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Mum thanks community for support following tragedy

by Hannah O'Hanlon
editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk

The devastated wife of 33-year-old Roddy McAllister, who died in a car crash on the A83 near Tarbert on December 11, has thanked members of the community for 'overwhelming kindness'.

Emma McAllister, 34, contacted the Courier this week to thank people for their help and support following the tragic loss of her childhood sweetheart.

Roddy and Emma became a couple on December 16 2004, when they were aged 15 and 16 respectively.

And, despite being just 16 when Emma became pregnant with the couple's first child, Roddy was there 'every step of the way' and became an 'amazing daddy' to Dylan, now 15.

'We just loved being mummy and daddy and quickly went on to have Aimee-Leigh, 12, Amber, 10, Ailie-Rose, five, and Rhysie boy, four,' Emma



said. 'We had five kiddies but really I had six as Roddy was the biggest kid of all! He was always playing practical jokes on us and making us laugh.'

'He always told stories of his childhood and how he loved it. There was always fun and laughs for him growing up and that same fun, laughter and love filled our house.'

She added: 'Roddy and I had lots of fights - he knew how to

push my buttons and I knew how to wind him up - but I always knew how much Roddy loved me as he would tell me at least three times a day and even message or phone from work just to tell me he loved me.'

Roddy worked hard to provide for his family and 'absolutely loved' his job in the malt barns at Springbank Distillery, sometimes taking his children

Roddy and Emma McAllister with their five children.

with him to show them what his work involved.

'Above all, Roddy loved nothing more than family time,' Emma said. 'We always had family days at the beach, long walks, camping trips, days away, duvet days, garden days and we loved movie and game nights.'

'We were always together as a family. We were surrounded by our children when Roddy proposed to me on December 17 2016 and we had a lovely private wedding in Dunoon Registry Office, with just our close family and friends, on September 2 2017, with each of our children playing a role in the ceremony.'

'Unfortunately, due to this tragic accident, our life together and our plans for the future have been cut short in the most awful way.'

'I'm so glad I got to spend 17 amazing, hard, fun years

with Roddy and I'm absolutely heartbroken he is gone far too soon. Life won't be the same without him but I know he will never be forgotten.'

Roddy, his sister Tanya and Ailie-Rose were involved in the car accident on their way home from the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow, where Rhys was a patient, after his appendix burst the week before.

Emma, who was with Rhys in hospital, said: 'I would like to thank every single person who stopped when they came across the accident and a massive thank you to Stephanie for sitting with Ailie-Rose. I'm so glad she had a familiar face with her.'

'I also want to say a massive thank you to my big sister Lorraine and her sister-in-law Dawn for dropping everything and rushing to the hospital to be with me and Rhys. I couldn't have made it through those hours without them both.'

As well as being 'absolutely overwhelmed' by the amount of help from friends and family, Emma has been 'blown away' by the kindness of the whole community, including people she doesn't know personally, who helped raise £19,518 for the family through a GoFundMe page.

'That money has been able to give Roddy the send-off he truly deserved and will help us as a family so much during this awful time,' she said. 'I won't have to worry about being able to keep a roof over me and the children's heads or keeping them fed while I'm off work.'

'I want to say a massive thank you to every single person who helped out over the last few weeks, every single person who donated to the GoFundMe page and Helen Gilchrist's fundraiser, the Co-op and Castlehill Primary School for a food delivery to keep us going when we got home from hospital, to my neighbours Mary

Continued on page 3.



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Police helicopter assists with knife incident on Gigha

With the ferry that serves Gigha not in operation on New Year's Day, a police helicopter had to be scrambled to help deal with a disturbance on the island on Saturday.

Police were called at 6.50am on January 1, regarding a man allegedly acting aggressively with a knife in the Grianan area of Gigha. With no police based on the

island, officers were transported from the mainland by helicopter.

Once there, they arrested a 39-year-old man and later charged him with possession of an offensive weapon; abusive and threatening behaviour and vandalism.

He remained in custody before appearing at Dumbar-ton Sheriff Court on Monday January 3.

Two women arrested over viral video of Campbeltown police officers

Two women have been arrested in connection with the filming of a viral video allegedly showing three Campbeltown police officers engaging in sex acts.

Police Scotland launched an investigation in November after footage of the officers, who were off duty at the time of the recording, was widely circulated online.

It is believed to have been filmed from a town centre flat opposite the property in which the officers were

located. In December, it was revealed that the three officers – two men and a woman, aged 43, 23 and 23 respectively – were to be the subject of a report to the procurator fiscal in connection with an alleged public indecency.

This week, in relation to the filming of the video, a Police Scotland spokesperson told the Courier: 'Two women were arrested and have been released. Enquiries are ongoing.'

Police chief receives the Queen's New Year award

by Hannah O'Hanlon
editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk

Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie, area commander for Mid Argyll, Kintyre, Oban, Lorn and the Islands, said she was 'honoured' to be awarded a Queen's Police Medal.

Chief Inspector Baillie received the accolade, which is the highest honour awarded for policing, in the New Year Honours List after more than 26 years' service.

She joined Strathclyde Police as a constable, working in various urban locations before taking a post in Oban in 2000.

Promoted to sergeant in 2002, she worked across various locations, gaining promotion to section inspector in Dunoon in 2006, before taking on her current post in Campbeltown in 2009.

Argyll's large and varied



Chief Inspector Baillie.

geography means that serious incidents are initially managed by Chief Inspector Baillie and her team before more specialist support arrives.

In such circumstances, strong partnership working is key.

For example, when dealing with missing persons enquiries, Chief Inspector

Baillie works with partner agencies such as Her Majesty's Coastguard, Mountain Rescue and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Overseeing these incidents as the lead agency means Chief Inspector Baillie is responsible for co-ordinating staff across all partners to ensure the safe return of individuals.

Chief Inspector Baillie is also a wellbeing champion and her enthusiasm for colleagues' wellbeing is testament to her commitment to officers and staff across the division.

Chief Inspector Baillie told the Courier this week: 'I am honoured to have been recognised in this way and thankful to everyone who has contacted me offering their kind words in response.'

'I am lucky to work with talented, dedicated and professional staff who have consistently gone above and

beyond to deliver valuable policing services across Argyll and Bute, even at the height of the Covid pandemic.

'This award is a true reflection of the work they do and the sense of duty and responsibility that is felt across the entire policing team.'

'I also work with the most amazing local partners all of whom work tirelessly to keep our communities safe.'

'I am also extremely grateful to the local communities for their continued support and their outstanding resilience.'

'Finally I would like to thank my family for their encouragement and understanding that has been constant throughout my police service.'

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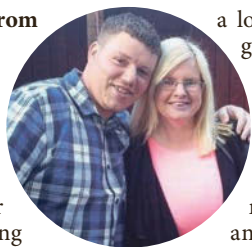
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Community thanked for their support following father's tragic death

Continued from page 1.

and Cabo for our shopping and a homecooked meal, to funeral directors Kenny and Rhys Blair for everything they did for us, to the Campbeltown Nursery Centre girls for the amazing Christmas eve boxes for the children, to my workmates for their gorgeous bunch of flowers, money and my secret Santa gift, to Clare for the arts and crafts to keep the children entertained for days and Zoe for the children's sweetie hampers.

'Also, a massive thank you to Lauren Wright of Wright Hair Right Now, Look Good Feel Good, Vanity, Emma McKinven Blankets, Fresh Connection and McKellars for their lovely hamper and vouchers and Jayne Gillies at Omorfia for her vouchers for



a lovely spa day for the girls and women of the family. A big thank you to everyone who had flowers delivered to us, for all the cards, gifts, money, and biscuits and sweets dropped off for the children - I really appreciate it all.

'I apologise if I've missed anyone. It has amazed me how kind the whole community has been. It shouldn't, as I know the whole town always pulls together in hard times, but I've never been on the receiving end and I don't know how to thank everyone.'

She added: 'I knew Roddy was well liked and the streets on the day of his funeral showed that.'

'Thank you to everyone who came out and stood for him. It blew me away and I cried when I saw just how many people had come out for Roddy, even in the rain.'

Fishing tragedy sheriff calls for stability training

The loss of two fishermen with the Nancy Glen four years ago shocked the community - but there is hope similar future tragedies can be avoided as an inquiry concluded into the sinking, writes Colin Cameron.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes concluded a Fatal Accident Inquiry at Oban Sheriff Court by recommending mandatory training on vessel stability for skippers on boats of this kind.

Skipper Duncan MacDougall, 46, and Przemek Krawczyk, aged 38, were on board Tarbert prawn trawler Nancy Glen - built in 1991 and owned by the MacDougall family since 1995 - when it capsized and sank one and a half miles north-east of Barmore Island on Loch Fyne on the evening of January 18 2018.

The boat heeled over when one of her nets became embedded in seafloor mud as Mr

MacDougall, an experienced skipper, turned to starboard ready for hauling the nets at around 6pm. By 8.30pm the boat had sunk despite heroic efforts to save her and the two men inside.

'The evidence showed the MacDougall family to be good employers'

A third crewman, John Miller, survived and was rescued by a passing vessel. In his determination, Sheriff Patrick Hughes said the Nancy Glen 'lacked the stability to withstand' the 'muddying' of the nets after a number of modifications made in the years previously.

Sheriff Hughes added that had professional advice been taken before some of the vessel's concrete ballast was

removed in 2002 and 2016 and further modifications were made in December 2017 - including the fitting of a larger crane - the accident 'might' have been avoided.

Another factor in reducing the boat's stability was, said the Sheriff, the practice of storing catch in tanks on the main deck and shelter deck, raising the centre of gravity.

A critical point, however, was the fact that until recently no mandatory stability criteria were applicable to fishing vessels of the Nancy Glen's size - registered length 11.98 metres - and masters are not required to undergo stability awareness training.

The sheriff recommended stability awareness training be made mandatory for masters of fishing vessels of between seven and 16 metres in length.

Sheriff Hughes added: 'I consider the loss of the Nancy

Glen should not be seen as an isolated incident, but rather as part of a wider pattern of small fishing vessels being lost in circumstances where inadequate stability plays a prominent role.

'The evidence before this inquiry showed the MacDougall family to be good employers who took pride in their vessel and kept it well maintained.

When making the various modifications described to the Nancy Glen, they did not understand themselves to be placing the vessel in danger. They considered it to be a safe boat, an assessment which was based on how it felt to them.'

He paid tribute to the 'courage and resourcefulness' of those who attended the stricken vessel; to John Miller for reliving the experience in his evidence and to the community for the compassion shown to the grieving families.

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Dippers make the most of mild New Year's Day

by Hannah O'Hanlon
editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk

The warmest New Year's Day in the UK since records began made this year's Dip For Dosh a little bit easier for about 70 daring dippers who took to Campbeltown Loch on January 1.

'It was unbelievable, one of the warmest we've had - and I feel the cold badly!' said Jamie McLean, chairman of the Dalintober Beach Regeneration group, which organises the event.

It is usually held annually to boost the beach regeneration project but the focus this year was on raising awareness rather than funds.

With members of the RNLI on standby in the water, participants plunged into the loch, many in fancy dress as is encouraged each year.

The tide was higher than usual, with the sand completely submerged, meaning people could jump in from the slip if they wanted, rather than



Spectators lined the street and safety personnel were on standby in the water as the first dippers entered the loch. KC_c01dipfordosh01

walking down the ramp. With the Covid pandemic ongoing, the safety of everyone involved was of paramount importance and spectators were asked to remain in their bubbles and keep a safe distance from others.

Also, showers and refreshments which are usually on offer at Campbeltown

Sailing Club after the event were not available this year.

'Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event anyway,' Jamie said. 'The feedback has been fantastic.'

'I'd like to thank everyone who took part for doing so under the current circumstances, especially those who travelled to be there, as well

as all the spectators, everyone who adhered to the Covid regulations and the RNLI for providing safety support.'

Jamie added that it was especially important for the group to hold this year's Dip, despite the challenges it faced, as the event was important to his partner Claire Peters, who died in March 2021.



Lauren McAllister's husband Paul and son Felix looked on as she took part in the Dip For Dosh. KC_c01dipfordosh03

Next year's Dip For Dosh will be a momentous one, as it will be the 10th time it will have taken place since just 14 people took part in the first event in 2014.

Since then, it has become a much anticipated event in Kintyre's community calendar, attracting almost 100 participants some years.



Some of the younger dippers jumped into the loch from Dalintober Pier after the initial dip. KC_c01dipfordosh05

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New Year weather



into the
trial dip.



Left: Lots of festive clothing was worn by dippers and spectators. KC_c01dipfordosh04

Below: Dalintober Beach Regeneration Group chairman Jamie McLean. KC_c01dipfordosh02



Some people were in and straight back out the water but many enjoyed a swim while they were in the water. KC_c01dipfordosh06



Ten members of South and West Kintyre Wile n Mild Swimmers took to the sea on New Year's Day. KC_c01peninverdippers01

Wild swimmers take the plunge in Peninver

Conditions were a bit choppier than they were in sheltered Campbeltown Loch when 10 members of South and West Kintyre Wile n Mild Swimmers Club took to the sea at Peninver on New Year's Day.

North Atlantic Ocean waves battered the hardy souls who took to the sea for a refreshing dook.

But the swimmers, who brave Kintyre's seas all throughout the year and are used to battling the worst elements of nature, took it in their stride.



North Atlantic Ocean waves battered the Peninver swimmers. KC_c01peninverdippers02



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



Living safely
this winter



FROM OUR FILES

TEN YEARS AGO

Friday January 6, 2012

Damage caused by strong winds

Machrihanish and Islay topped the highest gusts of wind recorded in the west of Scotland on Tuesday.

Throughout the early hours of Tuesday and into the afternoon, Kintyre took a battering, and wind gusts were recorded as 92 mph at Machrihanish at 8pm by the Met Office. Islay is reported to have been as high as 97 mph around the same time.

Roads were closed in some areas due to debris from beaches and the sea washing onto the road, with some buildings suffering structural damage.

The lead from many of the Ugadale Cottages at Machrihanish was blown off and Machrihanish Golf Club also received damage to the course caused by the sea washing seaweed and debris onto the course.

Electricity was off for most of Tuesday for West Kintyre and a lot of damage was caused to properties at the Sound of Kintyre.

The road outside the County Garage in Campbeltown was shut for most of Tuesday and boulders washed up onto the A83 at Tangy Beach causing the road to be shut temporarily as cars were struggling to get by.

Lifeboat rescues four

Four people were rescued from Davaar Island, near Campbeltown, on Monday afternoon after

being trapped by the rising tide. The all-weather lifeboat (ALB) launched under David Cox with six crew on board at 3pm.

The Y-boat from the ALB was launched once on scene and the two men and two women were transferred onto the ALB by the Y-boat.

They were then taken to the lifeboat pontoon at Campbeltown Old Quay.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Friday January 3, 1997

Kintyre snails are taken on board

Top quality food from Argyll and Lochaber, including Tayinloan, is being offered to visitors at the London Boat Show, which opened at Earls Court on Thursday, January 2.

Taking local food to the show is part of a drive by two local enterprise companies to promote the wealth of fresh produce available all from Scotland's west coast and help boost links between tourism and food and drink.

Top Argyll chefs and others from farther afield will be preparing a range of mouth-watering dishes utilising the area's products including oysters, venison, scallops and meat from Scotland's only snail farm based in Tayinloan.

In addition, there will be new products from the area including trout caviar, goats' cheese and fortune cookies.

Argyll and the Islands Enterprise, along with Lochaber Ltd, is staging up to seven cookery demonstrations a day at the 20-day show, which is expected to attract more than 150,000 people.



In 2012: Janette Jansson, right, from Southworth Development LLC's Ugadale and Cottages, presented Sarah Livingstone and Bill Roy from Laggan Opportunity and Amenities Fund (LOAF) a cheque for £25,000. The money will be used towards the village's play park. LOAF has managed to raise £98,000 of funds, including the donation from Southworth Development, match-funding from Argyll and Isles LEADER and a donation from Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA).

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A recipe booklet has been prepared and will be handed out to visitors to the Sail Scotland stand which features the AIE and Lochaber Limited Feast of Nature display.

As well as demonstrations, visitors will be able to sample oysters at a specially-created oyster bar and a range of other foods.

Speed cameras for Argyll's roads

Speed cameras could be installed on Argyll roads in a bid to cut down on speed-related accidents.

Argyll and Bute Council's roads director Alistair Gow told councillors that use of both fixed and portable cameras to detect speeding had increased dramatically in the last few years.

They had been pioneered by the former Strathclyde Regional Council which had paid for their purchase and installation with the police meeting the running costs. From the limited information available, an average drop of 20 per cent in injury accidents was being achieved where they were being used in the UK.

'A substantial proportion of injury accidents within Argyll and Bute are speed related and in view of the above statistics, remote speed enforcement could substantially reduce the occurrence of accidents of this nature,' he said.

'There are other types of equipment available which are not intended to operate as enforcement tools, but instead to convey a visual message to speeding motorists. This equipment has the advantage of raising driver awareness of the technology available, without the need to proceed with enforcement.'



In 2012: The road at the Machrihanish was covered in debris of large stones and seaweed causing problems for motorists trying to negotiate their way through the village on Tuesday after Kintyre was battered by storms.

FIFTY YEARS AGO Thursday January 6, 1972 A quiet New Year in the Wee Toon

The New Year in Campbeltown was celebrated quietly at the weekend.

Apart from a few breathalyser tests, police said the town was remarkably quiet. There were no

incidents of breach of the peace, assaults and so on. All was peaceful on Islay too.

No public houses or hotel bars were open to the public on New Year's Day, which undoubtedly helped to keep everything quiet.

There was one New Year's Day incident. A van belonging to the Rediffusion television company struck a wall on Low Askomill. Nobody was hurt.

The breathalyser appears to have retained its purpose.

All the burgh's taxis were kept going non-stop over the Christmas and New Year period and operators reported heavy bookings.

The West Coast coaches were also well used by people who sensibly left the car at home.

Shops were kept busy during the few festive days and licensed grocers sold big amounts of the 'cratur' and other alcoholic drinks.

Christmas and New Year Day babies expected at Craigard Maternity Hospital failed to arrive and the staff had a quiet time of it.

New Year at the big house

A large crowd of people of all denominations and from all over the country converged on Carradale House, home of the authoress Mrs Naomi Mitchison, to take part in the New Year celebrations.

This was the 33rd time that Mrs Mitchison had played host to a large number of guests at Carradale.

Politicians, government workers, farmers and fishermen all mingled together, danced, sung and sampled an excellent buffet.

Many Carradale villagers were also present.

Addressing the guests, Mrs Mitchison talked about the effects of the Common Market and fishermen. She has always been a worker for their benefit.

Mr Denis McIntosh, a close friend of the Mitchisons, replied and thanked her for the work she had done in the village, district, county and country.

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New year and new plans in the garden

It is the start of a new year and the start of the gardening season.

It is time to plan your planting and how you want your garden to look over the coming months, stock up on seeds and service any essential equipment such as lawn mowers and tools.

It is also a time for New Year's resolutions and here are 12 – one a month – that will make your garden super diverse and environmentally friendly:

- Use less plastic
- Plant a tree
- Start sowing seeds
- Plant something for fun
- Grow more vegetables
- Go green and have a go at organic growing
- Learn to relax and enjoy your garden
- Be more water aware
- Compost more of your garden waste
- Welcome wildlife
- Bring the outside in with houseplants
- Look after your tools

First on the list is using less plastic, something we are all

trying to do in our daily lives so it makes sense that we try to make our gardens as plastic free as possible.

The biggest 'bad boy' in any gardener's life is the plastic pot. It's estimated that 500 million plant pots and seed trays are sold every year and the majority are sent to landfill or are incinerated.

But there are non-plastic alternatives such as biodegradable pots made using materials like coir, wood chips, bamboo and rice husks.

A growing number of garden centres and nurseries use biodegradable pots, but it's worth checking out their sustainability policies.

You can also make your own pots using newspaper or toilet roll tubes.

And now is a good time to make your own supplies of biodegradable pots so you have stock for the planting season in a couple of months.

If you have got a supply of old newspapers to hand, simply roll a 15cm-wide strip of newspaper tightly around a glass



tumbler, leaving 5cm beyond the bottom of the glass.

Fold the excess paper across the bottom, then press the glass down to flatten the pot's base.

There is no need to fix your paper pot with tape, just slide it off the glass.

When ready to plant, just fill with compost.

Taking good care of existing plastic is a good way to ensure

you don't have to keep buying it – so reuse any plant pots you have again and again for new seedlings, cuttings and plants.

If you look after your propagator trays and lids, repairing them if they crack, they will last for several seasons.

You can also reuse compost bags to store compost or turn leaves into leaf mould.

The added bonus of recycling or reusing items in the garden

Gardeners are being encouraged to use biodegradable alternatives to plastic plant pots.

is that it also reduces cost – as does growing from seed rather than buying established plants.

Even in winter, you can grow something from seed, you just need a seed tray and a window ledge, or small cold frame or greenhouse – whatever space and budgets allow.

For anyone growing their own vegetables, January is great for sowing onions.

If you sow onions then, it saves the expense of buying onion sets – small bulbs – later, and you can have a much larger crop of onions in the summer.

Onions seeds do not have a long shelf-life, so it's best to buy new seeds each year.

Seeds will germinate between 16C and 21C, one or two weeks after sowing.

When large enough to handle, transplant to individual small pots and keep in a bright, frost-free place until April when they can be planted outside.

Varieties to try include: Setton – high yield, yellow skinned and good storage potential; Red Baron – a late

maturing red onion with globe shaped bulbs and strong taste; and Hybound – an early variety with bronze-brown skins which is excellent for long-term storage.

January is often the coldest month in the garden but there are still some things you can be doing to keep busy.

As the Royal Horticultural Society says, January might be the middle of winter but, as the days lengthen, the garden starts to grow.

It is a great time to plan for the coming gardening year and to order seeds and plants.

Enjoy the fresh air on dry sunny days, and check your winter protection, stakes, ties and supports are still working after any severe weather.

Also, put out food for birds and leave some garden areas uncut, a little longer, to provide shelter for wildlife in your garden.

Top three jobs this month: clean pots and greenhouses ready for spring, dig over empty or unused plots, and prune apple and pear trees.

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We believe that balance is what drives happiness and success

We believe that balance is what drives happiness and success and we aim to deliver a learning experience which is engaging and fun, giving every child the tools they need to pursue a successful life beyond school. Our young people enjoy an enhanced curriculum which provides enrichment and experiences beyond the classroom. From extra-curricular activities to life changing trips, coming to Lomond School opens the

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Community spirit

We say it time and time again but one of the best things about living in a small community is the kindness people receive in good times and bad.

Our hearts break for Emma McAllister and her five children, whose beloved husband and daddy, Roddy, died in December after he was involved in a car accident.

We admire Emma's strength in thanking the people who came together and did so much to help her navigate her way through such a difficult time.

Not only did Emma's friends and family support her but so too did many people she did not know on a personal level.

Similarly, the communities of Mid Argyll and Kintyre rallied round the families of Nancy Glen victims Duncan MacDougall and Przemek Krawczyk when they died in 2018.

We hope they will do the same now, after the conclusion of the Fatal Accident Inquiry into the incident, which will undoubtedly have brought back some traumatic memories for all involved.

It is not only at bad times that the community comes together – it was lovely to see so many people taking part in the annual Dalintober Dip For Dosh, helping to boost the project to return one of Campbeltown's most loved beaches to its former glory.

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The editor welcomes letters and emails for publication, however we reserves the right to shorten, amend or refuse to print them. Names and addresses MUST be supplied to indicate good faith, although details can be withheld from publication. Phone numbers, if available, should be included. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

Bringing our seas to life for future ocean ambassadors

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust has been inspiring children to cherish their marine environment for over 15 years.

More than 200 schools and 10,000 children have taken part in the charity's educational programmes since 2005.

Connecting young people to their marine environment is crucial if we want them to help protect it. It's so heartening to experience the children's energy, enthusiasm and awe when learning about whales and dolphins.

Our sessions are so important as they spark passion and interest in the local environment and encourage conversations about the actions that we can all take to help protect it, now and in the future.

Players of People's Postcode Lottery have supported the charity, raising £80,000 since 2017 to support the development and delivery of new and immersive learning experiences that bring the marine environment to life for children in coastal communities.

Our latest creative project, funded by People's Postcode Trust and Sea-Changers, has been to launch the best of their education sessions on-line, working with schools and home educators across Scotland and England.

Based around the trust's research expeditions, these digital sessions introduce the amazing diversity of whales, dolphins and sharks in Scotland and give children a glimpse into what it is like to work at sea, studying and protecting ocean giants.

Prior to the pandemic, every year school groups would join the charity's crew on board their research vessel, Silurian, as she was temporarily transformed into a floating classroom.

The famous yacht has now visited communities on most of the larger Hebridean islands including Mull, Skye, Islay, Lewis, Harris, Uist, Barra, Coll, Tiree and the Small Isles; as well as some of the largest towns along Scotland's west coast, such as Oban, Mallaig and Ullapool.

Raising awareness and aspirations for green careers features at the centre of the charity's education strategy.

Each year the trust runs dedicated research

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



This week's photograph was sent in by Graham Hall, from near Carlisle in Cumbria. Graham took it and several other nature photographs during a festive visit to Kintyre. If you have a photograph you would like to share, please email it to editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk or send it via the Courier's Facebook page.

expeditions for 16- and 17-year-olds on board Silurian.

These young adults gain hands-on experience monitoring marine life, including collecting data as part of the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust long-term citizen science project, which informs local and national conservation efforts.

Anyone can help the charity monitor marine life, by reporting their sightings of cetaceans – the collective name for whales, dolphins and porpoises – and basking sharks online.

The trust also offers guided field trips for schools, so that younger children can take part and experience the thrill of spotting seabirds and marine mammals from land.

Local wildlife is not only amazing to see, but

each species also has an important biological role to play.

By protecting whales and giving marine ecosystems the chance to recover, we can improve the health and resilience of our seas and in turn the climate and planet for us all.

We're really proud to support the next generation of ocean ambassadors and look forward to when Silurian can once again become a floating classroom and set sail for island schools.

In the meantime, teachers or home educators keen to take part in our online sessions are encouraged to get in touch by emailing info@hwtdt.org

Pippa Garrard, education manager, Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust.

Press policy

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Thought for the Week

When my brother was young, he wanted to be a fireman when he grew up. I wanted to be a ballet dancer.

He followed a very different path.

I have always had a love of dance, even to this day.

Did you aspire to be anything in particular?

And has your life gone in that direction or taken you elsewhere?

In Charlie Mackesy's book, *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*, the mole asks the boy: 'What do you want to be when you grow up?'

'Kind,' says the boy.

This simple but profound quote came to mind again this week as a group of us were talking about good and evil in the world.

It seems to me that the bad things make the headlines far more than the 'good news' stories.

Thousands, probably millions, of acts of kindness go unnoticed by anyone other than the person to whom that kindness is done.

Towards the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says this: 'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.'

As we begin a new year, for many it's a time to reflect on the year that is past.

I wonder what kindness was shown to you or by you?

And how do you picture the year ahead?

These past two years have been challenging in so many ways, and the next few months may not be so different.

But kindness knows no boundaries and perhaps it is a positive way to step into the new year – acknowledging the kindness you receive and going the extra mile to show kindness to another.

**Reverend Chris Fulcher,
Church of Scotland,
South Kintyre Team Ministry.**

GLENBARR

Village school voted one of Scotland's most scenic

Tiny Glenbarr Primary School, which has only six pupils, has just missed out on being named Scotland's most scenic school.

More than 20,000 votes were cast in a Twitter contest organised by Henry Hepburn, news editor at education resource magazine and website Tes Scotland, to highlight the stunning locations of Scotland's schools.

The competition attracted 46 schools and celebrities even got involved, re-Tweeting posts to boost votes during the few days of competition in December.

Despite having so few students, Glenbarr reached the nail-biting semi-final, just short of the final.

With views overlooking Ben Nevis, Lochaber High School won in the end, narrowly beating Morgan Academy in Dundee.



The view from Glenbarr Primary School has been voted one of the best in Scotland.

MID ARGYLL

Volunteers required to help with PCR testing

Volunteers are needed to help provide and expand PCR testing in several locations across the NHS Highland region, including Tarbert and Lochgilphead.

Volunteers will be co-ordinated by the

Corncrake numbers continue to decline

Corncrake numbers in Scotland are continuing to decline, the latest Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland survey has revealed, including Argyll's population.

In 2021, just 850 calling males were recorded across the 16 areas in the country where these elusive birds are found, down from 870 in 2019.

It continues a downward trend since the record high of 1,289 calling males in 2014.

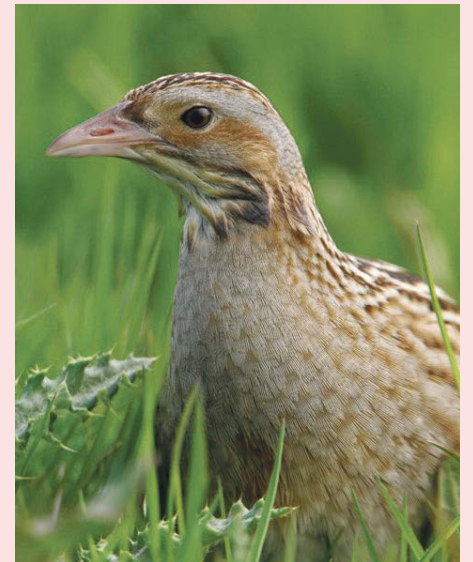
There are regional differences, however. In the Inner Hebrides, the population has plummeted by 12.2 per cent from 2019 but in the Outer Hebrides numbers are up by 9.9 per cent.

On Islay, the number of calling males recorded fell from 75 in 2017 to 26 in 2021, while on Colonsay and Oronsay the corresponding numbers were 36 in 2017 and 23 birds in 2021.

Mull had none recorded in 2021, but Iona saw numbers increase by four to 19 between 2017 and 2021.

Jane Shadforth, project manager for RSPB Scotland's Corncrake Calling project, said: 'RSPB Scotland will use these results to help target management for corncrakes in the right places, working with farmers and crofters through Corncrake Calling and to make best use of the Agri-Environment-Climate scheme.'

'The importance of island communities



Corncrake numbers in Scotland are continuing to decline. Photograph: RSPB.

in protecting this magical species cannot be underestimated.'

Due to their shy character, corncrakes are surveyed by counting the number of males making the distinctive 'crex crex' call during breeding season.

British Red Cross. Training will be provided in conjunction with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service which provides PCR testing at locations across NHS Highland.

As well as Tarbert and Lochgilphead, the Argyll and Bute locations where volunteers are required include Cove, Dunoon and Rothesay.

In the Highland Council area, volunteers are required in Broadford, Portree, Ullapool, Kingussie and Granton on Spey.

If you live in or near one of these locations and want to support the testing programme, visit volunteer.redcross.org.uk and type the location name into the search bar for more information.



Volunteers are needed to assist with PCR testing at Tarbert Fire Station.

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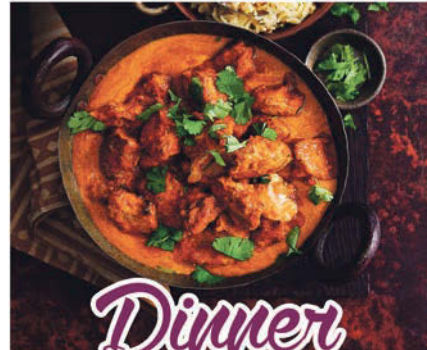
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Lochgilphead - Lochgilphead Baptist Church
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Argyll's own icy natural winter phenomenon

Often hidden from view among the forests of Argyll, a winter phenomenon is occurring thanks to the area's damp and relatively mild climate.

Hair ice is a type of ice that forms on dead wood and takes the shape of fine, silky hair.

It is believed to be caused by a fungus and occurs in hard and dead wood, although the reason behind its formation remains unclear.

The conditions for hair ice to occur are fairly specific, requiring just the right temperature, moisture and wood type – and it seems that the 'temperate rainforest' of Argyll provides just that.

Dr Phil Anderson from the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) first noticed hair ice when he moved to Taynuilt from Cambridge 10 years ago and has begun looking into the phenomenon.

He said: 'Hair ice is not that common but if you want to find it, Argyll is about as good a place as anywhere in the world.'

'I first noticed it in my garden; there was this fragile bit of ice sitting in the sunshine where it shouldn't have been. I've since seen it up Glen Lonan and other places locally.'

'I've worked in Antarctica and studied how snow hardens but I found hair ice formation absolutely fascinating. It's just weird!'

Dr Dorothee Gotz works at Lallemand Aquapharm, which has a lab at SAMS, and

shares an interest in hair ice formation.

Lallemand Aquapharm holds a culture collection that includes fungus and, as a microbiologist, Dr Gotz recognised that the fungus responsible for hair ice formation would be worth including in the collection.

She said: 'I saw hair ice for the first time three years ago in Sutherland's Grove, so I took a sample to add to our collection.'

'We don't know what is in it for the fungus – it has to expend a lot of energy to create the ice...'

'It's a fascinating bit of microbiology. A fungus that forms ice and degrades wood is certainly of interest and could potentially have industrial applications.'

Both scientists are keen to find out why this phenomenon occurs but say there is very little published literature on it, perhaps because it is so rare.

'We don't know what's in it for the fungus,' explains Dr Gotz. 'It needs to expend a lot of energy to create the hair ice and there is no apparent benefit to doing this.'

'Water is a problem for micro-organisms when it freezes, as ice can puncture the membrane. Perhaps the fungus is trying to expel the water



Hair ice is most likely to form on dead wood with no bark. Scientists are keen to learn more about the phenomenon. Pictured are various examples of hair ice.



before it becomes a problem.'

Hair ice is most likely to form on dead wood with no bark. It also forms on certain trees more than others and prefers hard woods such as birch.

'As a rough guide, if the gritters are out, then hair ice might

be out too,' said Dr Anderson. 'You're most likely to find it on a crisp, sunny morning after a clear night. The temperature has to be just below freezing.'

'If you have those conditions, keep your eyes peeled for frost or ice that shouldn't be there.'

Your great

We hope you enjoyed testing your knowledge in last week's festive quiz. Here are the answers:

History

1. South Uist.
2. Near the Butt of Lewis in the parish of Barvas, the remnant of a 5,000-year-old stone circle.
3. Davaar island at the mouth of Campbeltown Loch, where a life-sized depiction of the Crucifixion on a sea cave wall was painted in secret by a local art teacher named Archibald MacKinnon.
4. The Epidii, or 'horse people'.
5. Killin. Fingal's Grave is said to be where the mighty Fionn, or Fingal, was buried at the end of the Iron Age around 283 AD.

Bonus: Colonsay. Fingal's Limpet Hammers are a pair of standing stones, 10'8" and 8'8" high.

6. Lismore. St Columba and St Moluag. St Moluag cut off the little finger of his left hand and threw it ashore, thus claiming to have landed first.

7. Dun I – pronounced 'dun-ee'.

8. Many trees on Lewis were destroyed by Viking warrior Magnus III. The Outer Hebrides suffered vast deforestation, with Vikings destroying the tree population to prevent locals making boats.

9. Kenneth MacAlpine was crowned at Dunadd Fort. Kenneth I was King of Dál Riada (841-850), King of the Picts (843-858) and King of Alba, the two united kingdoms (843-858).

10. Dunstaffnage Castle.

11. On Iona, in the Ridge of Kings.

12. Alexander II of Scotland landed on Kerrera in 1249 to begin a campaign to reclaim the Hebrides from Norway. But he was taken ill and died in a field nearby, called Dail Righ, the King's Field. Alexander's son, Alexander III, regained the Hebrides for Scotland in 1263 after the Battle of Largs.

13. A well on the west shore of Loch Oich. Seven men's heads are carved round it in stone: seven brothers murdered their nephews.

14. The Jacobite gold was a large amount of gold coin provided by Spain to finance the Jacobite rising in Scotland in 1745 and rumoured still to be hidden at Loch Arkaig.

15. Lismore.

16. The Reverend Donald Caskie, minister of the Scots Kirk in Paris, born in Bowmore, Islay.

Science and Nature

17. A peak of volcanic rock, called tuff, on Canna's eastern edge contains so much iron that compass needles on nearby ships point to the hill rather than north. Hence its name 'Compass Hill'.

18. Strontium, a metal named after Strontian.

19. Descending: pheasant, grouse, partridge.

20. The Scottish or Arran Whitebeam, the Bastard Mountain Ash or Cutleaved Whitebeam and the Catacol Whitebeam.

21. Electricity, from a hydro station at the local aluminium smelter.

22. More than three miles away.

23. Taynish NNR, Glasdrum Wood NNR, Ariundle



Arran whitebeam, one of the rarest trees in Scotland.

t big festive quiz – answers



Davaar island at the mouth of Campbeltown Loch.

Oakwood NNR.

Geography

24. Bute, Coll, Colonsay, Danna, Easdale, Eilean da Mheinn, Erraid, Gigha, Gometra, Inchtavannach, Innischanon, Iona, Islay, Jura, Kerrera, Lismore, Luìng, Mull, Oronsay, Seil, Shuna (Luìng), Tiree, Ulva.

25. A Arran Mountains. B The Cuillin, Skye. C Arrochar Alps. D Grey Corries. E Mamores. F Paps of Jura. G Tyndrum Hills.

26. Scotland's nine firths are Clyde, Lorn, Pentland, Dornoch, Cromarty, Moray, Beauly, Tay, Forth. The Solway Firth borders with England.

27. The Treshnish Isles.

28. Both pairs are linked by bridges over the Atlantic Ocean.

29. The Hebrides Rocket Range on Benbecula, North Uist and South Uist.

30. A Inveraray, Loch Fyne (or Loch Shira). B Fort William, Loch Linnhe. C Killin, Loch Tay. D St Fillans, Loch Earn. E Fort Augustus,

Loch Ness. F Arrochar, Loch Long. G Tarbet, Loch Lomond. H Strontian, Loch Sunart. I Ballachulish, Loch Leven. J Bowmore, Loch Indaal. K Pennyghael, Loch Scridain.

31. Rockall, lying 301 km from Hirta in the St Kilda archipelago.

32. Kintail.

33. Down the Clyde.

34. The bridge where Glasgow Central Station crosses Argyle Street.

35. Two: Cape Wrath and Cape Difficulty in the Sound of Harris.

36. A Feolin, Islay. B Sconser, Raasay. C Tayinloan, Gigha. D Wemyss Bay, Bute. E Kilchoan, Tobermory or Drimnin.

F Fishnish, Lochaline. G Achnacroish, Oban. H Claonaig, Lochranza. I Cuan, Seil or Luìng. J Ellenabeich,

Easdale. K Kylerhea, Glenelg. L Portavadie, Tarbert. M Galmisdale, Mallaig or Muck.

37. Because of the Coastline Paradox, which causes the total length to increase each time you measure it with a smaller unit due to the extra features that can be measured.

38. Descending: Munros (at least 3,000ft high), Corbetts (2,500ft-3,000ft with a prominence of at least 500ft), Grahams (2,000ft-2,499ft with a drop of at least 150m), Hughs are 'hills under Graham height' – 'a hill with attitude, not altitude'.

A Ben More, Mull's highest mountain – Munro.

B Askival, Rum's highest – Corbett.

C The Pap of Glencoe – Graham.

D Ben Hogh, Coll's tallest peak – Hugh.

39. A Arran, Rachael Hedderwick. B Barra, Edna Windsor. C Campbeltown, Ernest and Mary Shaw, and Alastair Greenlees. D Tobermory, Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsay. E Oban, Mora Edith MacDonald. F Islay, Helmut Schrodler of Dunlossit II. G Mallaig, Henry Alston Hewat. H Kyle of Lochalsh, The Spirit of Fred Olsen. I Portree, Stanley Watson Barker. J Tighnabruaich, James and Helen Mason.

40. A Dubh Artach sits on a remote skerry 18 miles west of Colonsay and 15 miles southwest of the Ross of Mull, once part of a land bridge between Scotland and Ireland.

B Fladda is one of the Slate Islands.

C Wee Donald is the local name for Holy Island's inner



There is only one Campbeltown!

lighthouse, facing Arran, built in 1877 by David and Thomas Stevenson.

D Hyskeir (Oigh Sgeir) Lighthouse is situated on rocks approximately five miles south west of Canna and eight miles west of Rum. Manned until 1997 and one of the last lighthouses in Scotland to be automated.

E A stumpy lighthouse on top of 39m (128ft) cliffs on the remote east coast of Islay, McArthur's Head is located to the south of the entrance to the Sound of Islay, six miles (10 km) from Port Askaig.

F Neist Point is one of the most famous lighthouses in Scotland and can be found on the most westerly tip of Skye near the township of Glendale.

G Ruvaal or Rubh'a' Mhàil Lighthouse, on the remote

northern tip of Islay, marks the north entrance to the Sound of Islay.

H Skerryvore, on a remote island 12 miles south west of Tiree, is Scotland's tallest lighthouse at 156ft with a diameter of 42ft at the base, tapering to 16ft at the top.

41. Loch Rannoch, Loch Tay, Loch Earn, Loch Awe.

42. The Caledonian, the Forth and Clyde, the Edinburgh and Glasgow Union, and the Monkland, the last no longer navigable. The Crinan Canal runs nine miles between Ardrishaig and Crinan, through 15 locks and crossed by seven bridges and fed by seven reservoirs to stop it running dry.

Beyond Argyll

43. Lachlan Macquarie who left Ulva aged 14 to forge a successful career in the British army, becoming governor of New South Wales in 1809. Today hailed as the 'Father of Australia'.

44. False: Its original name Santa Maria de las Nieves, 'Our Lady of the Snows', was shortened to Nieves and anglicised to Nevis.

45. Attock, Punjab.

46. Calgary, Alberta, known as the 'Sandstone City'.

47. One – in Scotland. However, there are at least eight Campbeltowns and Campbelltons.

48. Stewart Island. Bonus: Ulva.

49. Mexico and Arizona in the United States.

50. Argyle.

51. Hobart.

52. Vanuatu.

53. They are all features on the surface of Mars.

Film

54. Harris.

55. From Russia With Love. The motorboat chase was begun off the coast of Turkey but problems led to it being abandoned and it was completed, along with the helicopter chase, near Crinan. Needless to say filming was hampered by bad weather.

56. Castle Stalker. Bonus: The Bridge of Death was filmed at the Meeting of the Three Waters in Glencoe.

Song and Dance

57. Eigg.

58. Staffa.

59. Strathspey and reel.

60. Two Highland broadswords or a sword with its scabbard crossed.

61. The mouth music tunes of the Highlands and Islands, often used for dancing when no instruments.

62. *Aye the Crinan Canal for me,*

*It's neither too big nor too wee,
Oh! It's lovely and calm when
you're frying your ham,*

*Or makin' a nice cup of tea
You can go for a stroll on its
banks,*

*To loosen your muscle bound
shanks,*

*You can darn your socks while
you're still in its locks,*

The Crinan Canal for me.

Folklore

63. Morag.

64. When the Fairy Flag is unfurled in battle, Macleods' enemies will see twice as many Macleods as there are in reality. The flag can only be used three times, and it has been used twice already.

65. Mckinnon's Cave.



Looking across from the rock shattered summit of Beinn na Oir to Beinn a' Chaolais, the lowest of the three Paps of Jura. Photograph: Iain Thornber.

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Teacher Catriona McLean with first year pupils during one of their beach cleans.

Pupils help clean up town beaches

First year Campbeltown Grammar School pupils collected a whopping 73kg of litter when they cleaned four of the town's beaches on GRAB Trust school workshops.

The total does not include large items that could not be weighed, including a shopping trolley, fishing creels, large tangles of

fishing rope and net and a door.

While the future remains uncertain due to an increase in Covid cases, anyone who would like to book a workshop for their school should email beaches and marine litter project education officer Kerry MacKay on kerry.mackay@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Young writers invited to explore Argyll's folklore

LiveArgyll libraries are seeking young writers to help tell the tales of Argyll's myths and legends as the charity launches its inaugural writing competition.

Open to all secondary school aged young people in Argyll and Bute, the competition was announced during liveArgyll's Book Week Scotland celebrations in November.

Budding young writers in two age categories are being encouraged to write a short story or poem, no more than 500 words, about Argyll folklore.

It can be about fairies, kelpies, dragons and trolls, or any mythical creature you can think of or create, as long as your tale is set in Argyll and Bute.

Bibliographic and local studies librarian Eleanor McKay MBE said: 'Let your imagina-

tion run wild and allow your writing to be inspired by the sights and sounds around you.

'We live in a land with a treasure trove of folk tales and legends that have been handed down through the generations. Many tales have been woven around events in history such as the crowning of kings at Dunadd, the Lords of the Isles and great battles between the clans.

'You can base your idea on an event or person from history, or it could be a re-telling of an existing legend. You can let your imagination take over and invent a new and exciting folk tale.'

Competition entries will be judged by a panel of liveArgyll library staff, with the winners of each category receiving a £75 gift card, certificate and a bound copy of their winning entry.



Mythical creatures, including the mermaid which features on Campbeltown's late medieval carved cross, are part of Kintyre folklore. 20_c31mermaidcross01

Runners up will receive a £25 gift card, certificate and a bound copy of their entry.

The top ten finalists will have their entries printed and bound and copies will be

available to view in liveArgyll libraries. Entries close on Friday January 28.

Find out more and enter at liveargyll.co.uk/liveargyll-libraries-writing-competition.

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Emma rounds up pupils for online sheepdog school

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

We've all become used in the pandemic to communicating using computers.

But now there's a novel new purpose for technology – training working sheepdogs.

The online sheepdog school is the brainchild of Emma Gray, well-known from the popular BBC series *This Farming Life*, with firefighter-turned-farmer husband Ewan Irvine and young son, Len.

Emma, 35, is a well-respected sheepdog breeder and dog



Ewan, Len and Emma are settling into life on Bute. Photograph: Neil Denham.

trial enthusiast and said it had always been a plan to start a sheepdog school in some form.

She explained: 'We have a strong Instagram following, and almost every night I would be asked sheepdog training questions and found it hard to explain to people what I meant online.'

'By using the medium of video I can show exactly what I mean and people can see how the dog reacts and progresses.'

'We never really knew how to put it into practise until a friend told us about a particular online platform. We

haven't looked back since.' Emma was born on a farm near Hawick in the Scottish Borders and has been training dogs since she was 11.

In March 2021 the family moved from Fallowlees Farm in Northumberland – where Emma had been shepherding since the age of 17 – to a larger unit on the Isle of Bute, running 600 crossbred sheep and a herd of native cattle, as well as breeding top-quality sheepdogs at Ardros Farm.

'We absolutely love life on the island,' said Emma. 'It's a dream come true for us and we

don't think we'll ever get tired of the view! The people have been so welcoming and it's really great to be part of such an amazing community.'

The sheepdog school is now up and running, with twice-monthly videos showing how to train a pup from start to finish and how to tackle problems along the way.

'I hope we get loads of pupils so we can help people to understand how to train a working dog to the best of their ability, avoiding the common pitfalls,' said Emma. For more visit www.sheepdog-school.com

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NFU Mutual provides police with 4x4 vehicle to help tackle rural crime

Rural insurer NFU Mutual has provided Police Scotland with a 4x4 vehicle to help tackle crime in the countryside as part of its support for the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC).

The Toyota Hilux 4x4 will be used by Police Scotland officers to crack down on rural theft, poaching and heritage crime.

While Covid restrictions have kept some criminals out of the countryside, thieves are returning and turning their attention to high-value farm Global Positioning Systems while quad bikes and all-terrain vehicles remain high on thieves' shopping lists because of their high value and portability.

Agricultural field engineering lead at NFU Mutual Bob Henderson said: 'By providing the 4x4 we want to support rural crime officers to do

their job, which often involves accessing rough terrain and remote locations. NFU Mutual has supported the SPARC initiative since it launched because it operates across Scotland and has a clear strategy to tackle rural crime through visible policing, sharing intelligence and involving farmers and the wider community.'

Inspector Alan Dron, Police Scotland national rural crime co-ordinator, said: 'SPARC is about genuine partnerships and this vehicle which has been gifted by NFU Mutual further demonstrates the desire of all those on SPARC to work together, being visible and helping to prevent, reduce and tackle criminality in Scotland's rural communities and environments.'

Over the past four years NFU Mutual has invested more than £240,000 to support SPARC.



Bob Henderson of NFU Mutual, Police Scotland Inspector Alan Dron and Andy Purvis, NFU Mutual, with the 4x4 vehicle provided to SPARC. Alan Dron holds the SPARC award for Best Team at the UK Combined Industries Theft Solutions Conference.

NFU Mutual also supports an agricultural vehicle theft unit at the National Vehicle Crime

Intelligence Service which co-ordinates farm machinery theft intelligence between

NFU Mutual, police forces, Border Force and Interpol. For more information on

rural crime trends and advice, visit www.nfumutual.co.uk/ruralcrime.

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One of the longest serving Subaru and Isuzu dealers in the UK, S & S Services is glad to be able to showcase its New Year offers. It has been a tough time for showrooms as consumers are facing price rises and shortages of vehicles due to a global shortage in semiconductors. Father and son team, John and Matthew Spicer are both excited to be returning and seeing some familiar faces.

John said: "We are so excited to be back and we are bringing some fantastic models to showcase. We have been supporting the people of Argyll for over 30 years, through three generations, and during that time we have formed many

friends and founded a trusted, reliable business. Come meet us at Tesco Oban this January."

When asked, son Matthew said: "We look forward to seeing customers and we have so many offers available. Tesco car park is a hub for the town and people are used to seeing us there. Come and have a chat with us to start your New Year experience the right way." S & S Services was first started by Brian and Dulcie Spicer in November 1979 from a small building at Sandyford Toll, Ayr. Brian and Dulcie's son John joined the family business and for almost two decades cars were sold, serviced and many friendships formed. The family

business was further enhanced when John's wife Lesley joined the business in 1997. It was in the latter nineties that the business had outgrown the location and it now resides in an impressive state of the art

showroom and workshop at Ayr. Now on to the third generation with Matthew Spicer, business has flourished to unbelievable standards meaning that S & S are now the top UK Subaru dealer, achieving Subaru

UK's dealer of the year status continuously from 2007. S & S Services are your number one for Subaru, Isuzu and Great Wall franchise, with a large stock of new and used cars at competitive prices



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DUNLOP - QUELCH
The marriage took place between Hugh and Rebecca on December 29, 2021 at Gretna Hall Hotel, Gretna Green.



KNIGHT-MILLAR
Both families take pleasure in announcing the marriage of Colleen, middle daughter of Robert & Elizabeth, Auchaleek, to David, only son of Gerald & Morag, Forfar, at Maryculter House Hotel, Aberdeen on 15th October 2021.
A wonderful day filled with lots of happy memories.

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Argyll and Bute Council

**EDUCATION SERVICE
EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1980
CHOICE OF SCHOOL AND REGISTRATION
OF INFANT BEGINNERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS
SESSION 2022/2023**



All children who reach the age of five years between 1 March 2021 and 28 February 2022 should register for education during the week commencing 17 January 2022.

Usually children attend their local school however parents can make a request to place their child in any school under the management of the education authority. This is known as a placing request.

P1 registration, including placing requests for starting in August 2022, will take place online using the council's website. Details of the link will be published using social media and on the website. If you are unable to access the online registration form please call your local school week beginning 17 January 2022.

A list of all schools and documents relating to registration can be found on the council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-and-learning/placing-your-child-school, this includes:-

- Gaelic Medium Education
- Denominational Schools
- Non-denominational Schools

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
21/01102/PP	Erection of 3 dwellinghouses and 2 flats. Installation of air source heat pumps, formation of access and parking arrangements and associated landscaping	Field Adjacent To Playpark, Isle Of Gigha, Argyll And Bute, PA41 7AD

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

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
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Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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

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

The Kintyre Development Company, the prospective applicant, hereby gives notice of a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be undertaken in advance of the submission of two planning applications to Argyll and Bute Council for prospective development comprising

- 1) detailed planning application for formation of a golf course, maintenance building, access arrangements and car parking, hard and soft landscaping and associated uses on land north of West Darlochan and south and east of Kilchenzie, Kintyre
- 2) planning permission in principle for the erection of a 75-bed hotel, restaurant and leisure hub, up to 50 lodges, golf clubhouse, golf shop, access arrangements and car parking, hard and soft landscaping and associated uses on land north of Clochkeil Cottages, Machrihanish, Kintyre


Further information in respect of the prospective development may be obtained by contacting Robin Matthew, PPCA Limited, 39 Dunipace Crescent, Dunfermline KY12 7LZ; email – robin@ppca.co.uk; telephone 07515 796974.

A public event which will include a presentation of the prospective developments and opportunity for public discussion with the prospective applicant is to be held at Campbeltown Town Hall, 54 Main Street, Campbeltown PA28 6AB on 19th January 2022 between the hours of 1pm and 8pm.


Any persons wishing to submit comments should submit these to the prospective applicant at PPCA Limited, 39 Dunipace Crescent, Dunfermline KY12 7LZ or by email – robin@ppca.co.uk; before 9th February 2022.

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

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ENGAGEMENTS

ANDERSON - LITTLESON - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Christopher, elder son of Iain and Angela, to Jennifer, youngest daughter of Peter and Margaret.



MURRAY-SEMPLER

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Ronan Martin, elder son of Martin and Sheila Murray, Derry, Northern Ireland and Ruth Mary, youngest daughter of Jim and Fiona Semple, Dalbhraddan Farm, Southend, Campbeltown.

DEATHS

BROCK - Peacefully after a short illness, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, on December 27, 2021, Mrs Flora Brock, nee Hardie, in her 94th year, of 13 Stag Park, Lochgilphead. Beloved and loving wife of the late Iain Brock; much loved sister of the late Mary Potts. A dearly loved aunt and cousin. A good neighbour and very dear friend to many. The funeral cortege will leave from Flora's home at 11.30am on Monday January 10, 2022, travelling along Lorne Street, Argyll Street and Bishopston Road en-route to Achnabreac Cemetery for a graveside service at

12noon. All friends are respectfully invited to attend

GLEN - Thomas Mitchell Glen. Peacefully at home, Tom Glen, aged 91 years of Roseneimhidh, Kames, Lochgair. Beloved Husband of the late Violet May Stuart. Dearly loved father of Christine, Moira, Alastair and the late Philip. Grandfather and Great Grandfather. A caring loving husband and father to his own and many other children in his care. A graveside Funeral Service will be held at Achnabreac Cemetery, on Thursday January 13, 2022, at 12noon. Family flowers only please. Donations to M.S Centre, Lochgilphead.

McKENZIE - Peacefully at her home, with her family by her side, after an illness borne bravely, on December 31, 2021, Eleanor McKenzie, nee Aitken aged 76 years of 3 Whitegates Court, Lochgilphead and formerly of North Lodge, Ormsary. Beloved wife of the late Peter McKenzie. Much loved and loving Mum of Alec, Isla and Lorna. Cherished Granny of Ross, Megan, Hayley, Kyle, Callum, Sophie and Rosie. Dearly loved Sister of Alick and the late Jimmy. Much respected mother-in-law of Kimberley, David and Charles. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service will take place at Cardross Crematorium on Friday January 14, 2022 at 12.15pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Mary's Meals.

McMILLAN - Peacefully at the Campbeltown Hospital, on December 28, 2021, Angela McMillan nee McShannon, in her 74th year, 98 Millknoe, Campbeltown, loving daughter of the late Donald and Olwyn McShannon, much loved sister of Brian, Gordon, Stephen, Elizabeth and Marie, a loving and much loved aunty and a special friend to many.

RICH - Peacefully at the Campbeltown Hospital, on December 29, 2021, Margaret Rich nee Girvan, in her 89th year, 9 Smith Drive and formerly of Meadows Avenue, Campbeltown, dearly beloved daughter of the late Charles and Peggy Girvan, much loved mum of Ann, Charlie, Ian and the late Margaret and a loving granny, great granny, sister and Aunt. Margaret's funeral will take place on Friday January 7, 2022 at 1.00pm in the Highland Parish Church. The cortege will leave the Highland Parish Church at 1.30 p.m. We will travel along Argyll Street, down Main Street and round the Cross on our way to Kilkerran Cemetery. Anyone is welcome to attend the service in the Church. Alternatively you may pay your last respects to Margaret along our route.

TAYLOR - Peacefully at home, Bayview, Southend, on December 26, 2021, Niall G Taylor, in his 97th year, dearly loved husband, best friend and companion of 57 years to Margaret. A dearly loved uncle and friend.

TODD - Peacefully at Mid Argyll Hospital on Friday December 31, 2021,

after a short illness. Mary (Myra) Todd, 93 years of Kingarth, Ardrishaig, dearly loved wife of the late Ian Todd, beloved mother of Carolyn & Claire and much loved Grandma to Lucy and Sophie, Alexander & Nicholas. Funeral service will be held in Ardrishaig Parish Church today Friday January 7, 2022 at 11am followed by the committal at Achnabreac Cemetery, to which all are welcome. In lieu of flowers we kindly ask for donations in Mary's memory to the Glenarary Ward or the Home Care team, all of whom provided exceptional care to our mother, at the services or via Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DOCHERTY - The family of the late John would like to thank everyone for their kindness and sympathy after the loss of John, special thanks to Rodger crooks and Donald MacDonald, Ian Campbell and the Stag hotel and the many people who lined the streets, also the family and friends that attended the service in cardross. Retiral collection for chest heart and stroke raised £200 also support from Lochgilphead red star

MEMORIAMS

McCALLUM - In loving memory of Muriel, who passed away January 7, 2018.

Your memory is a treasure
You are loved beyond words
And missed beyond measure
- Richard and Sharon xxx

CHURCH NOTICES

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Philippians 4:6-7
Join us on Sunday, 9 January at 11am for our morning service in the church. If you cannot make it in person, you can still join us online. To join the Zoom service, send your email address to officespringbankchurch@gmail.com and you will be sent a link to join us on Sunday via Zoom. Covid restrictions will apply in the building - masks and social distancing
www.springbankchurch.org.uk
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Contact phone number 01586 551237 - Church Secretary

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

LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH
Sunday 9th January
Morning Worship 11.15am
Gen 1 Triple C
Rev W Crossan
Everyone welcome
COVID Guidelines apply

ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES
Sunday 9th January
Hump-backed Pilgrims (Matthew 2)
Ardrishaig at 11:00am
Achahoish at 12:30pm
Wednesday
Time to Pause?
Ardrishaig Church Hall
12:45pm-1:15pm
Please note that Covid19 control measures apply at all Services (Distancing and masks will be required)

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH
Sunday 9th January
11.00am WORSHIP SERVICE
Jim Malcolm
More info at www.lpchurch.co.uk
Lochgilphead Parish Church of Scotland - SC016311

GLASSARY, KILMARTIN AND FORD PARISH CHURCH
Sunday 9th January 2022
11.15am
Rev Walter Ritchie
All very welcome
Please remember to wear a mask

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH
Sunday 9 January
Tayvallich Church
10am Morning Worship
Booking required
Tel 01546 870635
Covid restrictions apply. Further information can be found on the church website
www.northknappdale.org

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND WEST LOCHFYNESIDE (Cumlodden, Inveraray and Lochgair)
Sunday 9th January 2022
There will be a service in Cumlodden church at 10.00am led by the worship team. There will also be a service in Inveraray Church at 11.30am led by the worship team. Please remember that masks must be worn while in church

SALVATION ARMY



Sunday 9th January
11am Worship Service
11am Army Kidz
6.30pm Evening Service
Wednesdays 12pm Lunch club
7pm Make & Munch Craft Group
Covid 19 measures in place
If we can be of any assistance to anyone during this time please call us on 01586 552046 Major Ruth Russell
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Walking to wellness this winter

If you are looking for motivation to get out and about this winter, you may be surprised at just how little activity you need to do to boost your health and wellbeing.

Recent government and NHS studies across the UK have found that around a third of us are classed as 'physically inactive'. That means doing less than 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per week.

There is a lot of evidence that even a walk of just 10 minutes can have major benefits when done regularly.

According to UK public health chiefs, the benefits of walking include increased physical fitness, healthier weight and a 15 per cent reduction in risk of early death. And keeping physically active can reduce the risk of type two diabetes by 40 per cent; cardiovascular disease by 35 per cent; breast cancer by 20 per cent; colon cancer by 30 per cent and dementia by 30 per cent.

And if you have high blood pressure, diabetes or lower back pain, just 10 minutes of daily brisk walking can help the management of those conditions too.

This is reflected in statistics from medical journal The Lancet's 2020 Global Health Report, which suggest physical activity prevents 26,600 premature deaths in the UK per year.

And it's not just physical health that can benefit from regular walks. According to mental health charity Mind, 'being physically active helps people manage stress, anxiety and intrusive thoughts. It can also help improve self-esteem and mood'.

Argyll pairings in right gear for rally success

The final round of the Marshall Construction Scottish Tarmac Rally Championships saw two Argyll crews head north to the Milltown stages in Elgin.

This venue was being used for the first time in many years and was the culmination of a lot of hard work by the organising team.

A number of drivers and co-drivers were vying for the top spot in the important final championship standings.

In his Fiesta R5, Alister Inglis, from Stonehaven, had been dominant in the earlier parts of the season and was probably favourite to grab the overall championship.

Argyll, however, sent two crews into this final round with a realistic chance of causing an upset.

Lochgilhead's Jamie Miller, originally from Tayinloan – although now 'up the road' – is very much involved in everything that happens in Argyll rallying.

He and co-driver Ian McCulloch headed to Milltown with the best chance yet of clinching a championship in their Citroen C2 R2 Max.

Things didn't get off to a great start for Jamie with the car losing its brakes meaning they limped through a very slippery stage one and then, in his own words, 'drove like a pensioner' for much of the rest of the day.

What had been a brilliant season for the team was mildly soured by mechanical issues but Jamie takes some solace from finishing third overall for the 2021 championship.

It should be noted that Jamie's long-suffering co-driver Ian



Overall championship winners Alister Inglis and Colin Inglis in their Fiesta, with a full complement of wheels.



Left: Jamie Miller and Ian McCulloch in their Citroen C2R2 MAX.



Right: The trusty Metro belonging to Innes and Kirsty Mochrie.

sealed second spot in the overall co-driver's championship on the day too.

Father and daughter combo Innes and Kirsty Mochrie also took to the roads, travelling six hours to get to Elgin on the Friday.

Once again, the 'Mighty Metro' had defied the odds and embarrassed a lot of the much more expensive and powerful

machinery and they, too, were sitting on the start line of stage one of the final round knowing they could, with the right combination of results, walk away as overall champions.

A rare mistake on stage one saw the car bounce off a tyre or two but get away with it by missing the important components and only dislodging the light bar.

A steady run from there on saw the crew finish third in class on the day which was enough for Innes to capture second overall driver in the championship, while Kirsty capped a fantastic first full season with the overall co-driver's title.

Alister Inglis held on to the overall title spot, despite a hairy moment when the Fiesta

lost a wheel in the final stage of the day. That aside, it was a strong year for the driver.

Argyll rally fans are looking forward to a full 2022 season, Covid permitting, in conjunction with Dunfermline Car Club and the new main title sponsors Burnside Piling.

Words and photographs by Gavin Brown, West Coast Photos.

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Brodie bags coveted Taylor Tankard after New Year win

More than 30 Dunaverty Golf Club members turned out for the club's New Year competition, each one determined to win the coveted Taylor Tankard.

A dry day with a strong wind promised to make things difficult for the competitors in Sunday's competition - and this proved the case.

This was the second leg of the Christmas/New Year event and teeing off in the first group was Don Hardman who had won the first leg.

In the company of Neil Brodie and Alec Soudan, he set about winning the double.

Neil was in great form and took the course by the scruff of the neck by covering the



Club captain Graeme McLennan, right, presents Neil Brodie with the Taylor Tankard and the traditional captain's prize of a bottle of whisky for winning the New Year competition.

front nine in 34 strokes which included two bogies, a birdie at the fifth, a double bogey at the seventh and an eagle at the ninth.

With three bogies and one

double bogey, he managed 39 on the inward half from a nett total of 65.

Don had a steady round of a nett 70 to put him in pole position for the two-leg victory

but he would have a long wait for the result.

Ever consistent Keith Crawford reached the turn in 35 strokes and, with bogies at the 10th and 15th, he recovered with a birdie at the 18th to card another 35 for the best scratch score of the day.

Indicative of the tough conditions was the fact only four other players - Neil Brodie, Scott MacBrayne, Sandy Watson and Campbell MacBrayne - scored under 80.

In the doubles event, the two best nett scores were used to determine the winner with Don Hardman holding off a fast finishing Willie Ralston who got within three shots of

him. Two shots covered the next four finishers.

New Year result: 1 Neil Brodie 73-8=65; 2 Keith Crawford 70-3=67; 3 Matthew Ralston 88-20=68; 4 Don Hardman 82-12=70, bh; 5 Willie Ralston 88-18=70, bh; 6 Scott MacBrayne 78-8=70.

Scratch: 1 Keith Crawford 70; 2 Neil Brodie 73; 3 Sandy Watson 78, bh; 4 Scott MacBrayne 78; 5 Campbell MacBrayne 79.

Christmas/New Year result: 1 Don Hardman 62+70=132; 2 Willie Ralston 65+70=135; 3 Alex Arkell 65+73=138 and Keith Crawford 71+67=138; 5 Alec Soudan 68+71=139; 6 Hamish Kelly 70+70=140.



Colin Hanbidge, John Marrison and David MacBrayne preparing to tee off in the January 2 competition.



Campbeltown Loch dippers dive into 2022

About 70 hardy people plunged into Campbeltown Loch on New Year's Day as part of Dalintober Beach Regeneration Group's annual Dip For Dosh.

For more on the event, see pages 4 and 5.



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