of Argyll and Bute

A former Lord-Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute is to be awarded the freedom of Argyll and Bute, writes Colin Cameron.

Patrick Stewart CVO MBE receives the honour in recognition of more than three decades of service to the community.

In his role as a solicitor in the Campbeltown family firm of Stewart, Balfour and Sutherland, Mr Stewart developed particular expertise in a number of legal issues significant to Argyll and Bute including agriculture, forestry, company law and the marine environment.

While practising full-time as a solicitor he was also secretary to the Clyde Fishermen's Association and served terms as a director of the Scottish Fishermen's Organisation Ltd and a member of the executive committee of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation.

He represented the fishing

industry at local, national and international levels and was appointed MBE in 2000 for services to the fishing industry.

Mr Stewart's long history of involvement with the voluntary sector in Argyll and Bute includes 10 years as chair of the Argyll and Bute Trust, providing funding support for young people pursuing academic and general development.

He has also worked closely with many voluntary organisations in Kintyre, including the Campbeltown and Kintyre Development Trust and the Kintyre Round Table.

Prior to joining the Royal Naval Reserve in 1968, he commanded the Campbeltown unit Sea Cadet Corps for many years and served on the governing body of the Sea Cadets.

He is now a life vice president of the Marine Society and Sea Cadets.

He was first invited to join the



Patrick Stewart
CVO
MBE.

25_c01pat-
rickstewart01

'The award of Freedom of Argyll and Bute is well deserved' - Councillor Robin Currie

Argyll and Bute lieutenancy in 1987 and served as a Depute Lieutenant until 2002 when he was invited to become the Vice Lieutenant.

He was appointed by Her Majesty The Queen as Lord-Lieutenant for Argyll and Bute in 2011, succeeding Kenneth MacKinnon in the role.

Mr Stewart retired from the lieutenancy role on his 75th birthday in 2020 after 33 years of service to the lieutenancy of Argyll and Bute.

Following his retirement, he was appointed a Companion of the Royal Victorian Order, an award made at the personal behest of the Queen to mark

dedicated personal service.

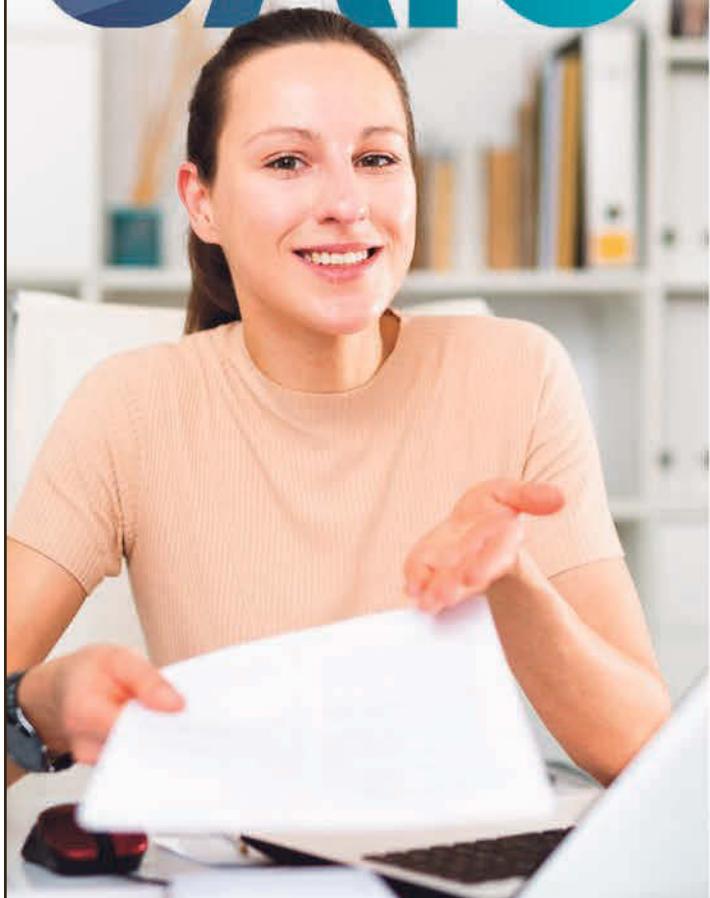
Argyll and Bute Council leader Councillor Robin Currie said: 'Mr Stewart has given decades of service to the local community, the lieutenancy of Argyll and Bute and to HM The Queen.'

'The award of Freedom of Argyll and Bute is well deserved and will be warmly welcomed by all those who have worked with him and been supported by him.'

'That dedication has already been recognised with a personal award from the Queen and seen him play a key role in major cultural and economic issues, locally, nationally and internationally.'

'Despite his final year as Lord-Lieutenant being marked by the pandemic, Mr Stewart brought the same level of hard work, dedication and sense of duty throughout those difficult times to his role in serving our community.'

SAIC



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<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:



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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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gov.scot



Memories of Columba to illuminate Argyll

Five locations across Argyll and Bute will be bathed in light this month to celebrate the anniversary of the birthday of Colmcille/St Columba.

Each site will be spectacularly lit by projections featuring the work of artists at 7pm on December 7.

Eleven artists have received funding from Duais Dileab Chaluim Chille/The Colmcille Legacy Award, a national scheme hosted by the Culture, Heritage and Arts Assembly (CHARTS) in partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Argyll and Bute Council, to commemorate the life and cultural legacy of St Colmcille as part of the Year of Colmcille, 1500.

The projections project, Illuminations, will highlight the creations, showing the legacy of Colmcille through the artwork.

Illuminations will project

artwork near the Egg Shed, Ardrishaig; in the gardens of Hermitage Park, Helensburgh; on to McCaig's Tower, Oban; The Queen's Hall, Dunoon; and at a site still to be revealed on the Isle of Bute.

The project marks the birth date of St Colmcille on December 7 in 521 AD and celebrates the artistic achievements of all of those supported by the The Colmcille Legacy Award.

In June this year McCaig's Tower was lit up by projections featuring Colmcille Legacy Award artists.

Illuminations will expand this to show the works for the first time at five locations across the region.

Although a huge logistical challenge for the organisers, they hope audiences who don't traditionally visit art galleries will be able to enjoy the artwork created.

Colmcille 1500 promotes the heritage of St Colmcille, whose abbey linked Ireland and Scotland.

The year provided an opportunity to promote the Gaelic languages of Ireland and Scotland.

As part of Illuminations, artists based in Northern Ireland will also be holding events on the evening of December 7.

Jo McLean, chair of CHARTS, said: 'The Colmcille Legacy Award Scheme, in partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the council, has produced tremendous results and we are delighted to be able to highlight the achievements of Gaelic artists and Gaelic partnerships through Illuminations alongside Colmcille 1500 participants in Northern Ireland.'

Leader of Argyll and Bute Council Councillor Robin Currie said: 'Gaelic is funda-



Sites around Argyll will be lit up, such as McCaig's tower, above, and the Egg Shed in Ardrishaig.



mental in the history of Argyll and Bute and we are committed to promoting it and the many notable St Columba Trail sites in the area.

'It's fantastic to see so many Gaelic artists represented through the Colmcille Legacy Award.'

An online showcase featuring full details about all of the The Colmcille Legacy Award award winners is available at the www.chartsargyllandisles.com.

For her piece, Edinburgh-based artist Catriona Patience used watercolour depictions of doves, representing Columba, with Gaelic texts and film footage shot on the islands of Iona, Inchcolm and Rathlin plus an original soundtrack.

A wee reminder.

Let's stop the spike.

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Cruach nam Mult and Cruach



Heather Thomas-Smith, above, runs Heathery Heights (www.heatheryheights.co.uk), an outdoor adventure and discovery company based in Lochgilphead, offering guided walking adventures, outdoor activities, training and experiences.

She has travelled and trekked throughout the world, walked across Scotland numerous times, climbed many of its peaks and now lives in Argyll amongst the scenery she loves.

READMORE

www.argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

This pair of hills sit snugly on the south side of Hell's Glen on the western fringes of the Arrochar Alps.

If you have ever driven along the glen's winding road then you may well have looked up at the small, yet impressive, rugged ridge on its southern side.

Cruach nam Mult is the highest point on this, just high enough to be a Graham at 611m (and a Marilyn and Tump to boot).

Its name - meaning the Conical Hill of the Wedders - suggests its slopes have long been used as pasture for male (castrated) sheep, and indeed sheep still graze its flanks today.

To the west Cruach nan Capull sits back from the road but affords excellent views over Loch Fyne from its trig point and a rather solitary rock, making it a worthy addition to the walk.

It too has animal connections, its name meaning Conical Hill of the Horses. Although smaller (it is a Tump but not a Marilyn) it boasts steep flanks from the col that joins them.

The views from both towards Lochgilphead and the rest of the Arrochar Alps - particularly Beinn an Lochain, Stob an Eas and Ben Donich - are grand, with an interesting perspective of The Cobbler.

From the B839 head through the gate and southwest along the forestry track for the first

1.5km. It is easy walking although muddy at first.

Many of the trees marked on the OS map have now been felled and the forestry track also goes well beyond the dead end shown. If you start to head back into the older unfelled trees, you have gone too far.

To keep an eye out for where to turn up the hill, look for the end of the new fencing on your left and a crossing over the ditch just before a stream.

Currently there are unfelled trees just ahead, but this may change.

Turn left over the ditch to follow a small felling track straight up the hill, keeping the stream on your right.

The rough track will ascend steeply for the next 300m before veering left.

Although you can turn right on to a smaller felling track at this point, it takes you towards the col.

You are better bearing sharp left on the continuation of the track you are on until you reach the fence.

Do not cross the fence but now take a bearing up the hill in a southerly direction for the next 250-300m.

It is quite steep going and you may find yourself zigzagging but it gets you up quite quickly.

Start to bear ESE and soon the ground relents, opening out and allowing for a relatively easy course just below the ridge to your left.

As you gain height aim for the crest which will take you



Looking towards the Arrochar Alps from Cruach nam Mult, with the Cobbler in the distance.

SE over a slight rise and onto the summit.

It is worth visiting both tops (the westernmost is noted as the true summit), and then drop slightly off to the SE to contour south round the hill's edges, which give excellent views down to Hell's Glen, and towards Lochgilphead.

Below, the Tump Stob Liath, beckons but I have not included it on this walk.

From the summit's steep edges initially head NW keeping the crest of the ridge to

your right as you drop towards the col over 1km away.

You will start veering west after this and need to keep just above the heads of the streams that drop off the hill's southern flanks.

Approaching the col you cross a rickety fence. Some meandering is now required to avoid the boggy bits; poles are handy to test with!

This flattish area leads to the steeper slopes of Cruach nan Capull ahead.

Aim straight for the eastern

flanks where a break in the crags will allow for a few convenient zigzags.

It is very steep but with care it saves a long steep contour round to the north or south to reach easier slopes.

Reaching the first false summit, it is best to nip over its north end, then head SW along its edge to avoid quite a large bog.

This can then be crossed to reach the summit Trig less than 100m away. Lying just SW is a lonely rock which

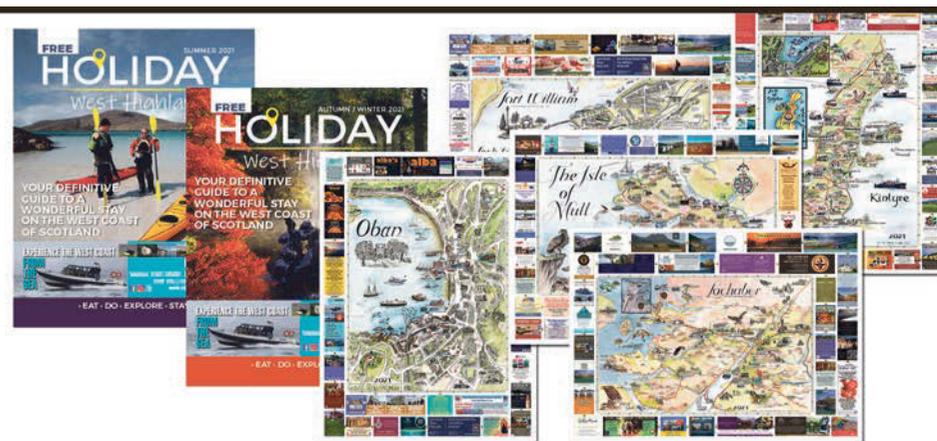
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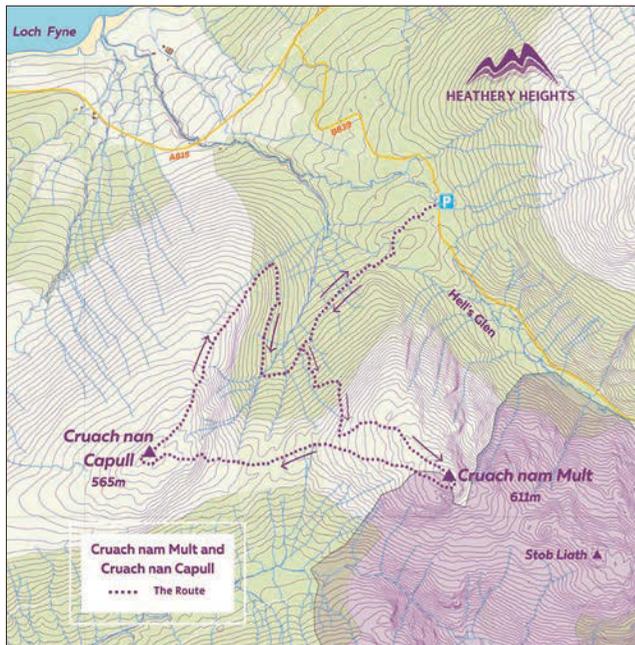
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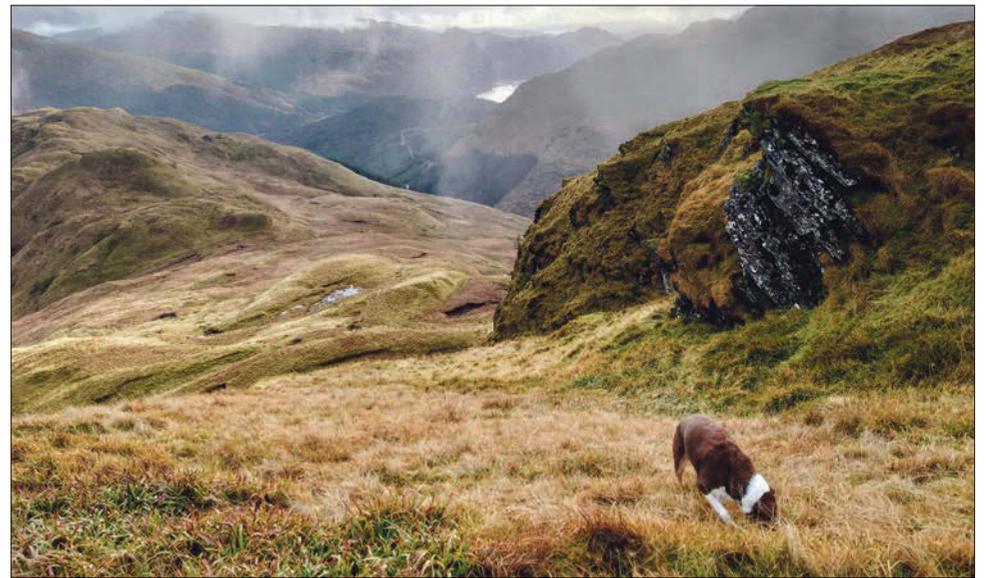
Contact Fiona or Suzanne on 01631 568000

nan Capull: hills on the edge



Walk Information

Route: Cruach nam Muilt (Graham) and Cruach nan Capull
Distance: 9.8km (6 miles)
Ascent: 634m
Time: 4 - 5½ hours (quicker when drier)
Terrain: Forestry tracks and rough, boggy and sometimes very steep pathless ground to both summits.
Map/s: OS Landranger 56 (1:50 000)
OS Explorer 37 (1:25 000)
Start/finish/P
Parking: Tuck in off road where forestry tracks leave B839
Grid reference: NN168073
Public Transport: NA
Toilets: No



Loch Goil from the slopes of Cruach nam Muilt.

affords great views down Loch Fyne; a fine perch.

To descend follow the long north ridge NNE, skirting high above Coire No. After a kilometre you will be running parallel to a stream on your left.

Keep in line with this until you reach a fence. Cross the fence and follow the stream down for 250m to a felling track.

Turn right and follow this as it undulates back south into Coire No.

After 300m it briefly climbs steeply as it veers towards the new forestry track.

Join the main track and follow this round the head of the Coire where it will join your original route back to the start.

Left: A map of the route.

Safety in the outdoors

The information is to be used as a guide and does not replace the use of map and compass. While every effort is made to ensure the route is accurate, please be aware that track and path closures can happen at any time. All walks are undertaken at your own risk. Please continue to adhere to current government guidelines,

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

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Lighting the way

As noted in last week's leader column, well done to everyone who contributed to the Christmas decorations in our towns and villages.

After the 20-plus months we have all endured, it is so cheering to see the dark winter days and nights illuminated, with the hope of Christmas ahead.

We need a bit of cheering up, so thanks to all involved.

And if it's hope we need, look no further than our young sports people.

What a brilliant day of rugby for the girls last week at the joint campus. Players from Mull and Oban - Islay couldn't make it, sadly - joined Lochgilphead to benefit from coaching advice from development officer Andrew Johnston and play matches.

The skill levels were excellent, but what stood out was the sheer enthusiasm of every player.

And Mid Argyll's young footballers enjoyed a successful foray across to Cowal to play Dunoon.

Every sports coach teaching our young people is to be applauded, as should the other volunteers and parents who make it possible.

With the mental health of young people increasingly in the spotlight, particularly during the pandemic, the playing of sport is of massive benefit for all aspects of health.

Mary's Meals donations will be doubled

Sir,
The charm of the presents under our Christmas tree lies partly in their very different shapes and sizes. Perhaps the same could be said of our own families. Each one is different.

Take 12-year-old Hawa - she lives with her granny, an aunt and four cousins in Liberia. Often there is not enough food for her family to eat.

Mary's Meals serves nutritious food at school to children living in some of the world's poorest countries, attracting them into the classroom where they receive an education that can, in the future, be their ladder out of poverty.

More than two million children receive our life-changing meals every school day, including Hawa.

I am pleased to tell you that, until January 31, donations made to our Double The Love campaign will be matched, up to £1.6 million, by a generous group of supporters.

Those children receiving Mary's Meals might not have a pile of presents to unwrap on Christmas morning, but their dreams are alive and well, thanks to those who share our belief that every child should have enough to eat and go to school.

You can learn more about our work by visiting marysmeals.org.uk

Have a wonderful Christmas.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, founder of Mary's Meals

Shop local for Christmas

Sir,
In the run-up to Small Business Saturday, which takes place on Saturday December 4, I would like to urge people to support their local small businesses when shopping for Christmas.

Small businesses are the mainstay of our economy here in the Highlands and Islands, and provide livelihoods for thousands of people.

It's right that we should celebrate the contribution that they make on Small Business Saturday, but even better if we extend our thanks by supporting them as we shop for Christmas.

Local business people have shown extraordinary resilience throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and for some of them, particularly

those in retail, the festive season can be very important.

So, in making our purchasing decisions, let's take advantage of the many excellent products and services that are available from local suppliers.

Donald Cameron, Highlands and Islands MSP

Easing poverty in Scotland

Sir,
The Covid-19 pandemic has 'intensified' the poverty experienced by low-income families across Scotland.

A report, published as part of our Get Heard Scotland project, is based on interviews with 32 low-income families from Renfrewshire and Inverclyde, exploring their experiences during the pandemic.

Covid-19 had intensified their challenges, with lone parents, black and minority ethnic families, and families with a disabled parent or child the most impacted.

Particular issues include the mental health impact of living on a low income, with loss of support networks, childcare and schooling having a significant impact; the precariousness of incomes, with increased reliance on crisis support; the prevalence of insecure employment, with structural discrimination against black and minority ethnic communities and disabled people; and the importance of access to community spaces and infrastructure, including green spaces.

Digital exclusion for shopping and reducing isolation was also a key issue. It calls on service providers to continue investing in face-to-face support to ensure everyone can access the help they need.

Recommendations in the report include:

- Increasing investment in mental health services, addressing stigma through targeted local activity

- More action to increase the number of workers receiving the real Living Wage and ensuring employability services work for everyone regardless of age, gender, race or other characteristics

- Ensuring that income adequacy is central to the development of Scottish social security and promoting awareness of social security entitlements

- Increasing support for community groups

and local anchor organisations.

We heard about some amazing efforts made by community organisations and local public services to make sure people were supported during the pandemic.

Groups and local authorities worked together to get help to those who needed it. But the reality that we found is that despite these efforts many people felt their experience of poverty deepen during the pandemic.

The Scottish Government has set ambitious targets on tackling child poverty. This report demonstrates, through the experiences of people living on low incomes, how much work is still required if they are to meet them.

It is vital that policy-makers at every level - particularly local authorities and the Scottish Government - listen to and act on the voices of people experiencing poverty.

They must also place those voices at the heart of their decision-making processes.

Peter Kelly, director, Poverty Alliance

Executive headship concerns

Sir,
I am continuing to receive many messages from my constituents who are justifiably concerned about the proposed executive headships.

There are huge worries about how schools will operate effectively in the delivery, quality and equity of education in Argyll and Bute if these changes are enacted.

Argyll and Bute Council is currently employing an outside marketing agency to consult teachers, school staff and the communities they serve on this proposal.

Many who I have spoken to feel that this is something that's already done and this exercise is about selling this proposal to the communities rather than genuinely seeking views.

Messages to my email inbox and calls to my mobile phone continue to pour in from many concerned teachers and parents.

It has been said by many people that at the root of this is a cost-cutting exercise which will create a difficult and unequal education service across the varied geography of Argyll and Bute.

My constituents, including parents and teachers, have my full support. I am not a supporter of these proposed executive headships and I will do all that I can to stop these negative changes.

Councillor Alastair Redman, Kintyre and the Islands

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Thought for the Week

I wonder how many people will stop and read this thought for the week.

The four weeks leading to Christmas have become, for many of us, the busiest of our whole year.

The list of things to do never seems to get any shorter and the need and desire for perfection causes much stress, especially amongst the adults.

The children, however, have a much better experience; they are excited and expectant, counting down the days until Christmas, to holidays and presents and time with family and friends.

The holidays around Christmas have become an important time for families to come together. This can mean long arduous journeys, sometimes at great expense for many people.

The Bible tells us that Mary and Joseph were forced to travel to Bethlehem, even though Mary was heavily pregnant and it also tells us that soon after the birth, Mary and Joseph had to flee for their lives with their newborn son to Egypt.

As we prepare to travel or to receive guests, may we take a moment out of our busy schedules to remember the people who have no choice but to leave their homes, carrying their precious belongings and not knowing where they are going or if they will receive a welcome when they get there.

As Christians prepare once more to celebrate the birth of God's son, may we be reminded that every child around the world is a beloved child of God and that we all have a responsibility to care for each and every one of them.

Reverend Lyn Peden, Church of Scotland, Skipness linked with Tarbert Loch Fyne and Kilberry.

GET INVOLVED
email editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

OBAN

The findings of an independent study into long-term arrangements for managing Oban Bay have been considered by Argyll and Bute Harbour Board.

The report by Caledonian Economics outlines the best options available to address safety concerns in the bay and move to a Statutory Harbour Authority (SHA) within the shortest timeframe.

It proposes that either ferry company CMAL or Argyll and Bute Council seeks a Harbour Order to assume responsibility for Oban Bay and its approaches.

The report, however, does not rule out the SHA being transferred to a trust port in the future.

Councillor Rory Colville, policy lead for roads and infrastructure services, said: 'I'd like to thank Caledonian Economics for this detailed report.'

'It's given us a lot to think about and a route towards reaching objectives which everyone supports.'

'Our main focus has to be continuing to improve safety in Oban Bay and what's best for all the communities Oban Harbour serves - businesses, residents, island communities and visitors.'

Argyll and Bute Harbour Board discussed the report at its meeting on Thursday December 2.

ISLE OF JURA

Diurachs astounded visiting musicians with their knowledge of ceilidh dancing 'as if by magic' on a fantastic night of live music.

Craighouse Village Hall saw the Clydebank-based Stilton all Stars entertain on Saturday November 20, with live acts including Stilton, The Poachers, Lavinia Blackwall and Jura special guest Campbell Lindsay on guitar.

Band member Marco Rea said: 'The people of Jura gave us a very warm welcome and we packed the evening full of entertainment.'

'We were very well looked after by the Jura committee and thanks go to Christine Thomson for tour managing the event.'

'And the Antlers restaurant made it straight into our top favourites for food and service.'

'No-one held back; the dancing started early

COXY RETIRES FROM LIFEBOAT



It is the end of an era as lifeboat station stalwart David Cox retires.

Photograph: Nicola Wareham.

CAMPBELTOWN

A veteran lifeboatman's 38 years of service has been marked in the Scottish Parliament by a motion submitted by Highlands and

Islands MSP Donald Cameron.

David Cox joined the Campbeltown crew as a 17-year-old and has been involved with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution ever since.

Mr Cameron said: 'The RNLI is an integral part of our coastal communities for whom the welfare and safety of our seafarers is so important.'

'However, the RNLI could hardly function without the long-term commitment of people like David and I thought it appropriate to mark his retirement at the Scottish Parliament.'

The lifeboat station stalwart, known to many as Coxy, joined the crew when invited to by Arthur Gillies, former newspapers managing director at Wyvex Media.

After 30 years of full-time service, David worked his final shift on Wednesday November 24.

The 54-year-old realised he had a passion for the water aged 13 when he enrolled in the Sea Cadets where he learned about seamanship, navigation, sailing and other water sports.

Initially working as an apprentice mechanic with Kintyre Farmers, David then went to college to study Agricultural Engineering.

This meant he was well prepared when a full-time mechanic position became available at RNLI Campbeltown following coxswain Alastair Gilchrist's retirement.

David said: 'People have shown me respect, commitment and loyalty and it has been an incredible privilege to have been part of that team and organisation.'

on and never stopped. I remember this from last time, saying to myself: "Wow, these people really know how to dance".

'The ceilidh went down a storm.'

'There was absolutely no need to call the moves out as the locals got straight into position and went for it, as if by magic.'

He continued: 'Stilton, which runs these events, is the house band for our label 'The Barne Society' in Clydebank.'

'The band features members of The Wellgreen, Trembling Bells, Helicon, Alex Rex and Figure 5.'

'We plan to return late March, before touring the UK over Easter with Lavinia and Stilton.'

'We recommend watching Saturday Night Fever or even Flashdance before attending.'

'We also hope to play in Oban, Dunoon, Tarbert and Islay, so get your best dance moves ready.'

One of the night's performers Campbell Lindsay said: 'Thanks go to the hall committee for putting on such a great night on Saturday. Great to see so many lovely locals too.'

'Here's to more of the same.'

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance

of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

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11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

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Christ Church,
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celebrating &
fundraising for our
Local Charities and
Community Groups
Festival Weekend 4th
& 5th December
with tea & coffee



Nimble Fingers Craft Fair

Theme: Gifts Galore

Argyll Bowling Club

4th December

Time 10a.m-4p.m

Yikki's Kitchen menu

Home made soup, buttered rolls,
mince pies, tea, coffee and juice

Proceeds to:
Nimble Fingers
running costs



Christmas Market

at
Campbeltown Town Hall
Saturday 4th
December
10am till 4pm.

Free entry, Raffle, Teas
and coffees.

Come and support local
traders and find those
special gifts and stocking
fillers.

Please remember to wear
your mask and sanitise
your hands.

£2m project to explore potential of carbon capture in Argyll and Bute

Argyll is to be at the forefront of efforts to absorb and store carbon from the atmosphere, in ways that also generate economic and community benefits.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) is leading a major project to explore and quantify commercial opportunities associated with carbon sequestration across the local authority area.

The agency has secured £260,000 for the project from the UK Government through the UK Community Renewal Fund.

Argyll and Bute Council submitted successful bids to the UK Government, worth

over £2 million, on behalf of organisations and council services which are investing in skills, place making, the community and supporting people into employment.

The award for Argyll and Bute is one of the largest in Scotland.

The HIE project, 'optimising carbon sequestration for community wealth building', will quantify the potential of Argyll and Bute's natural resources to absorb and retain carbon dioxide.

It will also look at methods to attract investment to realise this in a way that will underpin the local economy and support a green recovery.



'There is considerable potential for Argyll and Bute...'

Dr Zoe Laird, HIE's regional head of communities and lead officer for the project, said: 'With COP26 in Scotland having recently drawn to a close, the need for action to address climate change and achieve our ambitious net zero targets has never been clearer.'

'Carbon sequestration will form an important part of that process.'

'We believe there is considerable potential for Argyll and Bute to benefit from this, not just environmentally but socially and economically.'

'As part of this project we will be developing business models around carbon sequestration and pilot projects to test these

models.

'We expect there will be a great deal of interest in this work from many other areas rich in natural resources that might have similar potential.'

Councillor Robin Currie, policy lead for the economy and economic growth, added: 'Taking a natural capital approach will better inform all parties of the values on the wider benefits for nature, society and communities that the region's outstanding natural assets provide.'

The optimising carbon sequestration for community wealth building project is already under way and due to be completed in June 2022.

Expert help with recovery and growth

Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway has expanded its services to help more businesses access timely expert advice, at no cost, to support growth or recovery from the impact of the pandemic.

The range of experts on offer includes those with specialist knowledge in human resources, finance, marketing, digital and e-commerce, PR, tendering and business strategy.

'Our Business Gateway service adapted in response to the pandemic,' said Councillor Robin Currie, policy lead for the economy and rural growth. 'As well as support from an experienced business adviser, Argyll and Bute-based businesses can also

access expert help via phone or video from a range of specialists.

'Providing quick access to the right help is one way in which we can assist the recovery of our local businesses.'

'Feedback on the support has been very positive and I would encourage more businesses to take advantage.'

Businesses can request a focused, one-hour session to address particular issues or questions, via the Business Gateway team, who will then make the link to an appropriate expert adviser.



Councillor Robin Currie, economy and rural growth lead.

'It was a fabulous experience, no question was silly and the adviser took the time to explain things clearly, with demonstrations,' explained Jac McGill of

Pitter Patter Potter, an arts and crafts studio in Helensburgh.

'I really appreciated that he had taken the time to look into options for us prior to our meeting so that he could give real examples of how our business could benefit from social media.



'I left feeling equipped to support my business with our social media campaign.'

'I would recommend this service to anyone who feels unsure and needs a little hand-holding to get them on the right path.'

For some businesses, more in-depth expert help can be provided, which can be the equivalent of up to two days of support.

Again, this is accessed via the local

Business Gateway office, which can confirm eligibility.

'I was impressed by the quick turnaround time in organising the support,' added Ute Amann-Siedel of Wild at Art, an Inellan-based business offering creative holidays, cruises and retreats across Scotland.

'As well as the initial meeting, Business Gateway Argyll and Bute also approved a couple of days of specialist digital advice which is ongoing.'

To request specialist help, contact Business Gateway Argyll and Bute by emailing business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk or calling 01546 604 555.



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Director: Iain Reid
ACIBS DipPFS

Diving specialists 'sea' growth on horizon

Business Gateway provides support for expansion and sustainability

Scuba diving specialists, based in Dunoon, have been able to expand their services and grow their business thanks to help from Business Gateway.

A grant through the Business Gateway Local Growth Accelerator Programme (LGAP), funded by Argyll and Bute Council and the European Regional Development Fund under the 2014-2020 Structural Funds Programmes, has allowed the business to develop.

Wreckspeditions, founded by Jason Coles and Claire Hallybone, provides diving charters for qualified scuba divers to shipwrecks and scenic sights around the Argyll coastline.

Both Jason and Claire boast expert knowledge about local sites of interest, wildlife and shipwrecks, and are qualified diving instructors for those wishing to achieve accreditation.

To support their growth, Jason and Claire worked with Business Gateway to access advice and support from an adviser.

This included help marketing their business, which was supplemented by a course on photography, as well as signposting to funding available through the Business Gateway LGAP.

This funding enabled the team to purchase a breathing air compressor, which means that they are able to provide a new service, filling dive



Wreckspeditions provides diving charters around Argyll.

cylinders for their customers, where before their customers would have to travel to Glasgow.

This now means that customers are staying longer in the Dunoon area, reducing the business's daily running costs, increasing profit margins and has helped make them more sustainable as a business.

They were also able to access further funding during the pandemic to increase their offering to local customers.

This enabled the launch of shore-based training courses, as well as helping the business become a Royal Yacht Association accredited training centre. This has made the business more resilient for the future, as it is now able to offer a greater variety of training from its base in Dunoon

and advertise to a more local market - rather than being as reliant on the tourism sector - by offering powerboat and VHF radio training to local boat owners.

Jason and Claire also applied for interactive recognition through the Royal Yacht Association to offer online courses which will provide increased flexibility for the future.

Jason, director and skipper at Wreckspeditions, said: 'Business Gateway support helped us scale up our offering and grow our business, letting us give greater choice to customers. Our business is now more resilient for the future, and in a strong position for growth, and it's rewarding to see many customers rebook with us for 2022.'

Barbara Halliday, Business Gateway adviser, said: 'For many business owners, it is beneficial to take a strategic look at their operations and identify new offerings that might enable growth.'

'In this case, Jason and Claire were able to expand their business and provide their customers with a wider range of experiences.'

'This will place them in a strong position for next year and beyond.'

For further information and help about how Business Gateway can help your business, please visit <https://www.bgateway.com/>.

UHI offers £8,000 for budding entrepreneurs' best ideas in 2022

Entries are now open for the 2022 University of the Highlands and Islands business competition.

Budding entrepreneurs with a business idea are invited to apply, with £8,000 prize money up for grabs.

The competition is open to anyone living in the Highlands and Islands, Moray and Perthshire, as well as all students studying across the University of the Highlands and



Islands partnership. Now in its 16th year, the business competition, run by CREATE,

part of the centre for remote and sustainable communities based at Inverness College UHI, encourages enterprise and innovation by supporting people to take their first steps on the road to starting their own business.

All finalists will receive feedback and support from some of the region's top entrepreneurs and business advisors to take their idea forward.

Apply online at www.createhighland.com/

learners/competitions by noon on Wednesday March 23 2022.

Entries will be shortlisted to 15 and finalists will be invited to meet the competition judges to discuss their ideas further on finals day on Wednesday May 25.

The University of the Highlands and Islands Business Competition has attracted more than 1,600 entries since it launched 16 years ago and has awarded more than £86,000 in cash prizes.

Guiding your business towards a brighter future

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Machinery rings help through tough times

The Scottish Machinery Rings Association (SMRA) is supporting thousands of farmers and rural businesses through times of rising input costs and labour shortages.

The nine rings which make up SMRA collectively represent more than 7,250 member businesses spanning the length and breadth of Scotland, delivering services to their members ranging from machinery and commodity provision to training and skills development.

With energy prices of heightened concern to farmers, Borders Machinery Ring manager Michael Bayne said: 'Farm input inflation is a real worry going forward, with enterprise margins certainly

being affected.

'Using the combined buying power of our co-operative, however, we were able to fix a price for gas oil over nine months from March to November at 54.1ppl.

'The current spot price is now significantly higher at over 70ppl.

'Market volatility looks set to remain, but the fuel fixed pricing that we offer to members can help them plan ahead, budget and reduce risk.'

Bruce Hamilton, chief executive at Tayforth Machinery Ring, echoed these thoughts.

'A dry harvest meant that volumes of gas oil were down for us between June and September, but the price is 40 per cent higher than last year,



he said.

'With everyone talking about these incredible increases in costs, we know how worrying the outlook is for farmers.'

'Fortunately we had already fixed prices for fuel for this harvest, so it insulated our members from market price increases.'

In this challenging climate, the machinery rings' buying power enables it to solidify forward contracts and provide a degree of certainty for all

Machinery ring membership can insulate farmers from rising costs, source practical training courses and help with labour and machinery supply.

50_c21silage02

sizes of businesses, including utilities, fertiliser and other inputs.

Machinery rings have been one of the keystones of Scottish agriculture in recent times, with an expanding network of farmers, contractors and rural businesses.

Mr Hamilton continued: 'Unlike a limited company, the profits that they secure are not taken out of the business, but instead reinvested back into the rings, which are all co-operatives.'

'All machinery rings have expansion plans. They want more staff to look after members, better equipment, better offices and the likes. That way we can truly support the sector, now and in the years to



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You will work closely with students, Education team, SAMS and UHI colleagues.

Ideally, we are looking for someone who has excellent communication and ICT skills, who is an organised, pro-active and flexible to the needs of the role.

If you have any queries before proceeding to the application process, please feel free to contact Shona.Magill@sams.ac.uk

Further information and to apply, please go to www.sams.ac.uk.
The closing date for receipt of applications is **14th December 2021**
Interviews will be held by mid-January 2022.

SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

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.



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.
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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.

PERSONAL NOTICES

Pink Ladies Day - Thank You

The Pink Ladies Day was the biggest and best yet, due to the incredible fundraising efforts of **Shona Ritchie, Yvonne Love, Gillian Stewart, Catherine Cain, Karen Cook, Karen Miller, Lynsey Anderson, Fiona Anderson, Heather McArdle** and their hoards of sponsors and supporters (and mine). Huge thanks for the amazing donations from **The John MacEachan Memorial Fund** (Golf Tournament), **Western Ferries, Scotwest Credit Union, Frances Keen** and **Oban Hospice**. Each year we welcome more ladies to our PLD family. That in itself is a double edged sword of course, but anyone that has been through the trauma and treatment of a breast cancer diagnosis is there to let loose, have fun and get spoilt!

Lots of thanks also to our totally incredible pampering team: **Jackie, Lori and Gabriella** of Avalon Hair & Beauty; **Paula Rae Weir** of The Beauty Bee, Inveraray; **LeeAnne Whyte** MUA; **Joanne Coleman** MUA; **Alison Craig** MUA; **Rachel Rutherford** MUA; Hairdressers **Sarah Louise Gillies, Stacey** and **Micaela**; **Toni MacIntyre** nail technician; **Alison Clark** feet treat expert; **Rie Emmers** and **Liz O'Neill**, massage and reflexology specialists; **Gail Proudman, Morag Mathie**, Meso Vytal specialists; the lovely, zen like **Rae Smith** with Pilates and **Karen McCoss** with Yoga.

Massive thanks to the safe transportation services of **West Coast Motors, Morrison Motors, Philip Lockhart** and all the drivers!

Finally, **Jan Ferguson** and **Sheila Cuinier** (Captain Tortue), **Linda Maxwell** (sashes and centrepieces), **Drimsynie Estate/Argyll Holidays** for the beautiful venue, food and faultless service; Our photographer **Joanne Simms, Rosalie Maughan** from MacMillan, **MooGoo Skin Care** for the brilliant goodie bags, the lovely **Lesley McKerracher** for the Avon samples and **Morrison's Dunoon, Co-op, Gordons Chemist** and **Liza Bourne** for the wonderful donations and **Angela McMahon** for the rainbows.

My mini team of helpers on the day who made everything so much easier to manage - thank you for your love and support **Liz Deverill, Lynsey Anderson, Dorianne Campbell, Gillian Stewart, Lizzie MacLean, Joanna** and **Mark Brennan**.

And finally, thank you beautiful Pink Ladies and your fabulous friends for making this what it's all about for me and loving it just as much as I do

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To find out more about our proposals for a wind farm and energy storage development at West Torrisdale, the ESB project team invite you to our public information days:

Glenbarr Village Hall:
Thursday 9th December, 1pm-7pm
Carradale Village Hall:
Friday 10th December, 1pm-7pm
Saturday 11th December, 11am-5pm

The open days will give local people the chance to view and comment on the proposals. The project team will be on hand to listen to comments and answer questions. We will be following relevant Covid-19 Guidance at all times and all of the information will be available on our website:

www.esbenergy.co.uk/west-torrisdale-wind-farm

For more information:
e: westtorrisdale@esb.ie

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
21/01979/PP	Siting of 2 glamping pods, change of use of dwellinghouse to self catering holiday accommodation, installation of replacement roof covering and installation of septic tank	Burnside, Crarae, Inveraray, Argyll And Bute, PA32 8YA
21/02253/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access	Plot 1 Land West Of Bell-Na-Mara, High Askomil, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute
21/02173/PP	Erection of 2 BBQ huts, 1 animal shelter and 1 laundry/woodstore building ancillary to Wood Cock and Wild Cat Lodges (retrospective)	Wild Cat Lodge And Wood Cock Lodge, Kilmichael Glen, Argyll And Bute
21/01951/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage	Land West Of Wildwood, Barrichbeyan, Ardfern, Argyll And Bute
21/02304/PP	Installation of sewer pipe crossing over watercourse, comprising new concrete anchor blocks, 300mm diameter ductile iron pipe sleeve and anti-climb measures	Land At Leacann Water 40 Metres South West Of The Surgery, Furnace, Argyll And Bute
21/02222/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access off the B842	Plot 3, Land West Of Bel-Na-Mara, High Askomil, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute
21/01795/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access	Plot 4, Port A'Buorran Farm Dalkeith, Glenbarr, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute
21/02260/PP	Installation of a Top up Tap for Water Bottles	Seating Area At The Head Of The Harbour, Harbour Street, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute
21/02034/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land South Of Rhuval, Tarbert, 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.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (as amended)

Submission of a Masterplan to Housing Allocation H3007 for residential development as identified in the adopted Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan 2015.

Notice is hereby given that Mr Calum McFadyen has submitted a Masterplan to Argyll and Bute Council setting out the proposals for residential development as identified in the adopted Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan 2015.

A copy of the Masterplan (reference 21/02221/MPLAN) may be viewed electronically through the 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.

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 28 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. Customers are requested to use electronic communication where possible during the coronavirus pandemic as our ability to process postal mail is restricted.

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DEATHS

BARR - Alistair Glen Barr. Peacefully at the Kintyre Nursing Home on November 26, 2021, Father to Colin and Donald and much loved Grandpa of Kirsty, Thomas, Annabel, Mae, James and Grace.

BRODIE - Peacefully at Kintyre Care Home, Campbeltown, on November 24, 2021, Flora McKendrick in her 93rd year, dearly beloved wife of the late Malcolm, a much loved mum of Margaret, Elizabeth, Calum, Sandy and Dugald, also a loving and much loved granny, nana and great granny.

ELLIS - William John. Peacefully at Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock, on November 21, 2021, after a long illness bravely borne, in his 72nd year. The youngest son of the late Ossie and Jean Ellis, formerly of Inverneill, Ardrishaig and Dalrigh, Ayrshire, loving brother of Charles, Elizabeth and Richard. Funeral to be arranged. Rest in Peace.

MACKINNON - On November 24, 2021, peacefully at The Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Glasgow, Annamarie Cameron MacKinnon, aged 51 years, beloved daughter of the late Margaret and dear sister of Allan and John, a dearly loved aunt of Jacqueline, John, Kyle, Joanna and Frazer and a very dear friend and former work colleague of many. The Funeral service and interment was held at Achnabreac Cemetery on December 2. Loved and missed by all. For those wishing to make a donation in memory of Annamarie, can do it online to CoppaFeel www.coppafeel.org and Cancer Research UK www.cancerresearchuk.org

McLARTY - On November 28, 2021, peacefully at home, Evelyn Grace McLarty, nee Sinclair, aged 71 years,

dearly loved mother of Suzanne, dear Granny of Cerys and Evie, much loved sister of Charles and aunt of Gavin. Funeral service at Cardross Crematorium, on Tuesday, December 7 at 2-15pm to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Marie Curie Cancer Care. For those wishing to pay their respects, the cortege will leave from Evelyn's home at 17 Easfield and proceed down School Road and Barmore Road on route to the Crematorium.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - Alan and family thank everyone for the many expressions of sympathy and support received after Val's death. Special thanks to the doctors and staff of Mid Argyll Hospital, the Community Nursing Team, Ambulance staff and Argyll and Bute Social Care Team, all of whom have provided wonderful care for Val since 2018. Thank you Rev. Robert MacLeod for an uplifting service, Donald MacDonald Undertakers for their caring and professional services, Morna for beautiful flowers and Tayvallich Inn for welcome refreshment. Thank you to all who attended Val's funeral service in Tayvallich Church and also at Carsaig Cemetery thereafter. Donations received in Val's memory have amounted to over £700 to be split between the MS Centre, Lochgilphead and Glenaray Ward

CURTIS - We would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, sympathy cards and messages of support on the recent loss of our much loved mother (wife of the late Brian Curtis), nanna, great nana - Mary-Ann Curtis. Special thanks to ambulance staff at Ward 68 Queen Elizabeth Hospital, A&E Department

Campbeltown Hospital, and the Royal Hotel Campbeltown. Thanks also to Rev. Carruthers for his comforting service; Morna for flowers; Harry Adair for piping, Stag Hotel for purvey, and to all who paid their respects in the street and at the cemetery. To Roddy, Fiona & Cammy, Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors, for their sensitive support to us all. The retiral collection raised £ 300 for the Stroke Ward, Queen Elizabeth Hospital & Cancer Research.

McNALLY - Ronnie and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind wishes, cards and expressions of sympathy received after the sad loss of Eileen. Grateful thanks to the doctors and nursing staff at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow in wards 4a and 4d. Special thanks to Joan and Tracey of the Peritoneal Dialysis unit for their support allowing us to carry out dialysis at home. Dr Norrie and staff at Campbeltown Hospital and all the Carers who looked after Eileen at home. Special thanks to Rev William Crossan, Campbeltown and Rev Iain Morrison, Cardross, both for their uplifting and personal services. Also to Katrina MacDonald for her beautiful music. Thank you to Kenneth, Rhys and staff for the support and professional handling of the funeral. To Argyll Bakeries and to Campbeltown Bowling Club for the use of the club. Also to everyone who attended the services in Campbeltown and Cardross and paid their respects on the streets to Eileen. This all meant so much and the family will be eternally grateful.

MEMORIALS

CAMPBELL - Hugh, who passed away December 2,

2007. Always in our thoughts. Sadly missed. - Ivor, Shauna, Robert and great-grandchildren.

FLOSS - Treasured memories of Wullie, loving husband, dad and grandad who died on December 8, 2020.

You have left our lives But you will never leave our hearts. - Love Eileen, Caroline, Tam and family.

LAY - In heartfelt and loving memory of James Frederick Lay (Jimmy) who died December 8, 2011.

He asked for so little but gave so very much. Much love from All the family xxxxxx

MARTIN - Precious memories of Marion, a much loved Mum and Granny who passed away on December 2, 1997.

Will love and miss you forever. - Nichola, John, Kyra, Mathew & Blake xxxxx

STEWART - Inserted in loving memory of my dear grandmother, Agnes Mitchell McMillan, who died November 29, 1978.

A heart of gold stopped beating Two willing hands lie still. The one who did so much for me

Is resting at God's will. Remembering not just today but every day. - Johnnie.



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CHURCH NOTICES

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



The LORD is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid? — Psalm 27:1

Join us in Springbank Church on **Sunday, 5th December 2021** at 11am for our morning service **Wednesday, 8th 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
ALL SAINTS INVERARAY
Holy Mass Sunday 12.30pm
Fr Henry Nkob
01546602380
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GOLDEN WEDDING

Happy Golden Wedding
James and Josephine McIvor married on November 27, 1971 in Letchworth
From Sandra, Trevor, James, Katrina, Barry, Alison and the grandchildren James, Sophie, Robbie, Leah and Lachlan

SALVATION ARMY



Sunday 5th December
11am Worship Service
11am Army Kidz
6.30pm Evening Service
Wednesdays
12pm Lunch club
7pm Make & Munch Craft Group
Covid 19 measures in place
If we can be of any assistance to anyone during this time please call us on 01586 552046
Major Ruth Russell
Scottish Charity Number SC009359

CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH

George Street, Campbeltown
free church of scotland
Sunday 5th December
11.15am Worship Service
Rev Dr Phil Stogner
11.15am Sunday School
7.30pm Youth Group (by Zoom)
Wednesday 8th December
12 noon Prayer and Bible Study
All welcome
www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

CHRISTIAN AID SERVICE

Sunday 5th December
5pm
A Taize service of contemplative chant
Christ Church, Lochgilphead
Teas from 3pm

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
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SC043322

SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYN AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

There will be a weekly service at Skipness 10am & Tarbert 11.30am
- Rev. Lyn Peden
Monday 6th December
Church Guild
2.30pm
Tarbert Church Hall
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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Parish Priest: Fr. A. Wood

ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES

5th December
Advent 2 (Luke 1)
Services in:
Ardrishaig at 11:00am and Achahoish at 12:30pm
Wednesdays
from 12:45pm to 1:15pm in Ardrishaig Church
"A Time for Reflecting"

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH



Sunday 5th December
11.00 am
WORSHIP SERVICE
Rev Robert MacLeod
More info at www.lpchurch.co.uk
Lochgilphead Parish Church of Scotland - SC016311

GLASSARY, KILMARTIN AND FORD PARISH CHURCH

Barr Mhor, Kilmartin
Sunday 5th December 11am
Joint service with North Knapdale Parish Church
Canon Simon Mackenzie
All very welcome
Please remember to wear a mask

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 5th December
united service with GKF in Kilmartin (Barr Mhor) at 11am
Fr Simon Mackenzie
Please wear a face mask
Further information can be found on the church website
www.northknapdale.org

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

Sunday 5th December 2021
There will be a church service in Cumlodden Church at 10.00am and Inveraray Church at 11.30am
Masks must be worn when attending either church.
Charity No: SC016665

LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 5th December
Morning worship 11.15am
Triple C Gen 1
Rev W Crossan
Everyone welcome
Covid 19 Guidelines apply

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Red Star 2007s gave a rocketing performance in Dunoon.

Red Star 2007 dazzle in Dunoon

Dunoon	1
Red Star	7
WRDL - 2007s	

Red Star Youths travelled to Cowal to take on Dunoon, looking to continue their good form in the West Region Development League.

The weather was frosty and bright and the Dunoon Grammar school pitch was in good condition.

The away team were doing all the pressing in the opening quarter, but to the frustration of coaches Philips and Tustin, the Dunoon keeper pulled off a few super saves.

His luck turned, however, in

the 20th minute, when a Kyle Danson corner was swung over and the keeper could only palm it into his own net.

The goal lifted Star's confidence and good work from Ben Smith on the left meant his angled shot across the box could only be pushed out to the lurking Cammy Lewis to roll in from six yards in the 28th minute to take the score to 0-2.

The Red Star team had a settled look about it now with Jae Caskie and Nairn Jackson commanding in defence, ably supported by the driving runs of Calum Green, who was now also winning the aerial battles.

The second half started with two good chances falling to

Dunoon, but keeper Struan Urquhart was assured with his handling and positioning.

Green, Danson and Murray MacDonald's pace and physicality had been causing a panic in the home side for most of the game.

After a good through-ball from Lewis Cameron, the Dunoon defence hesitated one time too many as Murray MacDonald raced onto the ball to round the keeper and make it 0-3 in the 48th minute.

With Dunoon now getting stretched in the wider areas, a neat flick from Zander Stewart allowed MacDonald to race down the wing and crash in his 54th minute second goal from the 18 yard-line to make it 0-4

for the visitors

Dunoon, to their credit, never let their heads drop and following a good spell of possession and passing, an uncharacteristic slip from Jackson allowed the Dunoon striker to race in on goal and finish well to make it 1-4.

Fifth goal

With the industrious Benji Tustin linking well with substitute Geordie Todd, the Dunoon defence blinked just long enough to see Kyle Danson pounce on a slack pass and unleash a wicked right foot drive into the top corner giving Red Star their fifth goal of the day.

But it didn't stop there. Red Star were now winning most of

the physical clashes and a nice lobbed ball from sub Lewis Graham allowed Murray MacDonald to out-muscle his marker to hammer home a left foot volley in some style.

With the game drawing to a close Ben Smith decided to celebrate his birthday with an extra present, latching on to a through-ball on the left, slipping inside the Dunoon right-back before slotting coolly under the now despairing keeper.

The full time result was 1 - 7 to Red Star.

It was a good three points to gain and the coaches were satisfied with a good away performance.

It was nice to see the unfor-

tunate Kieron Blair making the trip to support his team despite his injury.

A speedy recovery will be a tonic for all.

MacDonald may have earned the Match Ball, but man of the match was Calum Green.

So it was a chirpy and excited group that made the mini-bus journey back home to Lochgilphead.

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The Lochgilphead contingent prepare for a great day of rugby. 51_a49Rugby_Girls05_MidArgyll



Scrum time in the Lochgilphead-Mull under-14 game. 51_a49Rugby_Girls18

Girls' rugby alive and well in Argyll

Words and photographs by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Around 70 girls from all over Argyll gathered at a dry but chilly Lochgilphead Joint Campus for the first Argyll Girls' Rugby Development

Day. Young players from Oban High School, Tobermory High School and Lochgilphead Joint Campus played with energy and commitment under the guidance of regional rugby development officer Andrew Johnston and coaches from around the region.

As the sounds of Skipinnish drifted across the pitch from a speaker in the corner, the skills on show certainly left the players feeling Alive and Walking on the Waves, in the words of the Celtic music giants. Under-14 and under-16 teams took the field, with

many of the girls taking part in their first game. Coaches and spectators alike were impressed with the skill and tackling ability on show. The chill was kept at bay with the help of hot chocolate, served by Lochgilphead S5 pupils Finlay Kerr and Ruan

McKellar. Andrew Johnston said: 'It was also great to see so many former mini players getting back into it. 'I hope this was the first tournament of many, and that we can replicate the format for the boys as well now.'

MORE PHOTOS AT -
www.argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk



Regional rugby development officer Andrew Johnston. 51_a49Rugby_Girls29

Red Star face Busby in league

After last weekend's SAFL Division One tie away to Clarendon was postponed, Lochgilphead Red Star this weekend face Busby at the Ropework park. Star currently sit in the top half of the table, having played one or two games fewer than their rivals above them in what is shaping up to be a competitive league. The match on Saturday December 4 starts at 2pm, and a good home support at the Ropework would be welcome. A win for the Mid Argyll outfit would see them move up to third in the table.



Great skill passing out of the tackle by Feorlin Renton during Lochgilphead's under-14 match versus Mull. 51_a49Rugby_Girls09



Action from the under-16 match between Oban and Lochgilphead. 51_a49Rugby_Girls32



Determination from Lochgilphead's Eilidh Flanagan as she heads for the try line. 51_a49Rugby_Girls20



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