

year of young people  
bliadhna na h-òigridh  
2018



Your guide to Scotland's Year of Young People  
in Argyll and the Highlands

**The Oban Times**  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**LOCHABER TIMES**  
& Oban Times

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# Scotland: the first country in the world to dedicate a full year to celebrating young people.

**To inspire Scotland through its young people, celebrating their achievements, valuing their contribution to communities and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and globally’.**

If you want to know what the future looks like, look around you, because young people are the future.

The quality of that future will depend on the quality of those young people, how healthy they are both physically and mentally; the experiences they have as

they grown into adulthood based on the opportunities they have right now in education, culture, sport and the workplace and their inclusion in society as a whole.

That is why the Year of Young People 2018 is so important. It celebrates young people and

their achievements and offers a wide range of events to help open their eyes to many new experiences.

As the Year of Young People continues to unfold, keep up to date with all that is happening here in the West Highlands and islands through the pages of our newspapers.



'This is an opportunity to shine a light on the fantastic contribution young people make to life in Scotland.'

'The Year of Young People will give young people a new platform and new opportunities for their voices to be heard in all parts of our society and hopefully help to fos-

ter a better understanding, co-operation and respect between generations.'

'The talents of our young people span the length and breadth of the country - evident in the great programme they have helped to put together. I want to thank all of the partners involved in

supporting this initiative, who have helped to put together what I am sure will be a wonderful celebration of young people in 2018.'

**Pictured: Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon at the launch of the Year of Young People 2018 with pupils from Caol**



The aims of the Year of Young People 2018 - encouraging young people to become leaders within their communities and beyond, and supporting them to benefit from new opportunities, are key to our values and our collaboration with Young Scot and the Scottish Youth Parliament. We are delighted to support YOYP2018 and look forward to the coming year.'

**Jackie Brock, chief executive, Children in Scotland.**



'We have so much to be proud of in Argyll and Bute and our young people are a huge part of that. Our young people matter - what they do makes a difference to life in Argyll and Bute. They have a key role to play in making Argyll and Bute a really great place to live, learn, work and visit.'

**Councillor Aileen Morton  
Leader of Argyll and Bute  
Council.**



'As we celebrate the Year of Young People this year, I encourage all to participate in this extremely worthwhile initiative. I am sure that there will be lots of events that we can get involved in and that working with Young People will ensure a renewed sense of vim and vigour!'

**Councillor Andrew Baxter  
who chairs the Lochaber  
Committee, Highland  
Council.**



a' comharrachadh 50 bliadhna de thaic agus leasachadh airson litreachas na Gàidhlig

celebrating 50 years of support and promotion of Gaelic literature

[www.gaelicbooks.org](http://www.gaelicbooks.org)

## Argyll & Bute Council

This has been designated 'Year of Young People' by the Scottish Government and Scotland is the first country to recognise and celebrate the contributions and achievements of young people in this way. The aim is to inspire Scotland through its young people.....celebrate their achievements, value their contribution to communities and create new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and globally



In honour of Year of Young People 2018 Youth Services are going to focus on what young people have told us are the reasons they love living and growing up in Argyll and Bute! Together with young people from across the authority, we've co-produced an exciting calendar of events, projects and experiences that reflect and celebrate the top 10 pluses to being a young person in Argyll and Bute.

Preparation for YOYP18 begun by consulting

with young people involved in young leader training in early June 2017. With their input we decided on the theme and a rough plan. We then developed a survey which was tested with a group of young people in Helensburgh and Lomond as part of a 'Have Your Say' event, before being rolled out across Argyll and Bute.

In total 1055 young people took part informing us of the top 10 reasons they love living and growing up in Argyll and Bute.

Safe, Outdoors, Easy to stay in touch, Nature, Quiet and Peaceful, Beautiful, Freedom, Sport/ recreation, Opportunities and Easy to get involved.

Youth Services have developed this programme of events for 2018 with these in mind, while also keeping with the six key national themes. Youth Services will use hashtags# to enable young people to link their activities to the plan, update in real time and share their involvement on social media.

## EVENT DIARY

29th June, Campbeltown  
**The Big Night Out**  
area wide dance.

2nd August  
**Cyber Event**

two day Residential workshop looking at emerging technology.

**Youth Exchange**

Bute, Campbeltown and Helensburgh take part in an exchange programme with Germany

17th to 21st September  
**Duke of Edinburgh Event**

National YOYP event.

6th December, Campbeltown  
**YS Fest**

Film Festival which will be a lasting legacy for YOYP2018 in A&B.

Lots more events/activities planned. Check with your local Youth Worker for more details



year of young people  
bliadhna na h-òigridh  
2018

**Celebrating Argyll and Bute as the best place for young people to live and grow up.**









**project**  
TRUST since 1967

## Celebrating 50 years of young people volunteering overseas

Now in its 50th anniversary year, educational charity Project Trust is celebrating the incredible work done by its Volunteers overseas.

Every year, up to 300 school leavers embark on a journey that starts with Selection and Training at Project Trust's headquarters on the Hebridean Isle of Coll. They then complete an eight- or 12-month placement in teaching, youth & social care, or outdoor education, in one of 20 countries across Africa,

Asia and Latin America.

Last year, Project Trust Volunteers taught and supported over 40,000 children, young people and adults around the world, developing a whole range of skills in the process. One of these Volunteers was Jamie Porter from Helensburgh, who spent a year living and working in Botswana at Bana ba Metsi, a school which supports boys and young men from disadvantaged backgrounds. As a Volunteer, Jamie was able to teach

the boys practical skills like construction and brick-making, as well as taking full responsibility for coordinating extra-curricular activities such as sport, swimming and art.

Reflecting on his time in Botswana, Jamie says: "Most of our students came from troubled backgrounds of abuse, crime and homelessness, so it was imperative to encourage them to take their last chance at education seriously, which I worked hard to do throughout the



year. I was able to show them the power of a good education, and the opportunities it could unlock for them."

As well as gaining valuable skills in leadership, self-confidence and resilience, Volunteers who go overseas with Project Trust also have the opportunity to gain a Diploma in International Volunteering, which is recognised by UCAS.

Jamie is now studying Civil Engineering at the University of Edinburgh, but his time with Project Trust continues to have an impact on him. "My year with Project Trust was utterly life-changing. While I knew I would never change the world, knowing that I had potentially helped give even a few of my students better prospects, not just educationally

but also socially, was the best feeling ever. I will always cherish the friends I have made and the things I have learnt along the way, and it was Project Trust that gave me the opportunity to achieve this."

Applications are now open for all students finishing school in 2019 - find out more and sign up at [www.projecttrust.org.uk](http://www.projecttrust.org.uk).



"IN A TIME OF CULTURAL IGNORANCE AND RISING HATE, I THINK IT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION TO SEE MORE OF THE WORLD."

Innes | Project Trust Volunteer in Honduras

### What a Difference a Year makes...

Are you leaving school next summer? Spending up to 12 months overseas with Project Trust gives you the chance to **CHALLENGE** yourself, **LEARN** about the world and be a **POSITIVE** force within it.

#### Develop Skills for Life and Work:

- Leadership
- Awareness
- Resilience
- Communication & Collaboration
- Self-Confidence

Get more info & apply online [projecttrust.org.uk](http://projecttrust.org.uk)

Project Trust is registered as a Charity in Scotland No. SC025668

#### Recognised by UCAS

Volunteering in **AFRICA, ASIA, OCEANIA, LATIN AMERICA** or **THE CARIBBEAN** gives you the opportunity to gain a **DIPLOMA** in **INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING**.

- Bursary support available
- Mentoring scheme in place

**project**  
TRUST since 1967

**50**  
Years of  
Global Volunteering

# New Talent flourishes at Mount Stuart Gardens



With the world's largest private art collection, Mount Stuart Trust has a worldwide reputation for teaching and research in the arts, working with Cambridge, Oxford and Harvard Universities.

'We are working now to build the same reputation for the garden and designed landscape and we have an aspiration to develop a full

programme of horticultural higher education and graduate training,' says Don Murray, Head of Horticulture at Mount Stuart. The Trust



is working with Argyll College UHI, a local education provider and an academic partner

of the University of the Highlands and Islands. Don continues 'We enjoy working with University

of the Highlands and Islands and local partner Argyll College UHI, because of our island setting and the creative way they can deal with the challenges this presents.'

The gardens are home to a spectacular living collection, with native and exotic flora, important botanical species and many national champion trees attracting over 45,000 visitors every year. First laid out by the 2nd Earl of Bute in the 18th century, the gardens were considerably expanded by the 3rd Earl, who is possibly better remembered as a prime minister and a the founder of Kew Gardens.

Don says 'Education and learning is one of the key objectives of the trust; our motto is Purpose, People, Place, so the Modern Apprenticeship programme is a natural development. We are committed to continual development of the whole team and we are passionate about applying modern day best-practice to this amazing heritage environment.'

Nineteen year old Heidi McMillan, David Swan and Scott Clark, both 16, are the three lucky apprentices who will spend the next 18 months with the team at Mount Stuart. David and Scott both grew up on the island, while Heidi recently relocated to Bute with her family.

Scott, whose apprenticeship is funded with a training allowance by the Finnis Scott Foundation, wanted to join the army on leaving school until a week's work experience with local company Bute Produce changed his mind and sowed the seeds of a career in horticulture. Scott says, 'I really enjoyed working outside and was delighted when this Modern Apprenticeship was advertised as it meant that I could get a good qualification whilst still earning a wage.'

You can find out more about Mount Stuart House and Gardens at [www.mountstuart.com](http://www.mountstuart.com) and if you are interested in Modern Apprenticeships you can visit [www.argylluhi.ac.uk/study-with-us/modern-apprenticeship/](http://www.argylluhi.ac.uk/study-with-us/modern-apprenticeship/)

# DYW

ARGYLL

Developing the Young Workforce

Bridging the gap between education and the world of work.



Our aim is to develop Scotland's young workforce by providing young people with learning which is directly relevant to getting a job, benefiting individuals and improving the economy through increased youth employment.

Are you an employer or a student and want to know more?

Visit [www.dywargyll.com](http://www.dywargyll.com)

Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ArgyllDYW](https://www.facebook.com/ArgyllDYW)

# An education as unique as you are

There are as many reasons for independent education as there are children; each one is unique.

It remains one of the most important decisions a family makes, whether young people make the move out of the state and into the private education sector.

In Scotland only 4.1 per cent of pupils nationwide are in private education as day or boarding pupils. There are just fewer than 30,000 such pupils in 73 independent schools nationwide.

Scotland has 19 mainstream boarding schools with 3,072 pupils and nearly half, 46.5 per cent, are from overseas. That is the equivalent to the Scottish economy of more than £30m in exports. Within the senior independent schools 93 per cent of pupils who sat Highers passed

At least £349 million is given annually in fee assistance in the independent education sector in Scotland; with just under 27 per cent of all pupils receiving some form of assistance.



## Dollar Academy

We have a very simple ethos at Dollar: if you work hard you can achieve excellence, if you get involved you will make the most of the opportunities available, and if you are kind we will have a stronger and better community that works well for everyone.

In our Prep, Junior and Senior Schools, the quality of teaching ensures that children are motivated, inspired and engaged in their learning. They study the Scottish curriculum and benefit from one of the widest choices of Highers in Scotland, an education that allows them to develop individual strengths and interests. Year after year, Dollar pupils achieve outstanding results.

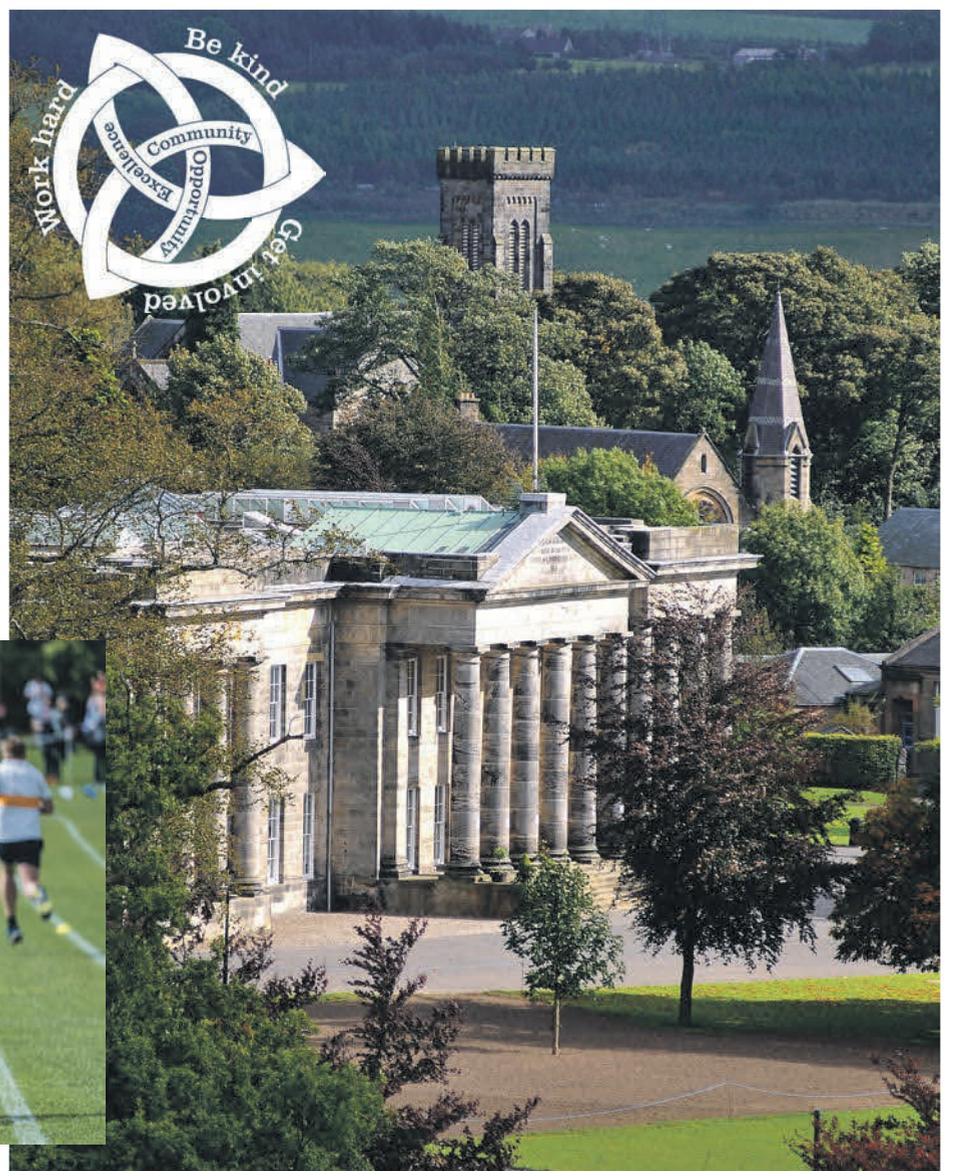
While education begins in the classroom, it by no means ends there. Our 1200-strong pupil community thrive on the variety and extent of co-curricular activities on offer. From sport and the arts to academic clubs and volunteering, children are encouraged to em-

brace opportunities with confidence and discover their capabilities. We have the teaching talent to support those wanting to pursue activities to a high level, and do much to stimulate participation.

Our three family-style boarding houses are home to 90 boys and girls. A warm welcome and shared experiences bring our boarders together. Care and support comes by way of our dedicated and highly-experienced houseparents, staff and

tutors. With houses located on the edge of our 70-acre campus, boarders can take advantage of outstanding sport and recreational facilities in the evenings and at weekends. And the several hundred pupils living locally ensure that friendships extend well beyond the houses.

Visit the Dollar Academy Open Day on Saturday 8 September from 10am to 1pm, or get in touch to arrange a visit. T: 01259 742511.



# More than good grades

THE SUNDAY TIMES  
SCHOOLS  
GUIDE  
2018

SCOTTISH  
INDEPENDENT  
SECONDARY  
SCHOOL  
OF THE YEAR



Open Day: Saturday 8 September, 2018; 10am-1pm

Arrange a visit or find out more:

T: 01259 742511 | E: [registrar@dollaracademy.org.uk](mailto:registrar@dollaracademy.org.uk)

Co-educational day, weekly and full boarding; 5 to 18 years  
Means-tested bursaries available

Dollar FK14 7DU [www.dollaracademy.org.uk](http://www.dollaracademy.org.uk)



**DOLLAR**  
ACADEMY

## Think you know Argyll College UHI? Think again #thinkArgyll

Did you know that last year over 1600 students studied with us in our network of 10 learning centres located throughout Argyll?

We offer 25 full time Further Education programmes, 13 HNC, 8 HND courses in subjects as varied as Outdoor Adventure Sport, Art & Design and Agriculture! We have lots of ways for you to study - on the job training with an SVQ or

Modern Apprenticeship; full-time in college or part time to fit around your other commitments.

As one of the 13 partner institutions of the University of the Highlands and Islands we can also offer access to over 60 Undergraduate and 5 Postgraduate courses from right here in Argyll.

For professionals we also offer a range of business training including First Aid, Food Hygiene and

Personal Licence Holder courses. So, whether you want to progress your education or career we're right on your doorstep and we're here to help you to learn, achieve and advance. Think you know us? Think again #thinkArgyll.

Visit [www.argyllcollege.ac.uk](http://www.argyllcollege.ac.uk) today to view our great range of courses, find information on your local learning centre and get inspired!



## Get into Business, Administration or Computing

**Would you like to get back into education but don't know where to start?**

**Do you want to improve your career prospectus but don't know how?**

Argyll College UHI has an innovative new 1 year course which allows you to tailor-make your course to suit your goals and interests, or learn a broad range of

skills and get a taste of various subjects. This is a great way to try out different things and is perfect if you've not decided on what your career will be.

With no formal entry requirements, you can focus on Business, Administration or Computing units or mix and match to make your perfect qualification. Complete the course you'll be guaranteed an

interview for a relevant HNC this time next year.

Study full time and you may qualify for a bursary on top of your fee-waiver, or you can study part-time and fund your studies with either a fee waiver or Individual Training Allowance (ITA). Search online for My World of Work for more ITA information.

Find our more and apply online now at [www.argyllcollege.ac.uk](http://www.argyllcollege.ac.uk)



## Think you know us? Think again! #thinkArgyll



**Beauty, Care & Make Up - Health & Social Care - Business & Computing  
The Humanities - Sport, Fitness & Maritime - Land Based Industries  
Science, Technology, Engineering & Construction - Creative Industries  
Catering & Hospitality - Education**

**We're now accepting applications for  
courses starting in September 2018.  
Apply online to secure your place.**



**University of the  
Highlands and Islands  
Argyll College**

**[www.argyllcollege.ac.uk](http://www.argyllcollege.ac.uk)**

## Trèanadh Air Leth sna Meadhanan leis a' Ghàidhlig san Eilean Sgitheanach

Tha Sabhal Mòr Ostaig air a bhith a' tairgsinn cùrsaichean trèanaidh anns na meadhanan Gàidhlig a tha air a bhith air leth soirbheachail thairis air ioma bliadhna. Tha cruth a chùrsa seo agus an trèanadh aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig air co-throm a thoirt do dhaoine a dhol an sàs ann an iomadh dreuchd eadar-dhealaichte anns na meadhanan agus tha còrr is 75% de dhaoine a rinn a chùrsa seo a nis a' dèanamh am beò-shlàint anns a'

ghnìomhachas. Chaidh an cùrsa seo a dhealbh airson luchd-trèanaidh ullachadh airson saoghal craolaidh an latha an-diugh. Tha oileanaich air an trèanadh ann an suidheachadh Gàidhlig agus ann an dòighean a' ghnìomhachais, a' toirt dhàibh an cothrom teisteanas aig àrd-ìre a chosnadh agus aig an aon àm eòlas fhaighinn air dreuchdan eadar-dhealaichte anns na meadhanan. Tha oileanaich a faighinn bogadh anns

na sgìlean bunaiteach a tha deatamach airson a bhith ag obair anns na meadhanan fhad 's a tha iad cuideachd a' leasachadh nan sgìlean cànan aca. As dèidh 30 seachdainean aig a' Cholaiste cuiridh oileanaich seachad 10 mìosan a' trèanadh anns a' ghnìomhachas. Ma tha sibh ag iarraidh foirm-iarrtais airson an Dioplòma anns na Meadhanan Gàidhlig cuiribh post-d gu: [cni@smo.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:cni@smo.uhi.ac.uk) no fòn 01471 888336.

## Gaelic Language offers Unique Media Training in Scenic Skye

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig has been successfully involved in providing training courses for the Gaelic media industry for a number of years. The structure of the courses and the practical training provided at the College has allowed students to enter a wide range of professions in the Gaelic media. The Diploma has a very high employment rate with over 75% of those

achieving the award gaining employment within the media industry. The Diploma is designed to equip individuals for employment in the Gaelic media, enabling them to gain an advanced quality award with production and technical skills, which will allow entry to a range of jobs in the broadcast industry. The course will be offered on a full-time basis. The first period (30 weeks) will be College based and following this, trainees will spend a further 10 months on work placement with an established broadcaster or independent production company. If you would like an application form for the Diploma in Gaelic Media course, please e-mail: [cni@smo.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:cni@smo.uhi.ac.uk) or phone 01471

achieved on a full-time basis. The first period (30 weeks) will be College based and following this, trainees will spend a further 10 months on work placement with an established broadcaster or independent production company. If you would like an application form for the Diploma in Gaelic Media course, please e-mail: [cni@smo.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:cni@smo.uhi.ac.uk) or phone 01471





### SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG

## DIOPLÒMA ANNS NA MEADHANAN GÀIDHLIG

**IARRTASAN FOSGAILTE AIRSON 2018-2020**

Sàr chùrsa a' tairgsinn chothroman ionnsachaidh ann an iomadh cuspair - sgìlean camara, fuaim, solais agus gearradh; riochdachadh is stiùireadh telebhisein; riochdachadh rèidio; naidheachdas, dràma agus spòrs.

Tha an dàrna bliadhna ga cur seachad a' trèanadh fad deich mìosan anns an àite-obrach.

**“Chan eil cùrsa cho prìseil coltach ris ann an Alba, a bheir dhut am fiosrachadh agus an tuigse a' dh'fheumas thu airson dreuchd anns na meadhanan.”**

Airson foirm-iarrtais cuiribh fios gu:  
 01471 888336  
[cni.smo@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:cni.smo@uhi.ac.uk)  
[WWW.SMO.UHI.AC.UK](http://WWW.SMO.UHI.AC.UK)



# Healthy, happy + safe

Making sure young people have the chance to lead healthy, active lives and understand the importance of mental health and resilience is one of the remits of Year of Young People 2018

Young people are now so media savvy that they are just as likely to turn to a website as a parent, friend or teacher for information – so make sure the site is a good quality, accurate one.



[www.cool2talk.org](http://www.cool2talk.org)

Is an incredible resource, full of advice on health, services of all kinds for young people and has a question and answer service.

It is confidential and anonymous; no one is asked for personal information. If you give information that identifies you and if you or someone else is at risk of harm the site may have to share this information in order to keep young people safe; this is only done if there was real concern for immediate safety.

All questions will be answered and posted back on the site within 24 hours

· In an emergency please call 999, or if you need an immediate response please call the Samaritans on 116123

Young people aged 12-26 can access cool2talk in Argyll and Bute. Cool2talk is an online service which provides free, anonymous and confidential health information for young people. They can post a question to the site and receive a bespoke answer, which is posted back on the site for everyone to learn from, within 24 hours/365 days per year. It is a safe place for young people to ask questions about any aspect of health and receive an evidence informed, responsible and person centred answer.

Young people can also access up to four sessions of online

counselling from a trained counsellor based in NHS Tayside. The sessions take place on Mondays and Wednesdays between 8-9pm every week. Young people just sign up and receive up to 45 minutes of confidential counselling, on a first come first served basis. If they require more support, the counsellor will encourage them to access longer term services or support.

Anyone can access the information on the website which lists local and national services for support by going to: [www.cool2talk.org](http://www.cool2talk.org) - there is no referral service, just go to the website.



## Argyll & Bute Sexual Health

[www.ab-wish.org/young-people](http://www.ab-wish.org/young-people)

This is Argyll and Bute's website for happy, safe and healthy relationships and sexual health. This site is designed for people more than 13-years-old.

This site contains a wide range of information including where to find local services, safer sex, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and lots more.



[www.one2one.cool2talk.org/](http://www.one2one.cool2talk.org/)

The 121 site is an on-line chat service with a trained counsellor who will be here between 8pm and 9pm. You can get 30-50 minutes for each session using secure instant messaging. This is a safe space to chat confidentially and anonymously about any worries you may have and know someone will listen and not judge.

# Helping teenagers who want to slim down

SLIMMING World launched its young members programme in January 2006 and each year helps over 10,000 young members, with their families, to live healthier lives.

It's no secret that young people are eating less healthily, have a less active lifestyle and are suffering from weight-related problems like diabetes at a much earlier age.

It is an incredibly sensitive area, and it's one where most organisations have been reluctant to offer solutions.

To help young people in the very best way it can Slimming World has launched Free2Go - a specially devised healthy eating plan, which focuses on the power of Free Food and Healthy Extras and encourages the

step-by-step reduction of less healthy foods like burgers, chocolate and confectionary.

Slimming World is the first and only weight loss organisation to offer real, practical help for the young, between the ages of 11-15 who can attend Slimming World for free\*.

The focus for young members is well and truly on healthy eating - not weight loss. There is absolutely no pressure to lose weight - just lots of praise as they take on board healthy lifestyle changes. Every young member also receives an easy-to-follow booklet as part of their new member pack.

The Free2Go eating plan is super-simple - there's no counting, no measuring and no

worrying; the aim is to help them make positive lifestyle changes that fit with their school-life, home-life and social-life.

\*Children must be accompanied by their parent/guardian or family member who has responsibility for their

meals/eating habits at home. If the adult is already a member of Slimming World, there's no extra charge. If the accompanying adult is not a member a reduced weekly fee of £3.95/€7.50 is charged plus joining fee for help and advice.

Because the 11-15s service involves the adult responsible for the teenager's eating, Slimming World has found that the plan also helps parents make small but important adjustments to the way they shop and cook for the family.

Join a Slimming World group today to get free support for your loved ones. Contact Oban - Gillian 07796 040 803 or Campbeltown/Lochgilthead - Rhona 07880 878 906 or see the Slimming World webpage.



## Mid Argyll Youth Development Services

Providing Information and Accessible Youth Friendly Services

Registered Charity: SC022931

MAYDS is a charity working with and supporting children and young people 0-26 years old. We are open full-time to provide a wide and varied range of recreational, educational and tailor made support services including:-

- Clubs, activities and sports
- Young carers support services
- Young parents support services
- Free trips and outings
- Family support
- Drug and Alcohol Education and support
- Individual Support and wellbeing sessions
- Employment support and training
- Flexible learning plans and alternate curriculum certificates
- Volunteer programs
- Tenancy Support
- Community Events



**MAYDS celebrating Year of the Young People 2018**

# Who cares for kids who care?



There are lots of organisations that can help if you are a young carer or young adult carer.

You will hear more about children in care than children who have to care.

Even primary school children help to hold homes together, looking after a member of their family not just young adults. More care for these young people themselves is now being planned to support them.

A great place to find out about help is the brilliant Young Scot page.

See [www.young.scot/young-carers](http://www.young.scot/young-carers) or visit [www.carers.org](http://www.carers.org) or [www.carersuk.org/scotland](http://www.carersuk.org/scotland)

Carers Trust's local Network Partners are carers' services across the UK, of-

fering information, advice, practical support and/or care in the home.

Across the West Highlands and islands groups meet to help young carers get much-needed support, a chance to have time to enjoy all kinds of activities and socialise.

The Scottish Government has developed a new package of benefits and support for young carers in Scotland - which includes a new Young Carer Grant.

Young carers aged 16-18 in Scotland who do not currently qualify for the Carer's Allowance, may be eligible for a new £300 annual payment to

help them access life opportunities that are the norm for other young people. The Young Carer Grant will be paid from autumn 2019.

All recipients of the Young Carer Grant will also be eligible for free concessionary bus travel in Scotland; this will begin in 2020-2021.

Young Scot and the Scottish Government will also be working with young people in Scotland who have caring responsibilities, to help with non-cash benefits, entitlements and rewards for young carers aged 11-18. These will become available through the Young Scot National

Entitlement Card and Young Scot card from April 2019.

Alongside wider Scottish Government support for young carers, it is intended that the grant helps young carers to look after their own health and well-being, improve their quality of life and reduce any negative impact of caring; participate fully in society and, if they choose, engage in training, education and employment opportunities, as well as social and leisure, and have an increased sense of control and empowerment over their lives. The grant will be paid on an entitlement rather than discretionary basis.

- There are 49,000 young carers aged 16 - 24; some even younger
- More than 7,000 young people are providing more than 35 hours a week of care to someone.
- Fewer than 4,000 of those young people claimed carer's allowance
- Find out how to apply for carer's allowance, hear stories from other young people on their experience of being a carer and get loads of info on caring for someone on the Young Scot website for young people in Scotland.

# Celebrating the best



The Year of Young People 2018 began by honouring some great achievements in Argyll and Bute

A total of 24 finalists attended the 2018 Argyll and Bute Youth Awards held earlier this year. The winners were as follows:

**Duke of Edinburgh Outstanding Achievement Award:**

**Ellen Kennedy, Mull**

In 2012 Ellen began her DoFE Award journey at Tobermory High School on Mull. She faced significant challenges which included having Additional Support Needs.

Ellen completed her Bronze, Silver and Gold awards over a five year period. Ellen now attends Argyll College in Oban, it takes her two ferries, a bus and a taxi just to get to college each day. Ellen's DoFE involvement continues as an ambassador for the award at Tobermory High School where she is an inspiration to all.

**Unsung Hero Award:**

**Keira Rutherford, Rothesay**

Kiera has dedicated her time to raising money

for good causes. Over the last seven years Keira has raised over £10,000 for charities including Erskine, the British Heart Foundation and Yorkhill Children's Charity as well as various local charities.

**Youth Entrepreneur Award:**

**Chris Berrall, Helensburgh and Lomond**

Chris started a traineeship at Centre 81 in 2016 and worked on running the 40 bed hostel based within the centre. When his placement ended he knew the loss of his role would severely impact on the small team at the centre and so chose to volunteer five days a week, investing over 500 hours over a six month period.

**Youth Volunteering Award:**

**Alexander Anderson, Mull**

Whilst currently studying for his Highers, Alexander also has the responsibility of being a Senior Prefect and

is actively involved in the life of the school, attending Prefect meetings, School Council Meetings and he is a keen sportsman. Alongside school, Alexander also juggles his duties as a Volunteer Lifeboat Crew Member with the RNLI. As the youngest member at 17, he has impressed his fellow crew members with the effort and commitment he puts in to any task he is given, becoming a highly respected member of the crew in the short time he has been there.

**Health and Wellbeing:**

**Ciaran MacKenzie, Helensburgh**

After being inspired to sign up at school, Ciaran donated bone marrow to help save a complete stranger's life, which involved a lot of medical tests and travelling down to London. Since his operation he has helped raise awareness of the Anthony Nolan Trust, running the Great North Run in aid of the charity and going back to his old school

Hermitage Academy to talk to pupils.

**Youth Environment Award:**

**HELP community Taskforce, Dunoon**

HELP Community Taskforce is a group of young people who learn new skills, gain work experience and qualifications, while making environmental improvements within their local community.

**Citizenship Award:**

**Jamie Murray MSYP, Rothesay**

Jamie has been a member of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP) for three years after being re-elected for a second term. He was one of two MSYP's in the whole of Scotland chosen to attend the 8th Commonwealth Youth Parliament sitting in Victoria, British Columbia. Jamie was elected as a trustee of the SYP board and he won an SYP award for Communicator of the Year due to his work as head of the Creative Communications Team.

**Youth Arts Award:**

**Into the Light - Beth Qualter and Holly Smith, Mid Argyll**

Holly and Beth were frustrated that there was nowhere for young artists in Argyll to exhibit their work. They decided to do something about this, and organised Into the Light, an exhibition for artists under 25, living in Argyll and Bute. They successfully ran the show in some farm buildings near Lochgilphead in September 2017. To raise funds they asked established artists to contribute postcards for a lucky dip. To engage younger artists they ran workshops in local primary schools.

**Sporting Award:**

**Cliona and Nuala McCheyne, Dunoon**

At 16 Cliona is the current Scottish under 17's Junior Hill Running League Champion, and is the youngest girl to have climbed all of Scotland's 282 Munros, which she completed at age 10 with her sister.

Cliona has been a member of Inverclyde Athletic Club for 5 years. In 2017 she reached the under 17's finals of the 1,500m at the West of Scotland Championships, the Scottish Athletics Association Championships and the Scottish Schools Championships.

Councillor Aileen Morton, who leads Argyll and Bute Council said at the awards ceremony: 'We have so much to be proud of in Argyll and Bute and our young people are a huge part of that. That's why it's a real pleasure to be able to recognise the contribution that they make to life in our communities through the Argyll and Bute Awards 2018.'

'These awards are much more than a way of highlighting the many achievements and successes of Argyll and Bute's young people. They tell our young people that they matter - that what they do makes a difference to life in Argyll and Bute.'

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# Developing careers for young people

The best way to keep and grow our communities is through our young people and they need good quality jobs

DEVELOPING the Young Workforce (DYW), is a Scottish Government Youth Employment strategy, to reduce youth unemployment by 40 per cent by 2021, in response to the recommendations in the Wood

Commission report. There are 21 regional DYW groups in Scotland, leading and driving the change in employers' engagement with schools and colleges. DYW West Highland is hosted by Lochaber Chamber of

Commerce, based in Fort William. It works collaboratively with The Highland Council, Skills Development Scotland, Partner Agencies, Secondary Schools and Colleges (West Highland College UHI and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig).

By working together, they can help employers shape the future workforce of the West Highlands and help better prepare young people for the world of work. The DYW team covers Lochaber, Skye and Wester

Ross – where it aims to expand opportunities to young people, through employer-led initiatives, so that they gain valuable workplace skills and further education opportunities, making them more attractive to employers.

## Food and drink on Skye



The Skye Food and Drink Festival is a celebration of food and drink from across Skye and the surrounding regions. There were many exciting opportunities to taste and buy local produce and see cookery demonstrations, as well as experience the live music throughout the two-day festival.

As part of the delivery, the Skye Food and Drink Festival team asked if DYW West Highland could support the event which would provide Portree High School pupils interested in the hospitality sector, with some hospitality and event experience.

The team of four pupils, built upon their employability skills such as team work, problem solving, communication skills and gained a greater understanding of how events like this are delivered.

Festival organiser, Pam Allen, said: 'The pupils have been of immense use helping to set up various events,

guiding visitors and supporting stall holders making sure that everything ran without any hitches.'

Lesley Hellon, programme coordinator at Developing the Young Workforce West Highland commented: 'The two-day event was a huge success, not only for the pupils of Portree High School, but for all the stall holders and visitors to sample the wares of all the amazing local businesses, something that we can all be proud of.'

'Congratulations to the pupils on receiving great feedback in recognition of their hard work. Also, a massive thank you to the team at The Skye Food and Drink Festival for providing this wonderful opportunity.'

Last year 130 Portree High School pupils also got the opportunity to see The Masterchef: The Professionals winner, Garry MacLean, at The Skye Food and Drink Festival.

## Lochaber study leave boost for job seekers



Study leave is the time of year when numerous students are studying for exams but it can also be a good opportunity for pupils to visit the local college or businesses to gain exposure to a workplace environment and learn numerous skills, helping to make the transition from education to employment easier.

Seven S4 Lochaber High School students took advantage of such an opportunity and successfully completed a DYW WH month long programme of activities which would help to equip them with CV writing and interview skills, First Aid knowledge and information about local, available opportunities.

Activities included employability workshops where pupils learned CV and cover letter writing techniques, workplace tours, a certified First Aid course and employer led mock-interviews. Students enjoyed workplace tours of Liberty Smelter, Marine Harvest and the Isles of Glencoe

Hotel where they learned about available training opportunities and participated in activities that taught them the value of good teamwork, communication and leadership.

Additionally, pupils were also given the option to visit the local college and choose what course classes they would like to sit in on and shadow which is a fantastic opportunity for young people considering higher education after their high school years.

As a finishing touch, students used the knowledge they gained over four weeks to participate in employer-led mock interviews before each pupil was presented with an employability skills certificate. These were presented to the students by Isles of Glencoe Hotel managers, Andrew Purdon and John Hart. These certificates will be useful for the seven pupils as they can take their award along to interviews and use their knowledge and acquired skills to succeed in the workplace.

# Young people are our future

At Wyvex Media we are proud to have given many young people their first big breaks in the media industry

SCOTLAND'S determination to invest in its young people is the key to success both now and in the future and that is something we feel very strongly about here at Wyvex Media.

Life does not standstill – each generation goes on to have careers, start families

and raise children of their own and be part of society. Since 1861 The Oban Times has been reporting about life here in the West Highlands and Islands and also giving many young people their first taste of work in journalism, sales, production, administration and finance.



**David McPhee** at The Oban Times has gained the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) gold diploma: 'My entry into journalism was a very fortunate one. I was offered a job at The Oban Times in August 2015 - a week before I was scheduled to start college, and eight weeks after I first entered the office on work experience.

'Being able to learn on the job was invaluable. It gave me a head start in many aspects of academia and forced me to use the skills I had learned immediately.

'Being paid to work while I was still in training was also a massive stress reliever, as was being able to stay in my hometown, especially when many of my peers were carrying out unpaid work to gain the same experience.'



Young journalist **Hannah O'Hanlon** at The Campbeltown Courier sat her final exam last week: 'I was born and brought up in Kintyre and I always knew that I wanted to live and work in the area.

'When a trainee reporter position came up at the Campbeltown Courier, it seemed like the perfect position for someone who was keen on English and photography and eager to learn. With training on the job, it was ideal - no having to move to a big city for years to get to where I wanted to be.

'I have spent the last year getting real-life experience on the job in Campbeltown, while also completing a journalism course at college in Glasgow, and while it was challenging travelling and finding

time for everything, it has also been extremely rewarding.

'My local knowledge has proven invaluable and one of the aspects of my job that I love most is being involved in some of the biggest moments in people's lives, and getting behind-the-scenes access to projects I wouldn't previously have had.'



**Euan Paterson** was one of the most recognised and respected faces of The Oban Times and had an award-winning career with us: 'I joined The Oban Times in 2002, straight from Oban High School. I had been helping in the newsroom in my spare time and was thrilled to be offered a full-time job with training. It allowed me to stay in the area - and get paid - whilst pursuing my career of choice.

'The myriad of skills I picked up during my 13 years at the newspaper have easily transferred to my new role as communications and media officer at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), where my job is to communicate research findings and environmental issues to a general audience.



**Ranald Watson**, now director of sales and marketing at Springbank Distillers & Mitchell's Glengyle Ltd: 'I began my training with The Oban Times Group when I left school in 1998. My first position was Trainee Reporter, based at The Campbeltown Courier. Together with in-house training from senior colleagues, I took part in a distance learning course with the NCTJ. The course was great as an introduction to journalism and some of the

skills which would be required in my career; those skills were tested and put to use on a daily basis working in a busy office producing a widely-read weekly paper. The highlights of my training were being flown in an RAF Chinook helicopter as part of a large military exercise, being burlled around Knockhill Racing Circuit in a Ferrari and being invited to meet the Queen and Prince Phillip at a reception for young Scottish achievers. I'm probably most proud of gaining my 100 words per minute shorthand certificate mind you! It might sound obvious but the development of my communication skills was certainly the most important factor in completing my training, gaining my industry qualifications and carrying out my job effectively. Those skills have stayed with me, even though I moved on from journalism after eight years to start working in the whisky industry. The ability to communicate properly, be that by talking, writing and, perhaps most importantly, listening to what people

are saying has been invaluable to me in working and building relationships with enthusiastic customers and whisky drinkers from around the world. I'm also still using that shorthand, much to the amazement (and amusement) of my distillery colleagues.'



At 20-years-old **Amy Boyce** is the latest recruit to The Oban Times, working in our advertising department and her training is in-house. Many folk will know Amy because of her singing; she has a degree from UHI in applied music.

'Apart from working while a student this is my first job. I am enjoying meeting and talking to so many people and being able to start building a career without having to leave the area.'

**WYVEX MEDIA**



Charlotte Wright chief executive of Highlands and Islands Enterprise

# Creating more opportunity for young people

**Young people are vital if the Highlands and Islands are to be commercially competitive, with sustainable economic growth and community resilience, Charlotte Wright, of HIE believes.**

At Highlands and Islands Enterprise we're excited to be involved in Scotland's Year of Young People. We will be showcasing what we offer as an agency, and calling on businesses and communities to embrace the fresh thinking and innovation young people bring.

While the region is home to many highly-skilled people we have long-recognised how important young people are to commercial competitiveness, sustainable economic growth and community resilience.

With this in mind we want to create more opportunities for young people to stay in the Highlands and Islands and have rewarding careers. We want to attract more young and economically-active people to live, work, study and invest here.

Our research, published in 2015, into the attitudes

'We want to attract more young and economically-active people to live, work, study and invest here.'

and aspirations of young people has been helping to focus our work.

We've put a lot of effort into providing opportunities not only in our traditional sectors such as energy and food and drink, but also in our more recently established sectors such as life sciences and creative industries.

Our student and graduate placement programme, ScotGrad, has been highly successful in bringing businesses and young people together, combining

experience and fresh ideas. Our Graduate Level Apprenticeships and Modern Apprenticeships are providing similar opportunities. And we're working with universities in the region to create new further and higher education options that help retain and attract young people.

In addition to rewarding career paths, other key factors include mobility and connectivity. The Next Generation Broadband roll-out is now reaching more than 85 per cent of our

region, and this is transforming people's lives. Transportation links have also greatly improved in recent decades, including improved air, rail and ferry services.

For the Year of Young People, we are looking at new ways we can contribute meaningfully to the development of young people in the region. One example is exploring ways to encourage and empower more young people to become more actively involved in community organisations, such as local trusts and community or social enterprises.

The year is a great opportunity to demonstrate the pride the region has in its young people and how important they are to its future. I can't wait to see what young people achieve throughout 2018 and I look forward to leading HIE's involvement in what promises to be an exciting year of activity.

Charlotte Wright has held several positions with HIE, beginning at the enterprise company's Lochaber office. She was local enterprise company chief Executive in 2004 and was appointed as the agency's regional director for Highland in 2008, and as director of business and sector development in 2010. Before joining HIE, she ran her own small business in Fort William



**Highlands and Islands Enterprise**  
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

# The online way to get into work

The young people of Scotland's Highlands and islands turn to the same place they live their lives: online.

## Nearly a quarter of new job seekers turn to their mobile phones to find work.

'For the mobile jobseeker, especially for those who have never owned a PC, the process of finding a job should be as easy as shopping on Amazon or browsing Instagram,' said Christopher Snelgrove, the man behind the new app developed by Fort William-based pioneering recruitment site HIJOBS, which is an associate of The Oban Times and its sister papers.

The 18 to 24-year-old age group makes up 22.63 per cent of HIJOB users.

Alongside the investment across the Highlands and islands in broadband and 4G by public and private sectors, it means the national and local job markets are just a smart phone away from the UK's most remote communities.

'The increasing availability and reliability of fast internet in the Highlands will continue to be transformative for the prosperity of our rural communities; this improved connectivity paired with our continued development-for-mobile is making this a reality and opening more opportunities for a new generation,' said Christopher.

Business partner Laura Saunders, who runs the commercial side of the company, is based in rural Aberdeenshire: 'The HIJOBS app makes our

job applicants quicker off the mark.

'Our app is one-stop and customisable, an end-to-end service from job alerts through to applying on your phone.

'It sounds pretty simple, but the vast majority of other job sites do not offer this complete service; you need to go home and sit down in front of your PC.'

'Our entirely self-service offering not only delivers results but has also allowed for rapid expansion across the country,' said Christopher.

After working for major players in big cities, the business partners agreed that they wanted to be back in the Highlands and set about building an app and a service which

would help other people do the same.

Stuart Robertson, head of digital at Highlands and Islands Enterprise has said: 'Improving digital communication across the Highlands and Islands is vital in helping our local businesses and communities continue to grow. We can see the results are paying off with more areas across the region now connected.'

He was speaking after O2 announced a major increase in 4G coverage in the region, in over 80 towns, villages and hamlets last year; the mobile network is also starting work on bringing 4G to an additional 90 new locations in the coming months.

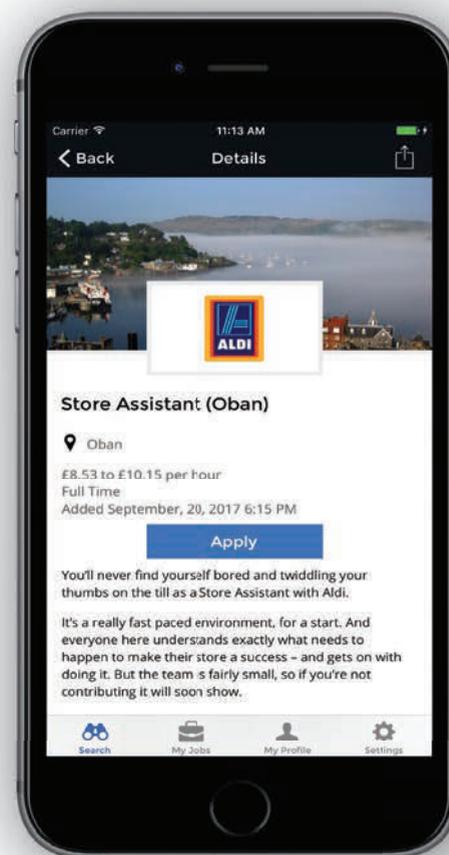
Other telecoms companies are continuing to expand.

'The digital landscape in Scotland has evolved beyond all recognition,' Derek McManus the chief operating officer of O2, said at the celebrations to mark the fourth anniversary of the company providing 4G.

Ofcom reports that nine in 10 younger users are using social media apps.

Increasing 4G mobile coverage is driving consumers' demand for, and use of, mobile data and contributed to a 44 per cent year-on-year increase in average mobile data consumption. Nearly two-thirds of mobile connections in the UK were 4G-enabled at the end of 2016.

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**HIJOBS**



Christopher Snelgrove, Laura Saunders and Keith McIntyre

## Building a future in construction

With roots that stretch back for more than 40 years, Macleod Construction Ltd has a proud past and the company looks forward to a bright future.

Every year, Macleod Construction is building more residential and commercial properties

incorporating ever more eco-friendly features; fitting more windows and working with more clients, customers and partners.

And alongside it continues to build a successful business where young people play a vital role in the workforce;

imparting knowledge is just one of Macleod's commitments to 'Young Scots' in Argyll.

Craig, Demi, Duncan, Gregor and Karen are just a few of the success stories; see how they started their careers with Macleod Construction Ltd.



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### Craig Young Apprentice Plumber

Hi, I'm Craig, I am 18 and from Lochgilphead. The reason I decided to get myself into an apprenticeship was to get myself a trade but also make money at the same time. I was fortunate to get an apprenticeship with MacLeod Construction as you don't get a lot of chances here in Argyll for young folk. MacLeods' have guided me throughout my apprenticeship so far and I'm looking forward to becoming fully qualified.

In five years I see myself as a fully qualified tradesmen using all my skills and knowledge gained throughout this experience.



### Demi Mather Administration & Accounts Assistant

I'm Demi, I am 22 and from Ardrishaig. I have worked in the Plumbing, Electrical & Maintenance Department within MacLeod Construction since 2015. I left school with no idea what I wanted to do but I knew university wasn't for me. I was extremely lucky to get a job within the company at a young age and it has benefited me in many ways & I have also grown as a person. I recently became a Construction Ambassador for the company.

In five years I see myself progressing in a successful career.



### Duncan MacIntyre Apprentice Plumber

Hi, I'm Duncan, I am 22 and live in Ford, Argyll. The reason I became an apprentice plumber with MacLeod Construction Ltd was to learn skills that I would not have learnt anywhere else. What attracted me was the fact I could learn whilst earning. I have grown as a person and feel more independent, it has been tough but I'm enjoying every bit of it.

In five years I see myself becoming a fully qualified Plumbing & Heating Engineer with a lot of experience due to opportunities I have had with MacLeod Construction Ltd.



### Karen Dixon Legal Trainee

Hi, I'm Karen, I'm 22 and from Kilmartin, Argyll. I have worked in the legal department of MacLeod Construction Ltd since 2015 during my university holidays.

My experience working in the company has provided me with an opportunity to put into practise the knowledge I have gained at university. The skills I have developed, and experience gained during my time here has incremental to securing a full-time position as a Trainee Solicitor in a law firm in Edinburgh.

In five years I see myself a fully qualified solicitor specialising in land & property wide.



### Gregor Peacock Apprentice Plumber

Hi, I'm Gregor, I am 23 and from Lochgilphead. The reason I started my apprenticeship with MacLeod Construction was because university wasn't an option for me. Getting an apprenticeship was attractive because I could learn as well as making a living. I come from a family who are qualified in different trades and I felt plumbing was for me. It hasn't just taught me a trade but also life skills, communication and how to work with others.

In five years I see myself becoming a fully qualified plumber and advancing the skill I have already learnt.



# Innovative solutions to social challenges

Jennifer Macdonald, director of community supported organic farm and delivery business Woodside Arran, was voted Firstport's Young Social Innovator 2017, winning a £5000 prize and business support.

Jennifer runs an organic market garden and mobile shop serving the rural communities of Arran, addressing the lack of access to affordable, good quality, fresh vegetables on the island. Customers can subscribe for weekly vegetable boxes or buy direct and low income residents can exchange hours of work for free food through a work share scheme.

She said: 'Winning the Social Innovation Competition gave us a huge boost of confidence, but also allowed us to support more people to access our services a lot quicker than we would have been able to on our own.'

'It has fast tracked our business by about six months and allowed us to carry out a lot of the activities we didn't think we would be able to do, at a very challenging time for farming. Winning allowed us to look ahead to the 2018 season and prepare for where we want to be by the end of the year, rather than having to make do with where we are now.'

Do you have a business idea that could make a difference?

This year the Social Innovation Competition is celebrating Scotland's Year of Young People 2018 by looking for individuals with the most exciting,

innovative ideas and solutions to social challenges affecting young people in Scotland. This could be through giving them access to new opportunities or helping them to overcome barriers and inequalities.

At an earlier stage with your idea?

Take a look at Firstport's Pounds for Purpose programme. Designed to support those aged 16 to 26 to take a positive stand on the issues they care about, with awards of £500 up for grabs to test your idea.



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**Deadline for entries 30 July 2018**

Details at [www.firstport.org.uk/socialinnovation](http://www.firstport.org.uk/socialinnovation)

## Yellow Badge Training – Rhona McCracken & Rowan Watkins

During the Easter holidays before our 6th year school exams, we had the opportunity to participate in the STGA's Yellow Badge Tourist Guide training course. Our training was sponsored by BID4Oban as part of its commitment to The Year of the Young Person. This was a unique and rewarding experience for us. It was far more challenging than we expected and gave us a real sense of achievement when we passed the exam.

The course itself was an intensive 6-day training programme. We realised that we knew very little about the area we had grown up in; yet this opportunity pushed us to research Oban's history, culture and stories in a way that we would not have been motivated to do oth-

erwise. This aspect of the course was most rewarding as it sparked an interest in Scottish history and led us to carry out more research for our own general knowledge. As well as giving us a reason to read out of our normal areas of interest, the course really improved our confidence and public speaking skills; teaching us how to engage clients and tailor our talks to different audiences. As a result of passing the tourist-guiding exam, a practical walk where each guide spoke for several minutes, Rhona has used the experience and qualification to get a job as a tour guide at Dunollie museum as well as taking walking tours around Oban, with Oban Walking Tours.

We have recently taken

American students on the Laurinburg exchange with Oban High School on one of the tours. The students really liked having guides close to their own age. We also think that having young tourist-guides, demonstrating a knowledge of the history and culture of their town, creates a great image for visitors.

In the future, we hope to run walking tours for a younger demographic, possibly working with Oban Backpackers and Youth Hostel to promote our tours and give young people something to do when visiting to the town. Rowan will be leaving town in September to study Social Sciences and Rhona Computer Science but will both be able to do tours in the holidays.



For more information contact us at BID4Oban on **01631 569 915** or email [info@bid4oban.co.uk](mailto:info@bid4oban.co.uk) [www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk)



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# Celebrating the Year of Young People



# Building communities with Lego!



Young people have come up with a great idea to use Lego building workshops to bring generations together and create intergenerational activity in their

local area.

Argyll Brixx Convention will be held on August 4 and 5 in Lochgilphead.

Everyone is invited to the convention, to show the ideas and imagina-

tion of young people in the use of building bricks.

This activity is open to all young people in Argyll and Bute; the organisers hope to paint a positive picture of

young people as part of Year of Young People 2018, and to show some creativity while putting Lochgilphead on the map.

This convention will

be the culmination of a year of working with different villages and groups of people to build connections, relationships and Lego creations. The organisers

want to showcase what you have built, and want you to bring something along too.

If you're interested, look out for their Facebook page, coming soon.

## THE Royal National Mòd will have links to the Year of Young People 2018

The Royal National Mòd will be held in Dunoon this year, in October and is among the events receiving funding to stage initiatives to mark this special year.

James Graham, Mòd Manager, said: 'This the Year of Young People, and, more than ever, we want to contribute to this special year by encouraging our young people to become involved in the Gaelic Arts. It's extremely

pleasing to see them taking part at local and national Mòds as our young people are crucial to the language.'

An Comunn Gàidhealach, the committee which runs the Mòd is establishing a committee of six young adults aged 16-26 to be a part of our new Young Person's Committee that is being established as part of 2018's Year of Young People in Scotland.

The committee will meet a total of four times via the phone or Skype in the run up to the Royal National Mòd which will be held in Dunoon in October this year. The committee will discuss their views on what they would like to see at The Royal National Mòd and will be assigned a number of projects to see through from start to finish as a team in the run-up to the Mòd.

## Join in a poetry slam

If a young Robert Burns was around today he would be slamming - the competitive art of performance poetry.

Year of young People 2018 is helping fund Scottish Youth Poetry Slam 2018.

Poetry slam has 12 or more poets perform their work which is judged by a panel and audience reaction through heats with a dual emphasis on writing and performance.

Young poets from across the country will take part in a series of workshops in preparation for the regional slams and the winners

will go forward to compete in the Scottish Youth Poetry Slam Final on October 31 at the Beacon Arts Centre, Inverclyde.

The Slam is an exciting, live event that is hosted with a guest band and three judges who score the performed poems.

The Inter-Regional Slams are on Tuesday October 2, 12-1.30pm, Macrobert Arts Centre, Stirling; Wednesday October 10, 12-1.30pm, Eden Court Arts Centre, Inverness

Tickets are free and all events are live streamed and the Slam Final will be signed.

## Cadet Connel gets special Argyll and Bute honour



**Connel receives his award from Mrs MacLeod, accompanied by Geordie Rhodick, chairman of Lochgilphead Armed Forces Day.** 06\_a25AFD04

A 17-year-old from Dunoon has been appointed this year's Lord Lieutenant's Cadet.

Staff sergeant Connel MacLeod of Dunoon detachment of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Battalion army cadet force was presented with his badge at Lochgilphead Armed Forces Day by

Vice Lord Lieutenant for Argyll and Bute, Jane MacLeod.

One cadet is selected in each cadet company each year based on personality and character, length of service, rank, leadership qualities, and achievements in the cadets and wider life.

These cadets accompany the Lord Lieutenant

on various occasions, such as royal visits and civic ceremonies, helping out as necessary.

Connel said afterwards: 'It's really good to get this. I wasn't expecting it.'

'It's something that is great to have when you look for employment so that people can see what you've achieved, so I'm really pleased.'



# In Glasgow, online or out gigging - learn with the Academy of Music and Sound

The Academy of Music and Sound's centre in Glasgow has 200 full-time students, studying HND Music, BA(Hons) Professional Music and starting in September this year an MMus Popular Music Performance degree; SAAS funding is available.

The tutors are all working musicians currently active in the Scottish music industries, including Georgia Cecile and Jodie Bremaneson of Skerryvore.

Of the acts performing at the TRNSMT festival this summer, no fewer than seven different acts feature current or former students from the academy.

It has a strong community focus, with lots of extra-curricular activities on offer: including short courses in sound recording, building your own synthesiser and issues in employability for women in the music industry.

The academy has a guitar ensemble which is open to everyone and rehearses weekly, and a monthly multi-media improvisation night. All these are free and open to both AMS full-time students and all other musicians.

Last year, all BA(hons) graduates were in employment or further study six months after graduating, and all of them have continued to be involved in music on either a full time or part time basis.

On average, 96 per cent of people who start the BA(hons) course will complete and pass it.

But you do not have to be in Glasgow to be part of the Academy of Music and Sound, thanks to its

digital learning centre, called AMS Online.

People who have completed an HND Music, or have other relevant professional experience, can join straight into BA(hons) level; and students can use their current musical activities as evidence for their course. The course is flexibly structured and each student has individual mentoring sessions. In-person support (and camaraderie!) would be available in the Glasgow centre as well, if they wanted to come across occasionally.



Nick Jennison: vocalist and lead guitarist with Saints Of Arcadia summed it up: 'I'd highly recommend AMS Online, its flexibility allowed me to gain a degree while fitting it around my touring and gigging schedule - what legends!'

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'I'd highly recommend AMS Online. It's flexibility allowed me to gain a degree while fitting it around my touring and gigging schedule - what legends!' Nick Jennison: Vocalist & Lead Guitarist with Saints of Arcadia

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