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8-PAGE
GUIDE
INSIDE

Have a say on planned Dalintober demolition

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

Members of the community are now able to make their opinions known on plans to demolish six iconic but dilapidated Campbeltown tenement blocks containing 46 flats.

According to a proposal submitted to Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) wants to raze the structures at 19-9E John Street, 21-33 John Street and 1-5 Dalintober.

The housing association also wants listed building consent for the demolition of 17-21 Dalintober, 24-26 High Street and 20-22 High Street as part of plans to develop the site.

An options appraisal was commissioned by the housing association in 2019 due to a 'lack of demand' for proper-

ties on the estate. Other options, including mothballing and refurbishment, were not considered to be viable.

A statement lodged with the council in support of the demolition plans said: 'Documents prove that the significance of the Dalintober Estate has been fully understood, the condition of the buildings has been assessed by RIAS Accredited in Conservation professionals, the repair is not economically viable and that properties, even following the repairs and refurbishment, will unlikely be purchased neither by public or private sector due to the current demographics of the Campbeltown and oversupply of the flatted properties.'

'Throughout the years,

Continued on page 3.



Developers line up golf club expansion

Almost 650 people attended a consultation event to discuss multi-million pound plans for a new golf course and hotel and leisure development at Machrihanish Dunes Golf Club.

Kintyre Development Company Limited representatives and technical consultants present at the drop-in event were, back row, from left: Paul Kimber, Ross Wilkie, Ben Steele and Euan Dale, and front: Andy Hogan, Alec Milne, Greg Sherwood and Robin Matthew. For more on the plans, turn to pages 4 and 5.

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Fire service called as storms wreak havoc



The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was called out twice last weekend to secure sections of Campbeltown's Christmas lights after they took a battering during Storms Malik and Corrie.

On Saturday morning, firefighters were asked to safely remove lights which hung over Longrow, near The Crew chip shop, that had become loose during the blustery weather.

They were called out again late on Sunday afternoon when the large 'Christmas

in Campbeltown' light at the opposite end of Longrow also became loose.

Some members of the community expressed shock that the lights were still in place more than a month after Christmas, but the Campbeltown Christmas Lights group explained that it had arranged for all the lights to be removed at the weekend but, due to the anticipated high winds, that had been postponed.

The group added that the delay in taking them down in the first place was due to the equipment required by the contractor responsible for removing the lights each year being unavailable until now.

On Monday, the process to remove the remaining lights began.

It wasn't only Kintyre that suffered as a result of the

storms, which wreaked havoc across Scotland, with gusts of more than 90 miles per hour resulting in power cuts affecting more than 100,000 homes across the country.

In the Tayinloan area, a fire on a telegraph pole left 91 homes without power from 7.15pm on Saturday evening until around midday on Sunday.

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks representatives told villagers that the extensive repair works required, combined with the impact of the 'significant damage' across the country, was the reason for the slight delay in restoring power.

Further north, Oban lifeboat was called out in the stormy conditions to stand by as firefighters pumped water from a workboat taking on water at a jetty on Loch Creran.



The fire service was called upon twice over the weekend to secure the town's Christmas lights.

KC_c05storms01

And each time firefighters quickly made the situation safe. KC_c05storms03

Newspaper price increase

Week in, week out, your Campbeltown Courier is in your shops and online, reporting the news and sport that is important to you.

The last two years have been particularly trying for our communities and businesses due to Covid.

We believe passionately in our communities – the people and what is happening in them. And it is important to us that you receive the best value for money.

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

This week, the Campbeltown Courier goes up in price by 5p to £1 – the first increase in three years. Due to a rise in paper costs, we have had to make this difficult decision, but we believe the Courier is worth it. And we hope you do too.

Thank you for your support and we hope you continue to enjoy reading your Campbeltown Courier.

POLICE FILES

Vehicle defects

A 21-year-old man has been charged after the vehicle he was driving was routinely stopped by police on Glebe Street, Campbeltown, at 11.55pm on Monday January 24, and found to have tyres without the required amount of tread depth and non-operational headlights.

Breach of the peace

A 40-year-old man was arrested and issued with a recorded police warning after acting in a disorderly manner at an address in Glen Road, Bridgend, Islay, at 10.15pm on Thursday January 27.

Police are appealing for witnesses or anyone with information on the above or any incidents to phone 101 or anonymously call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Can you identify fearsome flotsam?

After seeing a photograph in the Courier of a Kemp's ridley sea turtle washed up on Gigha, reader Elsa Macdougall shared a photograph of her own rare beach find.

Elsa, who lives in Bearsden but is formerly of Tayinloan, discovered the washed-up body of a creature on the shoreline near Bellochantuy.

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

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

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

Do you recognise the animal?



Do you know what creature Elsa found washed up on the beach?

See next week's Courier to find out if you think the same as Elsa.

Consultation extension

Last week's story entitled 'Councillors asked to take note of education plans' stated that the consultation process, which started in November 2021, would finish at the end of January.

This has been extended by a month to Friday March 4.

A presentation of findings is then scheduled for the autumn of 2022.

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Councillor driven round the bend by roads 'apathy'

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

South Kintyre councillor Donald Kelly has written to the chief executive of Argyll and Bute Council expressing his concerns about 'a high degree of apathy' within the senior management team of the authority's roads and amenity services department.

Councillor Kelly, of the Argyll First group, made the complaint to Pippa Milne this week because he feels the department has made inadequate progress on three particular roads issues he has been highlighting for years.

But a council spokesperson told the Courier it has taken action on all three of the issues raised by Councillor Kelly.

The councillor's first area of concern is what he claims as the department's failure to engage with relevant local representatives to create a detailed report on issues related to parking and speeding in the Davaar Avenue and Meadows housing areas of Campbeltown.

In September 2021, the Courier reported Councillor Kelly's frustration at a lack of action a year after he pressed for a full traffic management review of the two streets, in the hope of changes being implemented, such as one-way systems and permanent enforceable speed restrictions.

'For any report regarding these housing schemes to be meaningful, they must include a response from the bus company West Coast Motors, emergency services representatives, the Argyll Community Housing Association and Fyne Homes housing associations, residents and Campbeltown Community Council,' said Councillor Kelly.

'The time it is taking for the roads department to prepare a detailed report is extremely disappointing and frustrating.'

A council spokesperson told the Courier it conducted speed surveys in the Meadows area in October, and was making arrangements to survey Davaar Avenue in the next couple of weeks.

'The results of these will be analysed and recommendations provided to councillors,' added the spokesperson.

'We also discussed the reports of speeding with Police Scotland who did not report any known issues.'

Councillor Kelly also said the department had failed to carry out a disability survey of Campbeltown's town centre streets and pavements in relation to dropped kerbs and stepped pavements and the impact they could have on wheelchair and pushchair users.

'After being told this was being done in meeting after



Councillor Donald Kelly is concerned about the roads and amenity services department's 'apathy'.

meeting, it is nothing less than scandalous for the decision to be reversed nine months down the line due to there being no budget available,' he said.

The council spokesperson told the Courier that it assesses any requests for dropped kerbs and responds to footway safety issues raised with the authority as part of its day-to-day work, adding: 'With the additional capital funding allocated to footways this financial year, a number of footway improvements, including drop crossings, are being taken forward across the council area.'

'Should external funding be available from national active travel funds then we can look at an overall audit across Argyll and Bute.'

The final issue of concern for Councillor Kelly is the

traffic management system, involving some new one-way streets in areas of the town centre, which was introduced in Campbeltown in October 2020, something the councillor has branded 'a shambles'.

'This was done without proper consultation, or a

half-hearted effort at best,' he said.

'What is in place now was meant to be temporary and was to be reviewed. Despite asking for a review and a proper consultation, this has still not been done.'

The council spokesperson said that it undertook a public consultation, including a drop-in event, as part of the process to introduce the new traffic system, and made changes to the plans based on public feedback.

'We are not aware of any significant negative feedback since the new scheme was introduced,' added the spokesperson, 'but now that it has had an adequate period to bed in, we do intend to review it over the course of this year, with a report to be provided to councillors.'

The new traffic management

system has been described as 'unfit for purpose' and 'dangerous' by some residents and business owners in the area, as traffic travelling south along Longrow, once the main route into Campbeltown, is now forced onto the newly one-way Burnbank Street which is home to a busy garage and vehicle rental centre.

'To direct traffic down one of the busiest streets in Campbeltown, which has a working garage on it, is sheer madness and is an accident waiting to happen,' said Councillor Kelly.

'The three issues I have continually raised should be treated as priorities and are vitally important to the community of Campbeltown.'

'The lack of response and action by the council is totally unacceptable and must be addressed immediately.'

Have a say on planned Dalintober demolition

Continued from page 1.

buildings have suffered from a degree of water ingress and dampness, with evidence of water staining, timber decay, mould growth and condensation.

'External inspection, undertaken by accredited conservation architects, highlighted a number of factors, such as defective roof coverings and rainwater goods, cracked and spalling render and open joints in masonry, contributing to the water ingress, dampness and mould growth internally.'

'Urgent measures to prevent further water ingress are needed in addition to the improvements to heating, ventilation and insulation.'

'However, even if this was economically feasible, the fundamental issue is that the properties are not fit for 21st century living and the current needs of ACHA residents. This is due to their design, internal layout, materiality and lack of amenities.'

The statement added: 'These buildings were built in a time of rapid post-war development with materials that were cheap to come by and to provide solutions to a major housing shortage. However, these materials are largely inflexible and unable to adapt to accommodate a standard of living that we expect of buildings today.'

'Bathrooms are small and many are unable to accommo-

date a standard sized bath.

'Closes are unheated, cold and dark spaces between flats and external areas are largely tarmac with no provision for individual garden space.'

'There is a strong opportunity here to tackle some of these challenges and provide not only healthy, habitable homes to support the retention and growth of this small community but support the transition to a low carbon economy.'

Argyll and Bute planning officers are expected to reach a decision by the end of this month. To view or comment on the plans, visit the council's planning portal at argyll-bute.gov.uk, reference 21/02738/LIB.



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Multi-million pound golf club

New 18-hole course planned to complement Machrihanish Dunes Golf Course



The proposed location of the hotel, clubhouse, restaurant and spa, professional shop and lodge accommodation.

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

Initial plans for a multi-million pound Machrihanish Dunes Golf Club expansion set to rival Scotland's top golf resorts have been revealed.

Ahead of submitting two planning applications to Argyll and Bute Council for the formation of a new golf course and the erection of a hotel and leisure development at the Machrihanish Dunes resort, Kintyre Development Company Limited (KDC) carried out a public consultation event at Campbeltown Town Hall in January.

KDC is a subsidiary of Southworth Development LLC, which is the primary owner, developer and manager of Machrihanish Dunes Golf Club, as well as The Royal Hotel in Campbeltown, and The Ugadale Hotel and The

Old Clubhouse Pub and Restaurant in Machrihanish.

The development company plans to build a new 18-hole, par-72 golf course to complement the existing Machrihanish Dunes Golf Course, as well as a hotel, clubhouse, restaurant and spa, professional shop and detached, semi-detached and courtyard-style lodge accommodation.

As well as being home to the clubhouse, the three-storey main block is set to feature a first floor function room, a ground floor reception and restaurant, and a basement pool and spa.

Almost 650 members of the public took advantage of the opportunity to discuss concept plans for the various elements of the planned build development at the town hall drop-in consultation event.

Representatives of KDC and technical consultants present



The three-storey main block is set to house the clubhouse, a first floor function room, a ground floor reception and restaurant, and a basement pool and spa and, below, the planned professional shop.



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Expansion plans to the fore

alongside hotel, self-catering, clubhouse, restaurant, spa and professional shop

at the meeting were: Andy Hogan, expansion project manager; Greg Sherwood, president of Southworth Golf; Paul Kimber of golf course architects Kimber and Glen; Alec Milne of GD Lodge Architects; transportation/flooding/site investigation consultant Euan Dale of

'I am excited about this project and what this can do for tourism in Kintyre and Campbeltown.'

Goodson Associates; environmental consultant Ross Wilkie of Brindley Associates; environmental impact assessment consultant Ben Steele of Heathfield Environmental Ltd; and planning consultant Robin Matthew of PPCA Ltd.

The representatives shared information including location, golf course and build development plans, and environmental impact assessment studies looking at utilities, roads and transport, flooding and drainage, ground conditions, ecology and ornithology, archaeology and cultural heritage, landscape and visual impact, and coastal processes. They also encouraged visitors to complete feedback forms, comments from which will influence the ongoing development of the proposals and be included in a formal pre-application consultation report that will form part of the planning applications.

Members of the public still have until Wednesday (February 9) to share their views with the developers.

Those who took feedback forms from the consultation event can post them to Andy Hogan, Royal Hotel, 1 Kinloch Road, Campbeltown, PA28 6AG or PPCA Ltd, 39 Dunipace Crescent, Dunfermline, KY12 7LZ.

They can also be emailed to Mr Hogan at andyhogan1977@gmail.com, or to Robin Matthew at PPCA at robin@ppca.co.uk.

Further information on the proposals can be obtained by contacting Mr Matthew via the aforementioned methods or by telephoning 07515 796974.

Speaking to the Courier following the consultation event, Mr Hogan said: 'I am excited about this project and what this can do for tourism

in Kintyre and Campbeltown, along with the prospect of employment and extra business for the local community.

'Southworth Development is creating a resort that will rival all in the business and I feel so proud to be part of it.'

The news was also welcomed by South Kintyre councillor Donald Kelly, of Argyll First, who said: 'This will be a fantastic project for the area and might just help our petition for a full-time ferry service between Campbeltown and Ardrossan which will be evaluated later this year.

'Improving connectivity between Campbeltown is vital whether it be by land, sea or air.'

All images on these two pages are from the consultation technical handout booklet and presentation slides and are courtesy of KDC and Southworth Development LLC.



The proposed location of the new 18-hole, par-72 golf course.



An artist's impression of how the new hotel block could look.



An example of a typical semi-detached lodge and below, an artist's impression of what a typical lodge courtyard would look like.



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Cinema dishes up plans for second 'Cans' Film Festival

Campbeltown Picture House has dishd up plans for a sequel to 2020's inaugural 'Cans' Film Festival.

The event, with its name inspired by the world-famous Cannes Film Festival, was launched two years ago to boost Kintyre Food Bank's reserves.

Instead of paying for a ticket with money, cinema-goers exchange items for the food bank for a seat. One item equals one ticket but people are welcome to bring more if they wish.

Cans of food, packets of dried goods, toiletries and treats are welcome but people are asked not to bring anything that is out of date or close to it or that will quickly perish.

'After the generosity of customers at the inaugural 'Cans' Film Festival in February 2020, we decided to make it

an annual event,' said cinema manager Ellen Mainwood. 'We feel now is the right time to bring it back.'

The second festival is due to take place in March, with four screenings of musical classics:

■ Saturday March 5: The Greatest Showman

■ Saturday March 12: The Wizard of Oz

■ Saturday March 19: Encanto

■ Saturday March 26: Dirty Dancing

Tickets can be booked online at campbeltownpicturehouse.co.uk or at the cinema on Hall Street.

Items for the food bank should be brought along on the day of the screening. More details will be revealed in the run-up to the festival but keep an eye on the cinema's Facebook page and website for updates.



Campbeltown Picture House staff, from left, Gemma Downie, Ellen Mainwood and Mhairi Hendrie with the items donated at the inaugural 'Cans' Film Festival.



What's new at Campbeltown Picture House?

Moonfall (12A)

In Moonfall, a mysterious force knocks the moon from its orbit around earth and sends it hurtling on a collision course with life as we know it.

With mere weeks before impact, and against all odds, a ragtag team launches a seemingly impossible last-ditch mission into space. NASA executive Jocinda 'Jo' Fowler teams up with a man from her past and a conspiracy theorist (Halle Berry, Patrick Wilson and John Bradley) to leave behind everyone they love and risk everything to land on the lunar surface in a bid to save humanity from annihilation.

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Third of Argyll households suffering cost-of-living crisis

A third of Argyll's households are suffering from the cost-of-living crisis, with the third highest fuel poverty in Scotland, writes Fiona Scott.

And energy bills are forecast to soar by 50 per cent in April unless the UK Government intervenes.

Kintyre Food Bank has already seen more demand due to rising energy prices, with October's axing of the government's Universal Credit £20 uplift, introduced in March 2020 to help people who were struggling during the height of the pandemic, putting even more pressure on household budgets.

A worldwide squeeze on gas supplies has led to many utility companies collapsing, as wholesale energy prices rose faster than the maximum tariffs they were allowed to charge.

Every six months, the energy regulator Ofgem reviews the 'energy price cap', the maximum price suppliers in England, Wales and Scotland can charge domestic customers on a standard tariff.

'The increase in the price cap in April could be as much as £700, and by next October, the cap could easily exceed £2,000,' warned Philippe Commaret, a managing director at EDF, the UK's fourth-biggest supplier.

UK households on low incomes will spend an average of 18 per cent of their income after housing costs on energy bills from April, projected the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Spiralling costs for electricity and gas have come on top of rising inflation and food prices, labour shortages, cuts to Universal Credit, and a looming hike of National Insurance contributions in April.



Councillor Rory Colville and Kintyre Food Bank chairperson Mary Anne Stewart in 2018; since then demand for its services has soared.

joint third worst with Moray, just below Highland and Na h-Eileanan Siar, according to campaigners Energy Action Scotland (EAS).

Almost a third of all households in Argyll and Bute – 32 per cent – are living in fuel poverty, a measure defined by the Scottish Government as any household spending more than 10 per cent of its income on energy, after housing costs are deducted.

Advice Direct Scotland (ADS), the country's national advice service, is running a debt advice service, moneyadvice.scot, and the £3 million Scottish Government Home

Price rises will hit the poorest hardest, in a country which already has more food banks (2,000) than McDonalds franchises (1,300).

The UK Parliament classed around 13 per cent of households in England as fuel poor, with 25 per cent in Scotland,

12 per cent in Wales, and 18 per cent in Northern Ireland.

Fuel poverty is a devolved issue and each nation has its own definition, meaning rates across the UK cannot be summed.

In Scotland's fuel poverty table, Argyll and Bute is ranked

Heating Support Fund, designed to prevent households falling into fuel poverty and help those 'rationing' their energy use.

A Kintyre Food Bank spokesperson said: 'We have noticed a big increase in footfall at the food bank over the last few years and even more so since energy prices started to go up.'

'We just want people to know that we are here to help. We offer a non-judgemental and confidential service and can also give advice about funds that are available to help towards fuel costs and food costs.'

The spokesperson also commended the generosity of the Campbeltown community along with the hard work put in by the food bank committee.

Visit the Kintyre Food Bank Facebook page for more information.



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



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this winter



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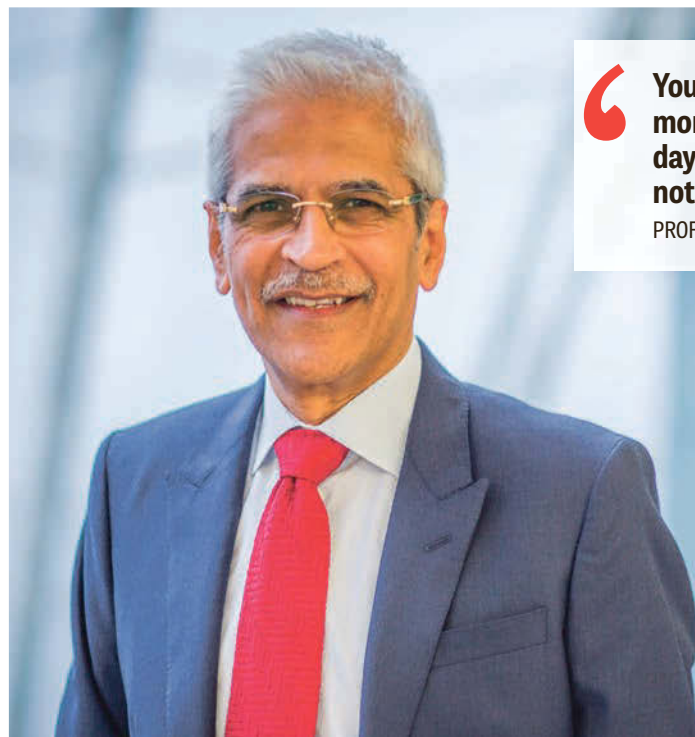
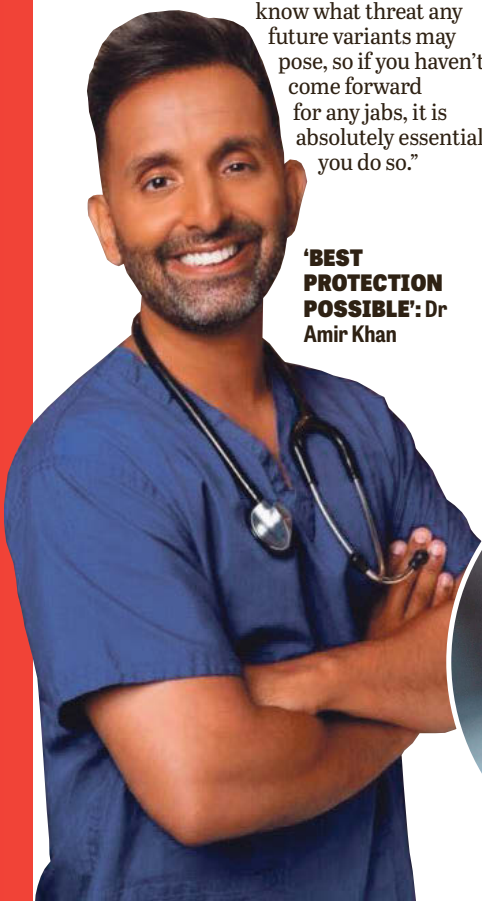
Experts reveal the facts

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

What protection does a booster jab give?

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

'BEST PROTECTION POSSIBLE': Dr Amir Khan



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

PROFESSOR MAHENDRA G PATEL

When can you have a booster jab?

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

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

'ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL': Dr Emeka Okorocho



'VERY CONFIDENT': Dr Jenny Jardine



GET BOOSTED NOW

GET BOOSTED NOW

about Omicron variant



Your booster jab is vital

- Every adult needs to get a COVID-19 booster vaccine, because two doses of the vaccine do not give enough protection against catching the Omicron variant.
- Check your eligibility and find out how to book at nhs.uk/covidvaccination if you are in England.
- If you are in Scotland visit: nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine
- For Wales visit: gov.wales/get-your-covid-19-vaccination
- For Northern Ireland visit: covid-19.hscni.net/get-vaccinated

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

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

Does a booster jab carry side effects?

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

How easy is it to get a booster jab?

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

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

How effective is a booster jab?

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

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

Everyone aged 16 and over now needs to get a COVID-19 booster vaccine because two doses does not give you enough protection against catching Omicron. To book yours and find out more visit nhs.uk/covidvaccination

All together >

FROM OUR FILES

TEN YEARS AGO Friday February 3 2012 Villagers toast station couple

A whole village turned out this week to show its gratitude to a couple who have gone above and beyond their normal duties as shopkeepers.

After 15 years of owning and running Clachan Filling Station, Cathy and Calum McLean have passed on the reins to a Lochgilphead couple.

The McLeans have always gone out of their way for the villagers and visitors, and were thanked for their hard work and kindness over the years when the whole village turned out on Tuesday evening.

Calum and Cathy were originally from Islay and have lived in Clachan for 35 years. They first came to Clachan when Calum was in the Merchant Navy.

The couple also carried out a milk run in Tarbert for four years and when the opportuni-

ty came to take over the shop they took it.

Cathy said they were so grateful for everyone's support and custom over the years: 'We feel it is the right time and we want time to do things that we don't get time to when we are running a full-time business.'

Taking over will be Rhian Thomas and Eilwyn Davis from Lochgilphead.

Running a petrol station is second nature to Rhian as her family owned one during her time growing up in Wales.

Some may know her from her time as a West Coast Motors bus driver in Ardrishaig.

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO Friday February 7 1997

Brass band takes fight to the top

The 50-strong Campbeltown Grammar School Brass Band took its case for survival directly to the corridors of power at Argyll and Bute Council this

week. As well as impressing councillors and top officials with their virtuosity, the band members handed over a petition with more than 3,300 signatures from local people hoping to save the band.

Council leader Dick Walsh thanked them for giving him the 'privilege of sampling the excellence' of their music, and said that the 3,374-signature petition - collected in just around a fortnight in Kintyre - would be sent to Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth to underline the council's case for extra finance.

Scrapping instrumental music tuition - saving £183,000 - is one of a raft of education cutbacks under consideration as the council struggles to reduce its spending by over £8 million to meet government financial limits.

In Kintyre alone, the move would spell the death knell for five bands including the school brass band which currently holds the Scottish Youth Champions title.

The band's conductor, Mr Gordon Evans, who has received an MBE for services to

music in Kintyre, is one of 22 full-time and part-time staff throughout Argyll and Bute whose jobs are now on the line.

Percussionist Graham Fuge, 18, one of the principal organisers of this week's council concert, said that there was 'massive opposition' in Campbeltown to the cutbacks and pointed out how inter-linked facilities were in a rural area.

He said that Campbeltown's community education centre, which could also face closure, was used by the bands for practising and music tuition was often started in primary schools, yet school closures were another cutback option under consideration in Argyll. 'We are here basically to represent everyone in Campbeltown,' he affirmed.

And Graham added: 'This is not just a school band; it's a town band for a whole community. There isn't another brass band for at least 100 miles so its loss would mean the end of brass banding in the area and I don't think the movement can stand that.'

On February 16 the band will



take part in the British Youth Finals and although its fate was finally to be decided in the council's crucial finance committee meeting, scheduled for February 18, the meeting has now been postponed until

later this month. Graham added that the band 'could return to Scotland holding the British Championship title'.

Councillor Walsh said that the move of postponing the finance meeting would give

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In 1997, members of the award-winning Campbeltown Grammar School Brass Band played and protested at Kilmory Castle in Lochgilphead, the headquarters of Argyll and Bute Council, and handed over a 3,374-signature petition against council cuts.

'The Courts will certainly do all they can to stop this kind of thing and to make it possible for decent young people to enjoy themselves without having their evenings spoiled by drunken young hooligans.'

Second term

The reappointment of Mr

Andrew Smith, Drumore Farm, Campbeltown, as president of Kintyre Agricultural Society is a tribute to his popularity and drive within the society.

Mr Smith is a well-known Kintyre dairy farmer, with one of the largest Ayrshire herds in the county.

This year, to mark HM Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we are featuring excerpts from The Courier of 1952, instead of our usual 100 years ago, to share how Kintyre celebrated the beginning of her remarkable reign. Make sure you see next week's edition for our coverage of the death of King George VI on February 6 1952 and the traditional proclamation of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II at Campbeltown Cross.

the authority more time to investigate financial options and to continue with its campaign to convince Mr Forsyth of the strength of the council's case for an increased financial allocation.

FIFTY YEARS AGO Thursday February 3 1972

Snow cancels BEA Viscount flight

The Campbeltown area had its heaviest snowfall of the winter early on Tuesday morning.

By 9am, burgh streets were under about four inches and a south-easterly wind causing drifting in many parts.

Worst hit by the snow was the Carradale road at Peninver.

School pupils from the village had an unexpected day off when the school coach could not get through. Other pupils were given the afternoon off.

Roads to Southend, Machrihanish and West Coast villages were difficult but were kept open. Mail and bread supplies arrived in the town only minutes late.

BEA's daily flight from Glasgow was cancelled due to drifting snow on the runway at Machrihanish and poor visibility.

Another record for Belle

Southend's Belle Robertson, Britain's number one woman golfer, has added another award to her already impressive total. She was recently named Usher-Vaux Sportswoman of the Year.

Belle, as well as becoming British stroke play champion,

won the Scottish championship for the third time, the New Zealand title, and was named British woman Golfer of the Year.

Later this year she will play for the British Isles in the Curtis Cup match against the United States at Western Gailes.

The awards were presented by Mr Douglas Nicholson, chairman of Usher-Vaux Breweries.

SEVENTY YEARS AGO Thursday February 7 1952

Hardly a dance without court sequel

Sheriff J Aikman Smith fined a 21-year-old man £3 or 20 days (jail) after he admitted threatening violence and committing a breach of the peace at the Victoria Hall, Campbeltown on December 22 the previous year.

The court heard the man was taken in charge and asked to desist following a disturbance at the dance, but 10 minutes later he became troublesome and while police officers were escorting him up the Main Street, he continued to shout and used absolutely filthy language.

The accused told the Sheriff that he blamed 'the stuff we were drinking'.

The Sheriff, after imposing the penalties, stated: 'There are far too many of these disturbances at dances in Campbeltown.'

'There hardly seems to be a dance in Campbeltown which does not have a result in this court or in the Burgh Police Court.



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Destined for demolition?

According to reports, the tenements at John Street, High Street and Dalintober that ACHA plans to raze are in very poor condition, suffering the effects of water ingress and dampness.

The sensible decision, therefore, would probably be to demolish them, but that would no doubt be very upsetting for many Campbeltown families who have called the buildings home for decades.

Although they are only bricks and mortar, the buildings will hold special memories for many town residents and expats.

If the walls could talk, they'd tell of tenants new and old, of birthdays, weddings, the birth of babies and other happy family occasions, as well as many not so happy events.

If you have an opinion on the demolition plan, make sure to send a comment to Argyll and Bute Council via its planning portal.

Similarly, make sure your voice is heard if there is another consultation held regarding the town centre traffic management system, which is causing concern for Councillor Donald Kelly, residents and business owners in the area. Complaints about some of the new traffic measures are made on an almost daily basis, but unless they are officially registered with the relevant authorities, they will never effect change.

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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.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



Kintyre and Islands councillor Alastair Redman took a break from his hectic schedule to capture this glorious sunrise on his mobile phone from the Strand, the longest mostly uninterrupted sandy beach on Islay, while on his way to visit constituents in Port Ellen.

If you have a photograph you would like to share, please email it to editor@campbeltown-courier.co.uk or get in touch via the Courier's Facebook page.

U-turn on silage wrap tax is welcomed

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

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

Our farmers and crofters have had to face many challenges recently and the last thing they need is to be punished for producing silage.

Food security and employment must always come first.

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

British farming is among the most sustainable and environmental in the world and needs no

lessons from urban-based bureaucrats as to what is good for our countryside.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Kintyre and the Islands.

Commemorating loved ones on 80th year of RAF Regiment

With February 2022 marking 80 years since the formation of the RAF Regiment, the ground fighting force of the RAF, I wanted to share my family's story to highlight the sacrifice the brave individuals of the Regiment have made over the past eight decades.

Fourteen years ago, I lost the most amazing person I had ever met, my husband and best friend Gary Thompson.

Gary was a reservist with the Royal Auxiliary Air Force and was deployed to Afghanistan in February 2008.

He was a proud RAF Regiment gunner, and very proud to serve his country.

My life and the lives of our five daughters changed forever when I heard the heart-break-

ing news that Gary had been killed. His vehicle had hit a landmine, killing Gary and his friend, Livi.

The driver and commander survived but they were severely injured. Gary was 51.

In the wake of this devastating loss, the RAF Benevolent Fund came to our assistance and helped my daughters financially through university.

That prompt and unconditional support was the foundation upon which we could begin to rebuild our lives. Knowing that the fund was there for us gave me such a sense of assurance for our future.

In honour of the RAF Regiment's 80th anniversary, the RAF Benevolent Fund has launched a dedication page where members of the public can thank, commemorate and celebrate all those who served and are serving in the RAF Regiment.

Visit rafbf.org/regimentdedication to share stories and memories of your loved ones.

Jacqui Thompson,
RAF Benevolent Fund ambassador.

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Thought for the Week

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Springbank Church.

Islay's beauty inspires Argyll composer

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

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

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

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

Helen, who grew up in Lochgilphead, explained: 'It was a privilege to record with Scotland's national orchestra. The musicians and conductor, David Watkin, breathed glo-



Composer Helen MacKinnon has been inspired by Islay's beautiful landscape.

Photograph: Fraser Band.

rious life into the work, which takes us on a musical journey around the island.

'Due to Covid, we had a cross-Atlantic recording team, with technology connecting a producer in Boston with a team on the ground in Glasgow. It was a fascinating experience.'

The new orchestral work was inspired by Islay's stunning natural environment,

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

Helen added: 'The work centres around The Rinns - a beautiful peninsula overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. My father used to talk about The Rinns of Islay, and as a child, I started to create stories and soundscapes linked to the island.'

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

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

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

Helen is delighted with feedback so far: 'I'm thrilled with audiences' responses to the music. Listeners have tuned in from across the UK, the USA and as far afield as New Zealand, keeping Scotland on the international map for new music.'

GIGHA



Conservation volunteers clearing woodland to make way for new planting on Gigha.

Calling all conservationists

Nature lovers have been asked to get involved

in looking after the unique landscape of Gigha through volunteering with the island's ranger service. One morning each month volunteers carry out conservation tasks on the island's natural heritage.

Activities include ditch maintenance, tree planting, bird-box making, rhododendron removal, plantation maintenance and beach cleans. The sessions take place on the third Friday of each month, include tea and coffee and can be signed up for at gigha.org.uk.

The Isle of Gigha Ranger Service is working on habitat management in the woodland that is home to the new path on Achamore Farm. This aims to increase the variation of the woodland's structure by encouraging a mosaic habitat that will support everything from insects and butterfly species to bird life. Spaces in the woodland are being cleared of invasive and abundant vegetation - as well as mountains of

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

ISLAY

Algae warning

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why should a business accept the vouchers?

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

Are you wanting to love Oban more?

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

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

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'Slow progress on healing process'

But NHS Highland says it is 'listening and learning'

More than 200 financial payouts have been made so far as part of NHS Highland's healing process.

But progress towards a positive workplace culture has been limited, with the need for a clearer vision, authentic feedback and real evidence of positive change on the ground – according to an anonymous HR employee.

According to the source there have been 'lots of platitudes but little substance'.

'The healing process is making very slow progress, despite reassurances to the NHS Highland board,' they continued. 'It's been two and a half years since the first Sturrock action plan was produced and very little has altered on the ground. Soundbites in board papers don't make for tangible change.'

'The culture programme aims to deal with some people

process issues, but does nothing to address the values and behaviours demonstrated by senior HR staff over the years; several were named within participants' personal statements as having supported the prevailing toxic culture and actually contributed harm to staff. These senior staff need to be the subject of an investigation.'

In an update at the start of this year, NHS Highland's director of people and culture Fiona Hogg said 103 apologies written personally by its chief executive have also been made to those harmed by experiences of bullying and inappropriate behaviour while working at NHS Highland. At the time of her update, there were 283 active participants going through the healing process.

'We've supported healing through our partner Validium,

including delivery of 233 assessments, 47 support calls, and with tailored psychological therapies authorised for 172 current and former colleagues,' she said, adding: 'We also provided 103 apologies which are personally written by our chief executive and 203 financial payments have been made up so far, with 237 people having an outcome from the process, with a further 46 still in progress.'

Three organisational learning reports have been provided by an independent review panel, which have been reported to the board and progress is being tracked on the actions.

NHS Highland's 24/7 Independent Speak Up Guardian Service supported 195 colleagues from December 2020 to November 2021 and is also supporting the administration and reporting of the Whistleblowing

Standards launched in April. The 24/7 Employee Assistance Programme, run by Validium, engaged with 169 staff between January and October 2021, for counselling, advice and support.

'These confidential and easy-to-access services have been well received and complement our other routes to raise concerns and be supported,' said Ms Hogg.

As part of a 'listening and learning' survey, more than 4,200 NHS Highland staff responded, with 16,000 individual comments to be analysed.

'We're now working on what our colleagues told us,' Ms Hogg said. 'Listening needs to be always on, so we are following that up with executive visits to key locations.'

Priorities are the wellbeing plan and rolling out 'civility saves lives', along with work on diversity and inclusion.

Make community defibrillators VAT free, pleads MSP

Argyll and Bute MSP Jenni Minto wants community defibrillators to be made VAT exempt.

Ms Minto has written to seek Scottish Government support.

She has sent a letter to Scottish Government cabinet secretary for finance and the economy Kate Forbes asking for support in her campaign to give lifesaving community defibrillators VAT exemption.

Research from the British Heart Foundation has found that survival chances from a cardiac arrest can double with successful CPR, but every minute that passes without defibrillation reduces the chance of survival by 10 percent.

Currently, defibrillators are funded through community fundraising, local initiative and business support. However, those who look to buy one are still hit with 20 per cent VAT charges, despite other medical equipment being exempt.

'I know that the cabinet secretary is open to supporting this campaign and hope she will now write to the Chancellor Rishi Sunak to ask that this exemption is granted.'



Jenni Minto MSP wants community defibrillators to be exempt from VAT.

51_a25JenniMinto02

Ms Minto said: 'That life-saving defibrillators are not exempt from VAT is wrong. We must do all we can to promote the need for defibrillators everywhere, particularly close to our homes and the removal of this additional cost could go a long way.'

'I know that the cabinet secretary is open to supporting this campaign and hope she will now write to the Chancellor Rishi Sunak to ask that this exemption is granted.'

Health overspend £1.3 million less than predicted

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

The area's health and social care partnership (HSCP) had predicted a £1.6 million overspend after three

months of the financial year, which began in April.

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

As of the end of November, the

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

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

HSCP's head of finance and

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

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

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



No mortgage? Try the loan fund

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mortgages

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

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

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



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

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



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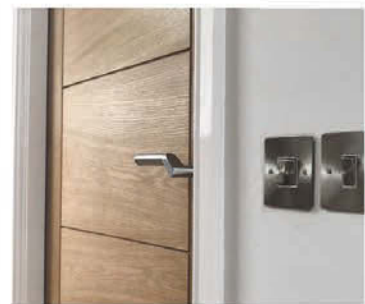
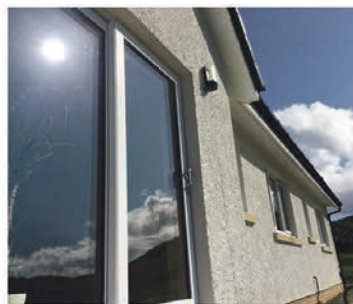
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As a family run business they are passionate about everything that they do and timber kit supply is at the heart of that. You can choose one of their own quality house designs or work with them on your own bespoke designs. MacLeod Construction Ltd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

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



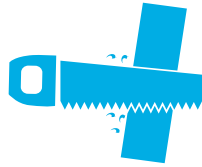
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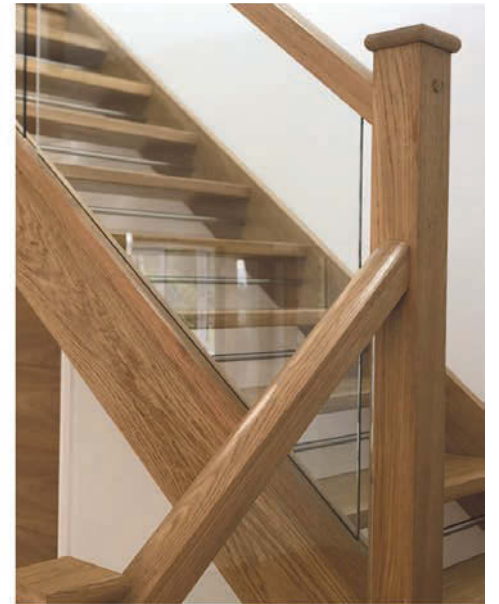
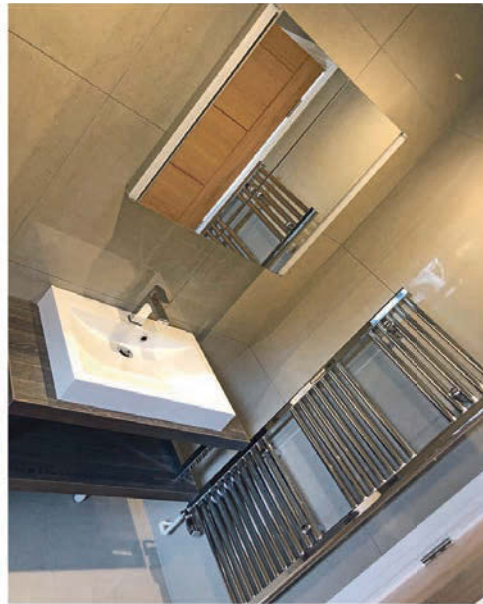
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a timber frame kit. We ensure that our designs are energy efficient through high levels of insulation, double glazing and are adapted for the latest in renewable technologies. We offer kit supply nationwide for self-build or a full build service in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

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Land, plans and permission

Get plotting!

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

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

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

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

The importance of an architect

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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



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

Perfect planning

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

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

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

Beat the heat bill

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

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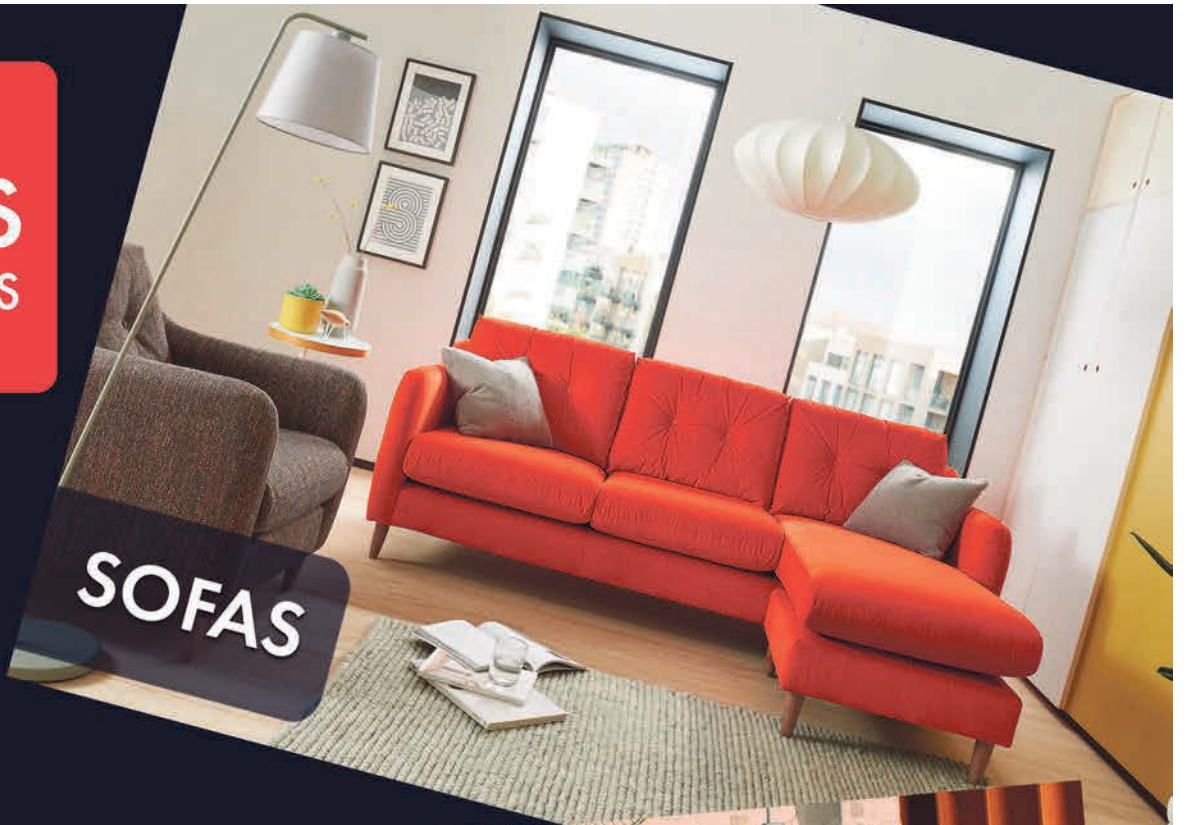
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New agroecology learning programme

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

and crofters, and within the wider industry.

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

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

In support of growing aware-

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

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

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

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

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

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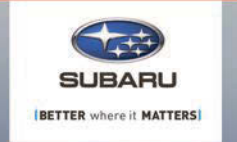
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In line with our Equality and Diversity policy, West Highland College UHI is committed to ensuring that all candidates are treated on the basis of their merits and abilities, and that unfair and unlawful discrimination is eliminated. We positively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



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MOWI



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Ref No: WHC LB 03

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

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

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

Location: Fort William

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

Working Hours: 27 hours 25 minutes per week

Fixed Term Contract for 39 weeks, paid over 52 weeks

(starting August)

Closing Date: 27th February 2022

Interviews: 9th March 2022

How to Apply:

For an application form and further details visit our website

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

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



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Please apply with CV to:
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

The applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Having regard to Schedule 6, Part 3, s10 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020, documents are only available to inspect electronically at this time. Customers requiring assistance can contact us by e-mail: planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk or tel. 01546 605518.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

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

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

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MID ARGYLL TRANSPORT VOLUNTEERS

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

Kintyre Blackface Breeders Association

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

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ENGAGEMENT

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

DEATHS

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

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

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

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

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

LAFFERTY - All Jenny's family would

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

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

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

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

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

MEMORIAM

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



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


CHURCH NOTICES

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

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday services 10 am Saddell and Carradale Church SC002609
10 am Highland Church, Campbeltown SC002493
11.30am Southend Church SC005484
Covid 19 restrictions apply
Ministers Revd Steve Fulcher
Revd Christine Fulcher
01586 830504
www.kintyreparishes.org.uk

ST. MARGARET'S RC CHURCH
Lochgilphead
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ALL SAINTS INVERARAY
Holy Mass Sunday 12.30pm
Fr Henry Nkob
01546602380
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CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH
George Street, Campbeltown

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

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

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday Worship
10 am Skipness (SC004280)
11.30 am Tarbert (SC002622)
Covid guidelines apply
Minister Rev Lyn Peden
Tel: 01880 820158

ST. KIERAN'S, ST. JOHN STREET, CAMPBELTOWN
01586 552160
campbeltown@rcdai.org.uk
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Sundays, Holy Mass, 10am
Most liturgies live streamed.
https://www.facebook.com/campbeltownrcchurch
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Parish Priest: Fr. A. Wood

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

ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES
Sunday 6th February
Psalm 138
Ardrishaig at 11:00am and Achahoish at 12:30pm
Wednesday
Time to Pause?
Ardrishaig Church Hall 12:45pm-1:15pm
Please note that Covid19 control measures apply at all Services (Masks are required)

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH
Sunday 6th February
11.00am Worship service
More info at
www.lpchurch.co.uk
Lochgilphead Parish Church of Scotland
SC016311

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

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

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND WEST LOCHFYNESIDE (Cumlodden, Inveraray and Lochgair)
Sunday 6th February 2022
There will be a Communion service
In Cumlodden church at 10.30am
Led by the Rev. Dorothy Wallace
Masks must be worn when attending either church.
Charity No: SCO16665

SALVATION ARMY

Sunday 6th February
11am Worship Service
11am Army Kidz
6.30pm Evening Service
Wednesdays 12pm Lunch club
7pm Make & Munch Craft Group
Covid 19 measures in place
If we can be of any assistance
to anyone during this time please call us on 01586 552046 Major Ruth Russell
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Club members saddle up for pony care coaching



Members of Argyll South Pony Club saddled up for a lesson in pony care at the Rhoin Farm near Campbeltown on Sunday.

The club held an unmounted rally at the farm where Sheila MacCallum and Mairi Ralston taught the young riders how to prepare their ponies for travelling and how to load and unload them safely into trailers.

The importance of correctly fitting saddles and bridles was stressed and there were lots of practice tasks to check that all the lessons taught during the day had been well learned.

'It was a very successful day and the club is looking forward to many more in 2022,' said a spokesperson.

Their smiling faces show how much the youngsters enjoyed their coaching in pony care.

The young club members carried out lots of practice tasks to check the day's lessons had been well learned.



Bob meets Scotland football captain

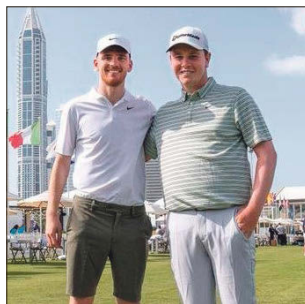
Oban's Bob MacIntyre was pleased to finally meet Scotland football captain Andy Robertson in the United Arab Emirates ahead of last week's Slynco Dubai Desert Classic.

The Liverpool defender and the 25-year-old from Oban had exchanged messages via text and over social media but had never met in person.

The Burns Day get-together took place at the back of the practice area at Emirates Golf Club after the pair had played in the first of two pro-ams ahead of last week's Slynco Dubai Desert Classic.

Andy said: 'Golf is a hobby I enjoy. It gives me a chance to forget about everything that happens on the football pitch. It allows me to switch off a bit.'

While it was a huge thrill for Bob, a big Scotland fan, to meet the captain of the national team, there was no disguising Robertson shared that feeling.



Andy Robertson and Bob MacIntyre on the practice area at Emirates Golf Club before the Slynco Dubai Desert Classic Pro-Am.

Photograph: Kevin Kirk.

'He's an incredible talent,' Andy said of the Oban left-hander. 'He's come through at the top level over the last couple of years and I really back him to win some top tournaments in future. We've obviously got a history of good, young Scottish golfers and he's just carrying it on.'

Registration opens for Rugby Schools Week

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

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

More than 16,000 pupils engaged with the event last year, with 287 schools signed up to participate and nearly a quarter delivering new or rekindling their rugby activity.

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

This year, the 2022 Scottish Rugby Schools Week



programme will provide equipment, in-person and digital support to schools on a national and regional basis.

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

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

Last year, 101 schools across the country engaged with a

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

Gav Scott, Scottish Rugby's director of rugby development, said: 'I'm looking forward to working with schools and clubs to build on the success from the inaugural programme. The easing of Covid-19 restrictions means that this year, members of the rugby development department will be able to offer tailored, in-person support

Last September, more than 16,000 school pupils engaged with Scottish Rugby Schools Week, supported by Saltire Energy.

Photograph: Ross MacDonald/SNS Group.

to schools over the course of the week and support them to build relationships with local clubs and development officers.

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

Schools are now invited to register to take part in Scottish Rugby Schools Week 2022 on the Scottish Rugby website at scottishrugby.org.

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League hopefuls' first-half double deflates Pupils

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Pupils | 0 |
| Finnart | 2 |
| WoSFL - Division Four | |

Campbeltown Pupils put on another battling show last Saturday but were bested again by West of Scotland Football League Division Four hopefuls and former SAFL rivals Finnart.

Starting against the wind, a first-half double took the wind out of the Pupils' sails at a blustery Kintyre Park, and despite a sustained effort with the second-half wind behind them, their opponents stood firm to claim three precious

league points. A healthy crowd of almost 100 turned out in dreadful conditions, with gusts topping 35 miles per hour and intermittent sheets of freezing rain greeting those spectators who arrived to support the team.

Refreshingly, though, a group of youngsters were amongst the entourage travelling with the north Glasgow visitors, and they soon felt at home, happily mixing with the Pupils' own young supporters and joining in song.

First, an attempted Pupils clearance found its way to Finnart's number 10, who kept his composure to slot home a

close-range finish and make it two goals in two games against the Pupils.

Then, a header from a swirling cross from Finnart's left-hand side couldn't be kept out, despite the efforts of Alasdair Ferguson in goal.

The Pupils' Rhys Casci did go close with a one-on-one effort in the first half after being freed by a low pass from midfield, but the Tarbert-based player opted to shoot early and the keeper got his body in front of the effort and gathered at the second attempt.

After the interval, the McFadyens-sponsored Pupils hoped to use the westerly tailwind to put pressure on the visitors' goal, but it was a quieter half than the hosts would have liked.

Finnart battled to repel the Pupils, limiting them to two dangerous efforts from outside the box, first from Casci who forced a save from the away keeper to tip his low shot round the post for a corner,

and then from Scott Souden whose deflected effort forced the keeper into a save.

The Feathers Inn-sponsored Pupils made some changes late on with youngster Andrew Renton and right-back Michael McKinlay making a return from injury, but it wasn't enough to turn the tide of the game and the visitors took all three points, to leave themselves two points behind leaders Kilsyth Athletic with two games in hand.

Conversely, the Pupils are three points adrift at the foot of the division, but importantly have two games in hand themselves.

In the aftermath of the game, the Pupils' management team stated they were satisfied with the effort and performance level of the squad, acknowledging that the difference between the sides on the day, despite the polar difference in league positions, was the conversion of chances.

This is something which



Stuart Crossan keeps his eye on the ball.

Finnart has made an art form of in winning games against sides around them who

perhaps play more expansive football.

Sure enough, this was the case against the Pupils, for the fourth time this season.

Tomorrow (Saturday), the Pupils are on their travels, playing Glenvale FC at Ferguslie Park, Paisley. Kick off is at 1.30pm.



Rhys Casci came close to scoring for the Pupils on Saturday.



Goalmouth action from Saturday's match.

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