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# Motorist misery as firm vows A83 road repairs



Helping out and having fun on Christmas Day are, back row, Caitlin Smart and Anne Smart with front, left to right, David Smart, Sharon Wilkie and Sandy Wilkie.

## Spreading Christmas cheer

A SUCCESSFUL Mid Argyll Community Lunch Gathering was held at Lochgilphead's Red

Cross Hall, spreading Christmas spirit all around.

**Full story on page two.**

**Colin Cameron**  
[editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)

A TRUNK road management firm has promised smoother, safer surfaces on the A83 as winter weather takes its toll on crumbling Tarmac.

The volume of complaints from unhappy motorists has been growing in recent weeks with sections of the A83 trunk road becoming pitted with potholes in double-quick time.

One motorist - a professional lorry driver by trade - spoke to the *Argyllshire Advertiser* about his experiences. He was making his way to Argyll from Dumfriesshire to visit relatives with three other people in the family estate car.

'We were just coming out of Arrochar in darkness when there was a loud bang,' he

explained. 'I knew we'd hit a pothole. It completely burst my tyre. I am not a speeder and it is in a 40mph zone, so speed was not a factor, just the size of the hole.'

The driver, who did not wish to be named, added: 'It wasn't great changing the wheel in darkness. We shouldn't have been put in that situation by the state of the road.'

The A83 has well-known potholed areas, including the section between Loch Fyne Oysters and Dunderave and at Strone Point. But many others have recently become hazardous, including the bends to the north of Furnace and near Killean, both of which have crumbled in weeks. Lochnell Street, forming part of the A83 through Lochgilphead, is also

showing signs of wear and tear. And there are many other places with potentially tyre or spring-busting potholes.

A spokesperson for trunk road management firm BEAR Scotland said: 'Cold and wet winter weather and particularly the freeze and thaw cycle can have a serious impact on road surfaces leading to the rapid development of potholes.'

'This winter has already seen prolonged periods of heavy rainfall throughout Scotland followed by a sharp drop in temperatures, which has resulted in areas of road surface deterioration on parts of the trunk road network most affected by adverse weather conditions. We are working to repair any defects as quickly as possible.'

'Our teams have been monitoring sections on the A83 over the Christmas period, with temporary repairs carried out at Succoth (Arrochar) and Strone Point before New Year.

'Quarry availability limited how many repairs could be carried out during the festive break, however, teams will work to carry out further temporary repairs near Furnace and north of Auchindrain this week.'

'Work at Auchnabreac will continue next week and a further resurfacing scheme is planned for Succoth later this month. Further patching schemes are planned for various locations in the coming months which will provide a permanent repair.'

Trunk road defects can be reported on 0800 028 1414.

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## Festive call-out for RNLI

LIFEBOAT crews were out on Christmas Day to help a broken down fishing vessel in the Kilbrannan Sound between Lochranza and Skipness.

Tighnabruaich inshore lifeboat reached the scene around 20 minutes after being launched, but found the fishing boat too large to tow to a suitable port.

A campbell town all-weather lifeboat was deployed to tow the vessel to Carradale harbour.

Writing on social media, a Tighnabruaich lifeboat spokesman said: 'The crew of the casualty vessel returned home to their families and, after all search and rescue units were made ready for service again, the personnel from both Campbeltown and Tighnabruaich lifeboat stations also returned to their families.'

# Lochgilphead stars shine bright on Christmas Day



John Muir entertains the Christmas Day gathering.

MORE than 60 people celebrated the warm community spirit of Mid Argyll on Christmas Day.

There was food, music and good company in abundance at the Mid Argyll community lunch gathering at Lochgilphead's Red Cross Hall.

Hampers and gifts were delivered to those unable to attend but who welcomed volunteers into their homes for some Christmas

cheer. One of the organisers was Lynda Syed of Argyll TSI's 1,000 Voices project. Lynda said: 'I think this year was the best yet.'

'The atmosphere was really good and I feel everyone enjoyed themselves.'

'We have learned a lot over the past three years – this was the fourth gathering – and have put those lessons into practice. We offered the communal

lunch, transport for those who need it and a delivery for those unable to come to the venue.'

'There are now a lot of people who look forward to the gathering as an annual event and I really hope it continues.'

Lynda continued: 'There are way too many people involved to thank them all individually but I would like to say a big thank you to Lochgilphead Co-op and Tesco for their donations and to all the individual volunteers and drivers who made the day possible.'

'You are stars – all of you.'

High School pupils and staff who donated the proceeds of their Christmas Fair, to the Clydesdale Bank and Lochgilphead Community Council, to the Red Cross for the use of the hall over five days, to Lochgilphead Co-op and Tesco for their donations and to all the individual volunteers and drivers who made the day possible.

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'You are stars – all of you.'

## Teenager seriously injured in two-car Loch Awe crash

A 16-year-old boy is in a serious condition in a Glasgow hospital after two cars collided on the road between Inveraray and Dalmally.

Three other people from the same car were also hospitalised following the collision.

Police Scotland issued an appeal for witnesses to the accident, which happened around 2pm on Saturday December 30 on the A819 near Cladich, close to Loch Awe.

A police statement said: 'Around 2pm, a 48-year-old man was driving a Vauxhall Astra northbound on the A819 approximately 1.5 miles from the junction with the A85, when it collided with a southbound Ford Grand C-Max being driven by a 41-year-old woman.'

The driver of the Astra was taken by ambulance to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley where he is receiving treatment for his injuries. Hospital staff describe his condition as stable.

'His 16-year-old passenger was taken by ambulance to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow where he is being treated for his injuries. Hospital staff describe his condition as stable.'

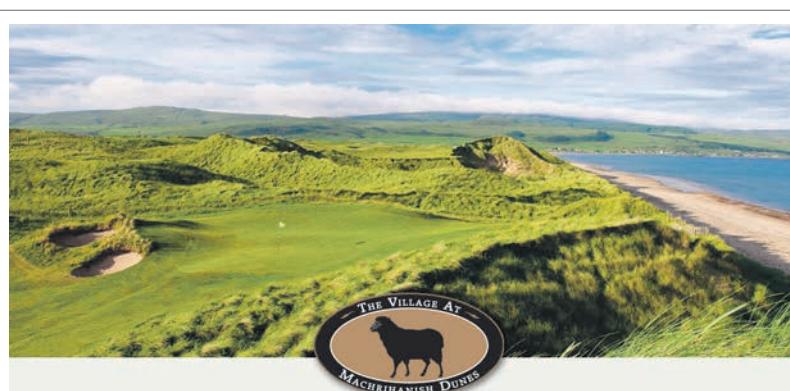
'Another passenger, an 18-year-old female, was taken by ambulance to Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban where hospital staff describe her condition as stable.'

The female driver of the Ford car received minor injuries but did not require hospital treatment.

The road was closed while enquiries were carried out at the scene.

Constable Christopher Leitch from the Divisional Road Policing Unit at Dumbarton is appealing for information.

He said: 'The investigation into the cause of the crash is continuing and I would ask any witnesses or anyone with information to contact us by phoning 101, quoting reference number 1769 of December 30.'



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## Tickets out for new Inveraray festival

TICKETS are now on sale for a new motorsport festival to be held at Inveraray Castle later this year.

Designed to celebrate Scotland's rich heritage in motorsport, the Argyll Festival of Performance will bring together significant cars and drivers from F1, Le Mans, Indy Cars, Touring Cars and International Stage Rallying, plus a host of unique vehicles never before seen in Scotland.

The two-day event will take place in the castle's stunning grounds, starting on Saturday June 2.

Tickets are on sale via the Argyll Festival of Performance website.



# New year MBE honour for castle king Robert

TARBERT'S Robert McPhail, secretary of Tarbert Castle Trust, is one of a small number of Argyll folk to be recognised in the Queen's New Year Honours List.

Mr McPhail, who retired to Tarbert in 2000 with his wife Alice, is to receive an MBE for services to the community in the Loch Fyne-side village.

He said: 'It's all slightly embarrassing, but I cannot be other than pleased that others have thought so highly of my efforts.'

'I have enjoyed every minute of the last 17 years and I have tried to put back into the

community as much as I have gained from it.

'I am honoured to receive an MBE, but this honour must be shared with the many community volunteers with whom I have the privilege to work and the many others in different fields of local interest.'

### Delighted

After returning from a festive break with his family, Mr McPhail added: 'My family are delighted and there was much winding up by grandchildren, who are all just around late teens.'

Mr McPhail serves as a trustee and secretary/treasurer of Tarbert



Doing what he enjoys most - Robert McPhail, right, supervises tree planting at Tarbert Castle orchard in 2016. 06\_a49TarfOrchard04

Castle Trust, which manages Tarbert Castle on behalf of the community.

He has also worked with Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust, helping with various projects including one with young people to build the replica Loch Fyne skiff 'Wee Dook-

er' and worked with Tarbert Village Hall committee to upgrade and extend the facility.

Also among the honours were Sine MacVicar former head teacher at Dunbeg Primary School, near Oban, who received an MBE for services to education and the community in Dunbeg.

Of local interest, too, is a BEM for charity cyclist and adventurer Mark Beaumont, who spearheaded the tourism campaign Wild About Argyll before going on to cycle around the world in just 78 days, 14 hours and 40 minutes.



Dylan makes waves - the low pressure brought higher tides, as seen in Inveraray on Hogmanay morning. Photograph: DJ MacDonald.

## Dylan blowin' in the wind across Argyll

AN ATLANTIC low pressure system dubbed 'Storm Dylan' crossed the west coast of Scotland, blowing away Hogmanay cobwebs for many parts of Argyll.

Arriving from Northern Ireland at breakfast time on December 31 and dying down by 1pm as it headed east, the storm brought gusts of up to 70mph. The areas worst affected included Islay and Kintyre. With the wind came rain and hail.

An amber alert for the west coast of Scotland

was issued by the Met Office as the weather system approached. Ferry services were affected and high wind warnings announced for higher road routes and bridges.

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by John MacFarlane  
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The National Theatre of Scotland is core funded by the Scottish Government. The National Theatre of Scotland, a company limited by guarantee and registered in Scotland (SC234270), is a registered Scottish charity (SC033377).

# Could you make a child feel valued?

DID YOU have a role model growing up, someone you trusted and could rely on?

Was there someone there to help you talk to the people close to you when things went wrong? Many young people living in Argyll do not have that essential support.

With time, kindness and understanding children can be genuinely helped to cope with the difficult challenges they face in a way which will last a lifetime.

#### Mentor

The search is on for trusted adults to support children involved in the child protection processes. Or to mentor, for three hours per week, a young person struggling to feel valued.

Two new projects supporting children and young people begin in Lochgilphead and Oban, Lorn and the Isles later this month and are searching for people with a sense of fun, fairness and a strong commitment to children's rights.

Children 1st, Scotland's national children's charity, is one of 13 partner organisations funded by the Scottish Government set to deliver intandem, Scotland's first ever national mentoring programme for looked-after children who are living at home.

Maggie Farrell, mentor co-ordinator for intandem, explained: 'Looked-after children living at home in Scotland are not leading equal lives to their

#### Sessions

'Weekly mentoring sessions might include taster sessions of a new hobby, help with establishing new routines and habits; planning and goal setting; listening to their stories about the good days and the bad days.'

Find out what the power of mentoring and supporting children and young people can do for you, a young person and your community.

To find out dates for application meet-ups and training, email [maggie.farrell@children1st.org.uk](mailto:maggie.farrell@children1st.org.uk) or call 07958 357 188.



The students with tutors and Argyll College principal Fraser Durie.

## Students pick up awards



Fraser Durie presents a certificate to Chloe Clarkson.



Campbell Ferguson receives his certificate from Fraser Durie.



The college principal presents a certificate to Sandy McKellar.

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## Royal Mail marks 'Best of British'

ROYAL MAIL'S 2018 special stamp programme will again showcase the Best of British in a range of subjects.

The RAF centenary celebrates the oldest inde-



One of a set of specially designed stamps will feature 'reintroduced species' in April.

pendent air force in the world – the Royal Air Force – with 10 stamps issued in March. The stamps will depict six iconic aircraft from the service over the past 100 years, and an additional four stamps will pay tribute to the brilliance of the RAF Red Arrows aerobatic team.

Reintroduced species in April marks the work of scientists and conservationists who have reintroduced once extinct species back into the country, from the large blue butterfly to the osprey. Six species are featured, each the subject of specially commissioned artwork.

#### 'Classic'

One of a handful of TV comedies that fully deserves the title 'classic', Dad's Army celebrates its 50th birthday in 2018. In June, eight stamps will be issued depicting leading and much-loved characters from the series.

September will see the culmination of a five-year landmark series marking centenaries of the First World War. The set will feature a new interpretation of the poppy image, war poetry and art, and a commemoration of the sacrifice of the armed services.

# New year traditions are weird and wonderful

**By Lorne MacFarlane**  
DID YOU know that the New Year was not always celebrated on January 1?

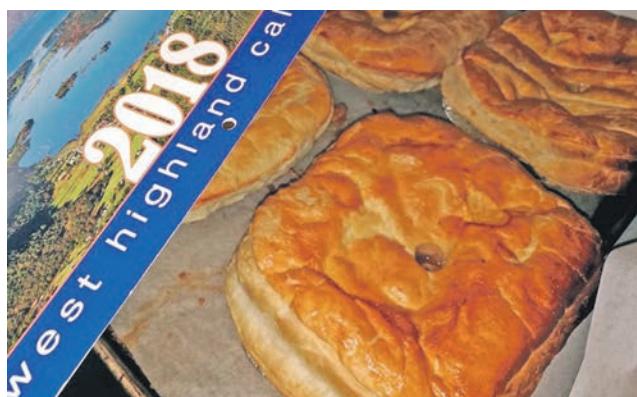
New Year used to be celebrated on January 14 in the Gregorian calendar. In fact, the date is still celebrated in Gaelic-speaking areas of the Outer Hebrides, such as South Uist. Some of these old Hebridean traditions may come as a shock to the younger generations of Scotland.

On Oidhche Chullaig (Hogmanay) children would sing a rhyme to gain entry to each home which translates to 'tonight I come vis-

iting you, to renew for you the year.' Just how today's children would be if asked to do such a thing is anyone's guess.

One boy would carry the breast strip of a sheep dipped in wax and tallow, which would be freshly lit in the house fire. It was then passed round the inhabitants, who would cross themselves and circle the candle round their head three times. If the flame went out, the person would not survive the year.

Such traditions are slightly different to waiting on the bells to ring from the television



before watching fireworks from across the country.

But how does the rest of the world celebrate the New Year?

In China, New Year can fall in either January or February. Each year a different zodiac

animal is celebrated. The Chinese New Year for 2018 will occur on February 16 and will be the year of the dog.

In Spain, one of the biggest New Year traditions is to eat one grape on each of the

chimes of the last 12 seconds of the year. If you manage to fit the grapes in your mouth by midnight, you will enjoy good luck for the entire year.

In Ecuador, they bring in the New Year by burning paper-filled

The steak pie has usurped black bun as Scotland's favourite New Year food.  
a01\_SteakPies01

scarecrows at midnight as well as photos from that year - all for good fortune.

In Ireland, an unusual tradition some people carry out is throwing bread at the wall to get rid of evil or negative spirits.

In Panama, people hold money in their hand at midnight to ensure they will have money for the New Year.

Some Scottish traditions have changed in the last decade or two. Not so long ago people would 'first foot' around the houses, taking with them a lump of coal for luck. The

first person to enter a house after midnight on Hogmanay would be the first foot. Ideally this would be a dark-haired man. Food such as black bun or shortbread would be carried. And maybe even a dram too.

But traditions change, and nowadays the Hogmanay steak pie is something to look forward to. But you would be advised to book well in advance, such is the demand.

*Lorne is a sixth year pupil at Lochgilphead High School and has been on work experience at the Argyllshire Advertiser.*



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## Editorial

### Worst trunk road in Scotland?

THE A83 used to be a pleasant drive, but not any more.

The ruts and potholes in many stretches of the road make it a stressful and occasionally dangerous route to negotiate.

It is rapidly heading for the distinction of the worst trunk road in Scotland – up there with the A82 between Tarbet and Inverarnan in third world cart-track status.

It is not the fault of the staff working hard to repair the roads as winter takes its toll. The problem lies with years of strategic under-investment in basics such as surface water drainage.

But the money is there – it is just not being spent on the West Coast. We have cart tracks while the east enjoys new bridges across the Forth, the Aberdeen bypass and a new dualled A9 to Inverness.

Add the state of this main Argyll artery to our second rate mobile phone service, dodgy broadband and vanishing public services and it is time our political representatives – of all parties – made some real noise on our behalf.

### How to contact us

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### Benefits of nature

Sir,  
Scotland is world-renowned for its incredible landscapes and varied wildlife. Earlier this year, the readers of Rough Guide voted ours the most beautiful country in the world.

But it's important to remember our stunning vistas do so much more than simply bring us joy. Nature-based tourism benefits our economy, and nature benefits each of us personally. Research shows access to green spaces improves our health and well-being.

At Scottish Natural Heritage, we have long extolled the benefits we all get from the natural environment as well as the need to create better places for nature.

Over the past year, we have worked on a number of high-profile initiatives to help connect people with nature and protect our wildlife and habitats.

We continue to lead the development of the National Cycling and Walking Network to encourage people to enjoy the countryside and to help bring more tourists to Scotland.

To help improve Scotland's carbon stores, we restored 400 hectares of peatlands under the Peatland Action programme. These areas are also home to many of our well-known plants and animals.

We are implementing the Scottish Government's Green Infrastructure initiative, part of the European Regional Development Fund programme, with a reopening of the Community Engagement Fund in early 2018 – and are working with a range of partners to help improve the quality, quantity and accessibility of green spaces in Scotland's towns and cities.

We are delivering a Scotland-wide scheme, spearheaded by our Argyll office, to manage the impact of sea eagles on agriculture, specifically in relation to hill sheep farms.

We will continue to work

on these projects in the coming year.

Looking ahead, the Scottish Government has designated 2018 the Year of Young People.

It's so important to provide our young people with access to nature. Research shows childhood access to green space can reduce the risk of anxiety and depression as adults. Early and continuing contact with nature also helps develop and maintain a sense of stewardship and an interest in looking after our natural assets.

That's why we've just launched the Future Routes fund to encourage youth across the country to share ideas that will help young people engage with nature. Working with Young Scot, we will help develop their ideas and bring them to life in the coming year.

As the new year begins, many of us will be making New Year's resolutions. At SNH, ours are always to ensure everyone in Scotland has continued access to green places and that our natural habitats and wildlife are valued and looked after.

What are your goals for engaging with nature this year?

You can find ideas for getting involved with nature in your community and your local nature reserve on our new website, nature.scot.

Have a happy and healthy New Year.

**Mike Cantlay,**  
**chairman,**  
**Scottish Natural**  
**Heritage,**  
**Great Glen House,**  
**Inverness**

### Wild animals in circuses

Sir,

On December 20 MSPs voted through the Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Scotland) Bill in Holyrood.

The bill, which now awaits royal assent and an implementation date, will

make Scotland the first country in the UK to make it an offence for a circus operator to cause or permit a wild animal to be used in a travelling circus in Scotland.

We commend Scottish Government for this progressive law, which is an issue that vets have long campaigned on.

Although there are currently no circuses using wild animals based in Scotland, they have visited in the past.

While this issue may not affect a great number of individual animals, the strength of cross-party support for this ban reflects the fact that the use of wild animals in this way is emblematic of the way we treat all animals.

This law, the first of its kind in the UK, really marks Scotland out as a leader in animal welfare.

**Melissa Donald,**  
**president, British**  
**Veterinary Association**  
**Scottish branch**

### Brexit and business

Sir,

The retail industry is undergoing significant transition as it adapts to changing shopping habits against a backdrop of pallid sales, lower footfall, rising costs and thinner profits.

Retailers are working ever harder to maintain let alone grow sales and are responding positively to the challenges that profound structural change brings through innovating and becoming more productive, by investing in new online and logistics capabilities and a higher skilled workforce.

2018 holds a brighter prospect if improvements on the employment and population front continue and if real wage growth resumes.

Of keen interest to the industry this coming year will be the next steps with Brexit and the prospects for Scotland's economy.

Putting consumers first in the Brexit negotiations and securing a lasting tariff-free trade deal with the EU is imperative, and will help retailers to keep down prices in shops. It will ensure that ordinary shoppers aren't hit with the cost of unwanted new tariffs.

There needs to be a much more thorough debate in 2018 about how our governments will help stimulate private sector growth and about the boundaries of regulatory intervention in the economy.

Lifting private sector investment will be key. The switch to using the CPI measure of inflation for next spring's uplift in business rates is a positive step, but government-imposed costs continue to escalate and are increasingly difficult to absorb. This results in firms diverting cash and resources away from growing the business.

For example, firms here in Scotland have little ability to claim back the money they fork out in apprenticeship levy, unlike their counterparts in England.

Overall just 29 per cent said they were confident that the online parental controls they had in place for their children were sufficient.

The NSPCC and O2 joined forces in 2015 with the aim of helping parents keep their children safe online.

The online world can be full of fun and wonder for children and no doubt tablets, smart phones and games consoles will have featured on many Christmas lists this year.

That is why it is vital that every parent who has bought an internet-connected device this Christmas sets up parental controls to help protect their children from online risks.

For help on a specific issue, call experts at the O2 and NSPCC Online Safety Helpline - 0808 800 5002.

**Tony Stower,**  
**head of child**  
**safety online,**  
**NSPCC**

decline in retail jobs and shops, especially in our more economically fragile communities.

Every policy should be tested against a simple benchmark - will it make Scotland the best place for retailers to invest and expand.

**David Lonsdale,**  
**director, Scottish**  
**Retail Consortium**

### Child safety online

Sir,

Our charity, NSPCC, and mobile phone operator O2 are urging parents to make online safety a priority if their children have received smartphones, tablets or game consoles this Christmas.

A survey of 442 parents of five to 10-year-olds found that 46 per cent don't have parental controls set up on internet-enabled devices used by their children and only 30 per cent have them installed through their home broadband.

For example, firms here in Scotland have little ability to claim back the money they fork out in apprenticeship levy, unlike their counterparts in England.

The implications for consumer spending from the decision to dip into consumers' pockets to the tune of £164 million in extra income taxes remains to be seen, but less money in consumers' pockets will cause shoppers to carefully consider what purchases they can afford.

If government fluffs the opportunity to bear down on the costs of doing business and the cost of living over the coming year then it risks failing to stem the

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Please write to: Letters, The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8NB. Fax: (01546) 602661. Email editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk. Emailed letters can only be considered if they have a name, full address and phone number.

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602345 or write to the Group Editor at Wyvex Media, Cranong Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

We will try to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can call IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body that deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

# Designer DRIVEWAY

## Enhancing the value of homes throughout Scotland

Designer Driveway are an established driveway and landscaping company based in Kintyre and Edinburgh. Specialising in unique walling, beautiful patios, modern resin bound stone overlay, artificial grass and driveway cleaning with incredible results. Our team of professionals will work tirelessly to deliver the look you wish to achieve, whilst offering guided expertise along the way.



### DRIVEWAY INSTALLATIONS

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A garden can be transformed with a simple yet stylish wall or patio area, perfect for making the best use of space available outdoors and adding character to your property.



### RESIN BOUND STONE OVERLAY

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The possibilities are endless!

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The advanced yet simple method applied by Designer Driveway will have your driveway once more looking pristine and protect it from the elements. A cost-effective solution to rejuvenate your property immediately.



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at your property please call Stan Watson on **07711 753 195**,  
or email [stan@designerdriveway.com](mailto:stan@designerdriveway.com).

# Reader pitches in with field history

**Colin Cameron**  
editor@ayrshireadvertiser.co.uk

ONE OF just two public playing fields in Argyll and Bute named after King George V - the other being in Rothesay - the origins of the pitch in Ardrishaig were the subject of an article in a recent edition of the *Advertiser*.

In a family photo album, a picture lay of a scene that appeared to show a special occasion - probably at King George V playing fields in Ardrishaig.

The album belonged to the mother of Mary MacDonald and Alma McGuinness and in the December 22 edition the *Advertiser* asked whether any of its readers might be able to offer a little more information on the picture.

## Ardishaig park and football pitch officially opened in 1939

As ever, readers of the *Argyllshire Advertiser* have come up trumps.

Ardishaig woman Grace Clifford called into the office with a photo of her own, featured right.

She explained a little of the history of the pitch. 'Ardishaig's park and football pitch was opened in 1939 and the gate, with its two inscribed and crested pillars, was added shortly afterwards.

'The official opening by Sir St Clair

Thomson took place in 1939.'

Grace confirmed that her photo was taken at the official opening and the two boys in the photo are Noel Clifford and his younger brother Leon, Grace's late husband.

The little girl standing between them is Nanette Carr.

Noel and Leon were the sons of the well-known Ardrishaig dentist Frank Clifford.

Grace continued: 'As my photo was obviously taken the same day as the one handed

in by Mary and Alma - two childhood friends of mine - it would confirm that their photo-

to was, in fact, taken at the official opening of the King George V playing field in 1939.'

If anyone would like to comment further, contact the *Advertiser* by calling in to the Lochgil-



Grace's photo dates from 1939 and the official opening of the KGV playing field. Pictured are Noel Clifford, Nanette Carr and Leon Clifford.



## BACK OF BEYOND BROADBAND

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# Weather fails to spoil Inveraray's night of music

THE DECEMBER meeting of Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club coincided with some wintry weather which, unfortunately, prevented a few of the regulars from attending.

For those who made it along to the Inveraray Inn, there was plenty of fine music to appreciate.

Supporting players who braved the elements were Fyne Folk with Sally Hall, Alex John MacLeod and

Jake MacKay on fiddles and Agnes Liddell on keyboard and they played an enjoyable couple of sets.

Young Calum MacDonald played his button box beautifully and very kindly brought the good wishes to the club from his tutor, Fraser McGlynn.

## Welcome return

There were also some nice selections from the Dalriada Ceilidh Band, who made a welcome return this month with Myles Clark on



The club gave a warm welcome to Neil MacEachern and his Scottish Dance Band on a cold night in Inveraray.

accordion, Steve Hunter on guitar and Grant MacDougall on drums.

Guest artistes were Neil MacEachern and his Scottish Dance Band with Neil on accordion, his wife Angela on fiddle, Tom Murray on keyboard and Dave Beattie on drums.

They entertained the audience to an excellent varied selection in both halves, with two cracking solos from Angela on fiddle.

Due to the bad weather the evening was curtailed to allow the guest artistes to head for home. The chairman, Niall Iain MacLean, thanked all the artistes – and the audience – for making the effort to attend and conveyed the compliments of the season to all.

Next week, to get the new year underway, the club welcomes back the very popular Robert Nairn Trio from Acharacle.



A collection of festive entertainers from Mid Argyll Pipe Band.

# Packing bagpipes at Lochgilphead Co-op



THERE was the sound of festive music at Lochgilphead Co-op on the Saturday before Christmas.

Mid Argyll Pipe Band members were packing bags and performing at the supermarket as part of a drive to raise money for the band's trip to the UK Pipe Band Championships in Belfast later this year.

Among the stirring marches and traditional band sets, some Christmas songs were introduced to the repertoire just to add a little more festive cheer.

Pipe Major Craig Lang leads the way, and the sleigh.

## Scottish Calendars 2018 The ideal gift...



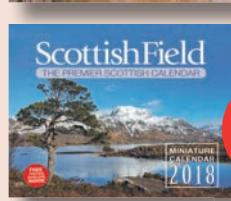
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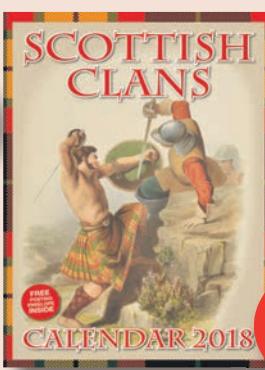
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## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

To advertise in the community noticeboard  
call 01586 554646 or 01546 602345

Kintyre Antiquarian & Natural History Society:  
**'Looking at Natural History'**,  
an illustrated talk by Ged Connolly in the Ardshiel Hotel, Campbeltown, on Wednesday 10 January 2018, at 7.30 p.m.  
All welcome (non-members £2.50 at door)

**KINTYRE MUSIC CLUB**  
presents  
**Frances Cooper and Joanna Nicholson Soprano and Clarinet**  
Lorne & Lowland Church Hall, Friday 12 January 7.30pm  
£10, Children are free

**Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club**  
Wednesday 10th January  
Inveraray Inn At 8.00pm  
Guest Artistes Robert Nairn Trio Supporting players most welcome

  
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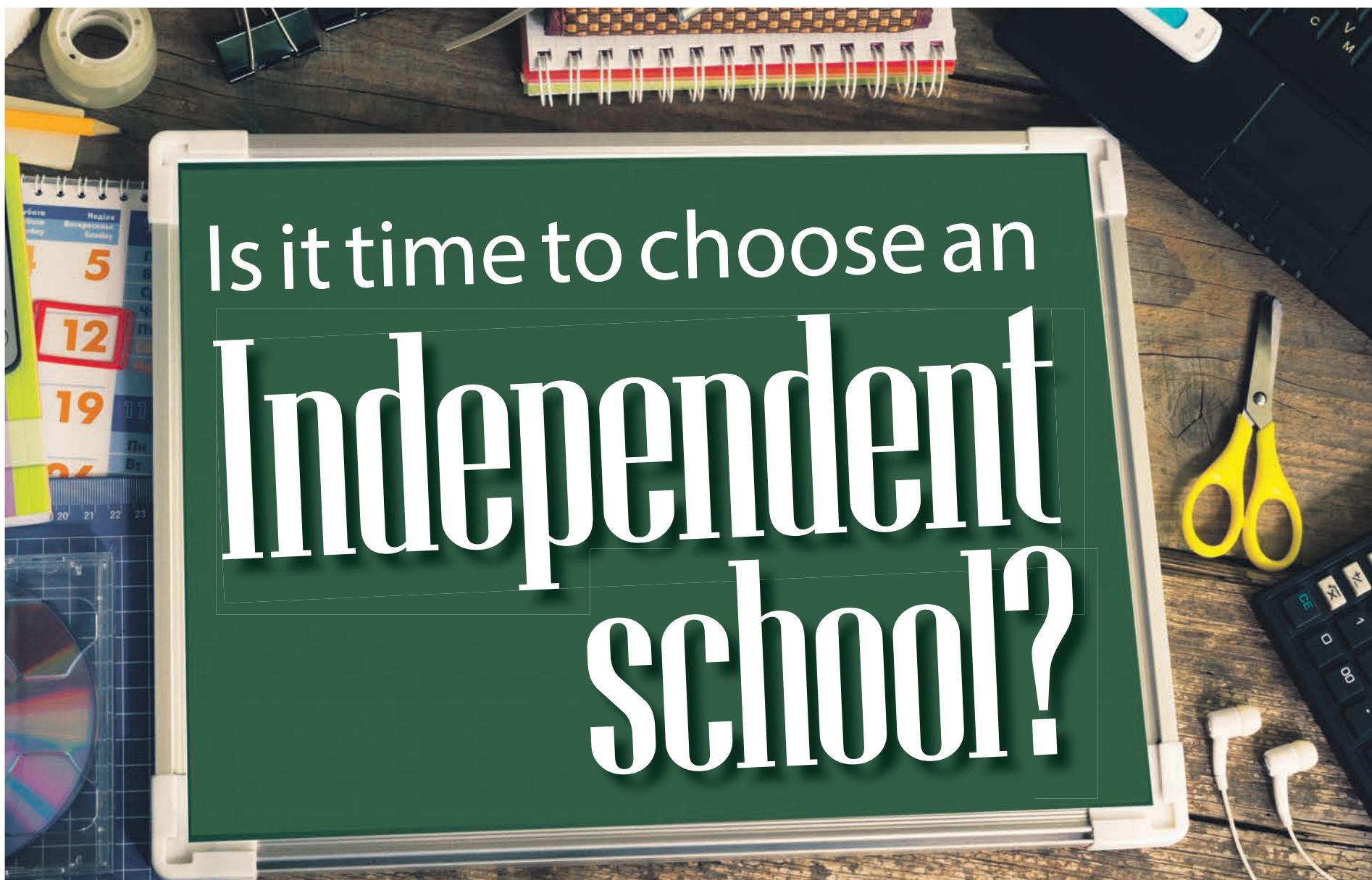
Email: [treesability@live.co.uk](mailto:treesability@live.co.uk)

Website: [www.treesability.co.uk](http://www.treesability.co.uk)

Operates throughout ARGYLL







## Merchiston Edinburgh

Merchiston is the only boys' independent boarding school in Scotland, offers the English curriculum, and has a global, outward-looking dimension. The School takes pride in specialising in the education of boys and preparing them for the world, developing aspirational, and sensitive, yet gentle-men! Think about a wonderfully caring and nurturing family environment, where boys learn to like learning more.

With an ethos based on traditional values, Merchiston encourages self-reliance and independence, as well as respect for and tolerance of others. The main objective is to motivate pupils to try their hardest and to strive to achieve the highest levels possible in all areas – firstly academic, then cultural, sporting, leadership, and simply living together as part of a community.

Another aspect of the boys-only philosophy is that time is regularly set aside to meet girls from our sister schools. This allows the boys to focus on study in school time, but also to have plenty of opportunities to socialize and make friends through curricular, co-curricular, and social links.

### Outstanding off the field...\*

- 47% of pupils achieved A\*/A grades at A Level
- 82% of pupils gained places at their first or second choice university
- 64% of pupils went to UK Russell Group Universities, Bath, St Andrews and leading international institutions
- 92% A\*/A/B pass rate in Further Mathematics at A Level
- SAT support clinics for applicants for American Universities held weekly. Students have gained admission to Ivy League Universities, such as Cornell and Brown
- 62% of pupils achieved A\*/A grades at GCSE
- 18 pupils achieved nine or more A\*/A GCSE grades
- Best Head of Public School (runner-up), Tatler School Guide 2015 and 2018
- Gradual progression to secondary teaching from Primary six
- Full boarding with a varied weekend activity programme specifically suited to age and stage

\* Academic Results 2016/17



**MERCHISTON  
STORY**

EVERY BOY IS AN INDIVIDUAL. EVERY BOY HAS A STORY.  
LET US SHAPE HIS FUTURE STORY.

Open Day - Saturday 3 February Open Evening - Thursday 8 March

ME  
D

A BOARDING A

MERCHISTON.CO.UK admissions

## An experience that will last a lifetime

INDEPENDENT education is one of the most important decisions you will make for your family.

Where and what kind of home you buy and choosing your career path are the only family decisions you will make which will be bigger than whether to take your child out of main stream public education and into the fee-paying independent sector.

There are as many reasons for independent education as there are children; perhaps it is a family tradition. It could be that you know your career is going to lead to relocation after relocation and boarding is the best way to provide the stability needed during vital times in your children's education.

No matter how excellent a state school might be, it will always have a 'one-size-fits-all' approach towards some aspects of school life. This is fine for most of the time but if, for some reason, your son or daughter



### on the field...

No.1 UK Junior Ranking Golf School (ISGA, 2014/15, 2015/16 & 2016/17)

No.2 UK Senior Golf School (ISGA, as of November 2017)

No.2 World Tennis School (ISF, 2017)

No.2 UK Tennis School (LTA, 2017)

Representation in all of the 2017/18 Scottish National Rugby Teams

In 2016/17, 89% of all pupils, from 7-18, represented the School in sport.

In 2016/17, there were 73 different teams, of all abilities, playing competitive fixtures across 16 sports: a total of 539 fixtures.

Wide range of sports available, such as athletics, cricket and hockey, suitable for boys of all abilities

Personal tours and tasters available all year.

A range of scholarships are available at 10+. Unmeans-tested financial assistance may be available subject to application.

**MERCHISTON**  
IN BURGH | Boys first

ND DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS AGED 7-18  
s@merchiston.co.uk 0131 312 2201

Recognised by the Inland Revenue as a Charity, number SC016580

is the one who is finding it hard to make that fit you cannot help but wonder if they would be better off in the independent sector.

Is your child just not thriving? Are there areas where they need extra help or is it that they are not being stretched enough to realise their full potential.

Would they benefit from the smaller class sizes that the independents offer? This can often be a key point for children from remote or rural areas like the West Highlands who have attended state primary schools with small class sizes who find themselves overwhelmed by the size of secondary schools.

With state school budgets being ever tightened do the extra-curricular activities and enhanced pastoral care of the independent sector look like money well spent in proving for your child's future?

The last 50 years have seen an unprecedented rise in consumer culture with families near brain-washed into believing that buying bigger, better, faster, newer is best. We are moving away from this mindset and a realisation is dawning that experience, not possessions, is what binds us and creates stronger, happier families. Would your children benefit from experiencing independent education?



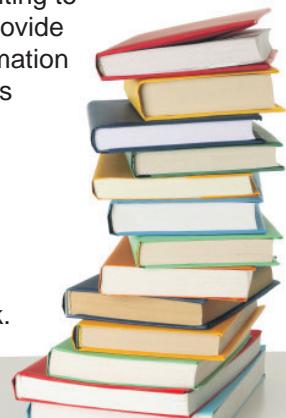
## Did you know?

- There are just fewer than 30,000 pupils in 73 independent schools in Scotland. That is 4.1 per cent of pupils 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 £30million in exports
- The Scottish Council of Independent Schools has 73 members; 52 are mainstream, 21 offer additional support. Boarding schools account for 19 of them
- Within the senior independent schools 93 per cent of pupils who sat Highers passed.

## Find out more

THE schools and services featured here are waiting to hear from you and provide you with all the information you need to make this important choice.

The website of the Scottish Council of Independent Schools is a good place to start.  
Visit [www.scis.org.uk](http://www.scis.org.uk).



• Statistics quoted in this advertising feature come from the Scottish Council of Independent Schools annual survey, 2016.

## Independent education IS affordable

PERHAPS one of the biggest mistakes people make about private education is that they cannot afford it and never even consider the idea.

They couldn't be more wrong.

The golden rule is that it is never too early to start planning.

Good financial advice, prudence, plus parents and grandparents

working together over savings and any inheritance all make independent education achievable.

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. To date, Scotland has

treated private schools as charities in terms of business rates, and the schools return this in the form of pro bono work through bursaries and scholarships for pupils and allowing local communities to use their facilities.

This year's Scottish budget is debating this issue.



# More than good grades.



Co-educational day, weekly and full boarding; 5 to 18 years

Arrange a visit or find out more:  
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Entrance assessments: Sat 27 Jan 2018  
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The Governors of Dollar Academy Trust is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC009888



## Dollar Academy

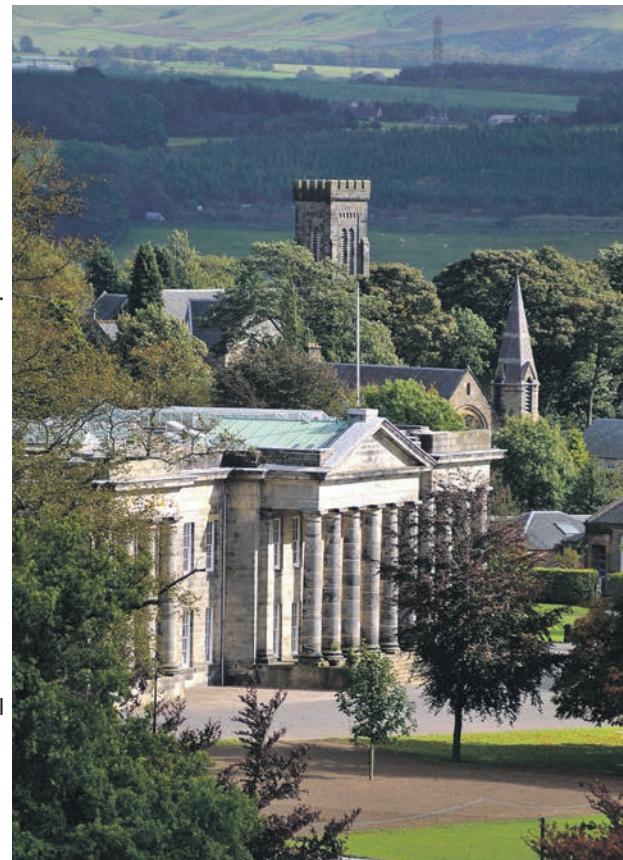
As Dollar prepares to launch its bicentenary year in June 2018, it remains one of Scotland's best performing independent schools, highly regarded by parents.

Dollar was recently named *The Sunday Times* Scottish Independent Secondary School of the Year, having moved up the academic league tables\* to third in Scotland. Pupils study the Scottish curriculum and benefit from the widest choice of Highers anywhere in the country. In 2017, pupils set a new school record with a 98% pass rate at Higher level and almost a third of the year group achieved five or more A-grades. Results at National 5 level were just as excellent, with an A-grade pass rate of 72.5%.

The 70-plus activities cater for all interests and abilities – from sport and the arts to academic clubs, volunteering, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Combined Cadet Force and world championship-winning pipe band. And high-level sports coaching has seen many pupils go on to compete at national and international levels.

The Care Inspectorate describes the school as having a 'sector-leading' standard of care for its boarders. The focus is on creating a home-from-home environment with small family-style boarding houses. Tutors help with homework and boarders enjoy excellent campus facilities and a wide choice of activities in the evenings and at weekends. And with several hundred day pupils living locally, they have a wide circle of friends both in and out of the boarding house.

Dollar is in a uniquely stunning location and the strong sense of community amongst pupils is one of the great strengths of the school.



\*The Sunday Times Schools Guide 2018

To arrange a visit or for more information:  
E: [registrar@dollaracademy.org.uk](mailto:registrar@dollaracademy.org.uk)  
T: 01259 742511

## Strathallan School



### Welcome to our world

Our aim at Strathallan is to expand our pupils' horizons and broaden their experiences, nurturing their skills and talents in a positive, supportive environment that welcomes young people, boarders and day alike, from the UK and all over the world.

### GENERAL INFORMATION MORNING

10th March 2018

Welcoming boys and girls aged 9 to 18 years

Scholarship Dates  
Junior 27th January  
Third Form 26th February - 1st March

Bursaries also available

Call 01738 815003 to register or visit [strathallan.co.uk](http://strathallan.co.uk)



STRATHALLAN  
SCHOOL

Opportunities for all to excel

### Welcome to our world

Set in 153 acres of magnificent rural Perthshire, yet easily accessible from elsewhere in Scotland, Strathallan School is an outstanding place to learn with some of the finest facilities of any school in Scotland.

The School has a great blend of local, national and international pupils and celebrates the different interests and cultures our international pupils bring.

### Where learning comes to life

As well as achieving exceptional academic standards, we foster a lifelong enjoyment of learning. Our highly committed teachers are also involved in sports coaching and other activities and the bonds built outside the classroom have



profound educational benefits. It's no surprise that many of our pupils move on to top universities like Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh.

### Where everyone's involved in the life of the school

More than 60% of our pupils are boarders so there's always a lot going on. That's a big advantage for day pupils who stay well into the evening and are fully involved in the myriad of activities available.

### Where talent turns to achievement

Champions - Strathallan's 1st XV made history winning the U18 Scottish Rugby Schools' Cup for the first time. The nurturing environment and comprehensive development programme created by our Director of Rugby and the coaches has put Strathallan firmly on the map as one of the top development schools for rugby in Scotland.

All pupils regularly take part in a variety of sports. We also run a comprehensive programme for elite athletes.

In the Expressive Arts, there are many opportunities to develop creative talents in a variety of musical ensembles, in our theatre and in our state-of-the-art dance and drama studio.

### Where belonging is forever

Strathallan provides an exceptional educational experience for boys and girls aged 9 to 18. It's a school where effort is rewarded and where pupils are given the time and encouragement to grow into capable, confident young men and women who are ready for the challenges that lie ahead.

### Interested in being part of our world?

Why not come along and meet the pupils, staff and parents at our next Information Morning, register now at [strathallan.co.uk](http://strathallan.co.uk)

## Lomond School – A Great Place to Live and Learn



'At all stages of the school, children and young people are highly motivated and actively involved in their learning. They are respectful, hard-working and respond very well to the overall high-quality learning experiences'. Education Scotland

Located in the picturesque coastal town of Helensburgh with its safe community environment and excellent transport links, Lomond School has a long tradition of boarders from the West Highlands and Islands.

Lomond offers a wide-ranging curriculum including eight National Fives as S3/S4 and the traditional five Highers

in S5. Extracurricular activities include hockey, rugby, sailing, skiing and canoeing. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is another significant feature and Lomond has enjoyed great success carrying out expeditions both locally and abroad.

Boarders at Lomond benefit from excellent facilities with the new Burnbrae boarding house, built in 2003, offering comfortable lounges, a gym and mostly twin en-suite study bedrooms. Lomond also allows male and female siblings the opportunity to live together in the same boarding house and families are also offered the flexibility of weekly boarding.

Lomond School Principal, Johanna Urquhart said: 'Here at Lomond we pride ourselves on taking an individual approach to the education and care of each and every pupil. Boarding provides a particularly rewarding experience thanks to our family ethos, excellent facilities and professional, dedicated staff'.

Families interested in finding out more about the admissions process, booking a tour or arranging a taster session can contact our admissions office: [admissions@lomondschool.com](mailto:admissions@lomondschool.com)



## Kilgraston is a leading Catholic boarding and day school for girls aged 5-18.

Offering day and boarding education, Kilgraston has something to inspire every young woman. We are a school with traditional values but with a modern and forward-looking perspective on education. Education is not just about exam success; developing interest and talents, nurturing an understanding of different cultures, and emphasising our personal responsibility as global citizens are vital. As such, a Kilgraston girl benefits from a wealth of opportunities to extend and enrich her educational experience. We offer over 50 extra-curricular activities and enjoy modern, state-of-the-art facilities including a Science Centre, Sixth Form Study Centre, excellent boarding accommodation, 25m swimming pool, all-weather astro-turf pitches and Scotland's only school equestrian centre.

Having been named 'top performing independent school for Advanced Highers' by best-schools.co.uk in 2015, Kilgraston girls routinely achieve outstanding sets of results. At Advanced Higher, 90.5% of grades were A-B against a national average of 59.3%. In 2018, 64% of girls are applying to study a STEM undergraduate course and

in 2017, 100% of girls were accepted into their choice of university. Kilgraston has an exceptional reputation for girls gaining entry into top Scottish universities.

When Kilgraston girls leave us to go on to further studies, we are certain that they will continue to channel their talents and become leaders for tomorrow. Our girls leave Kilgraston with an embedded sense of individualism, confidence, humility and a desire to achieve the very best she can, in her own chosen field. Our girls don't compromise on success, they inspire it.

You are invited to join us at our Open Day on Saturday February 3, 2018 from 11am-2pm. The staff and pupils would be delighted to meet you and show you our outstanding facilities. Please do let us know you are coming so that we can have your personalised welcome pack ready for your arrival.

For further information or to book a visit, please contact  
Mrs Amanda Johnstone:  
[admissions@kilgraston.com](mailto:admissions@kilgraston.com) | 01738 815523



## Inspiring Potential



**Lomond School**  
Helensburgh



### Lomond School invites applications for August 2018 entry from P1 to S6.

If you would like to visit the school and see what Lomond has to offer or find out more about the application process, please contact the Admissions Office.

Application deadline: **12th January 2018**

10 Stafford Street, Helensburgh G84 9JX | Phone: +44 (0)1436 672476  
e-mail: [admissions@lomondschool.com](mailto:admissions@lomondschool.com) | [lomondschool.com](http://lomondschool.com)

## KILGRASTON

JUNIOR YEARS · SENIOR · SIXTH FORM

A leading independent boarding and day school for girls aged 5 - 18



**Open Day**  
**3rd February 2018**  
**11am - 2pm**

[admissions@kilgraston.com](mailto:admissions@kilgraston.com)  
Kilgraston School, Bridge of Earn, Perth, PH2 9BQ  
01738 812 257



## Standing guard over Christmas in Inveraray

ARGYLLSHIRE Advertiser reader Sean Dempsey sent this atmospheric photograph, taken in early December on Inveraray's front green.

Sean explained: 'I was passing through Inveraray whilst working, just as the first of the cold clear nights came in.'

'There was hardly a cloud in the sky, so I jumped out of the motor and took a quick snap on the iPhone.'

'I just thought it was a nice shot with the memorial soldier as if he was standing guard at the Christmas tree.'

# MS Centre to benefit from wind farm funds

**We plan on using this fund for upgrading our current hyperbaric oxygen chamber'**

THE MULTIPLE Sclerosis Centre Mid Argyll will be able to upgrade its hyperbaric chamber thanks to a cash injection of £20,000 from the A'Chruach community fund.

The new chamber will allow the replacement of expensive liquid oxygen tanks they currently rely on with a highly efficient PSA oxygen generator and VSD compressor, which will allow the facility to become more sustainable and greener in the future.

Claire Cameron of

the MS centre said: 'This funding is going to make a massive difference to the centre and the services we provide. We plan on using this fund for upgrading our current hyperbaric oxygen chamber. This will allow us to offer the therapy to local people and to benefit a wider range of health needs.'

Other beneficiaries in this funding round included Mid Argyll Youth Development Services, Mid Argyll Community Enterprises Ltd, Lochgilphead



Claire Cameron - funding will make 'a massive difference'.

Soccer Centre, Blairbuie Woodland Enterprises, Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation and Dochas Fund.

The A'Chruach fund benefits the communities of Dunadd, West Loch Fyne and Lochgilphead and was established to support

community-led activity that is strategic, positive, creative and improves the communities involved.

A'Chruach is a 21-turbine wind farm located in Kilmichael Forest approximately 4km west of Minard and north of Loch Glashan.

## Net free safety training, fishermen urged

SEAFOOD promotion body Seafish is appealing to commercial fishermen in Argyll to act quickly to take advantage of free safety training - before funding for the courses runs out.

The call comes at the end of a 10-year period in which there were more than 3,300 accidents involving UK fishing vessels, with more than 500 fishermen suffering serious injury and almost 100 losing their lives.

The funding for courses, which is available to all commercial fishermen, can be used to attend a wide range of locally held safety courses; from basic training and safety refreshers, to more ad-

vanced courses such as navigation, engineering and stability awareness and a skipper qualification.

Simon Potten, head of safety and training at Seafish, said: 'Despite advances in the design and construction of safer fishing vessels, we are still seeing too many accidents every year and far too many serious

injuries and fatalities to crew. Many of these could have been avoided.'

'Seafish has managed to secure several million pounds in funding for fishermen's training over the last 20 years, but we can't be sure of future funding.'

'It's incredibly important that commercial fishermen in the west of Scotland take

time to consider the training options available to them and apply for funding before it runs out at the end of March.'

'Not only could it save a life or prevent a life-changing injury, but the certificates and qualifications gained can also open up other income-earning opportunities. Act now.'

To find a local training provider, or to apply for funding, visit [www.seafish.co.uk/training](http://www.seafish.co.uk/training).

Funding for this programme is provided by the European Maritime Fisheries Fund and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. Funding applications will be accepted up until March 31, 2018.

**Scottish Field**  
COUNTRY NEWS, INTERIORS, GARDENS, FOOD & DRINK, PROPERTY, ANTIQUES, FASHION, TRAVEL JANUARY 2018 02.25

**THE BORDERS**  
The Duke of Buccleuch on his boyhood home

HOGMANAY ON THE ISLE OF COLL

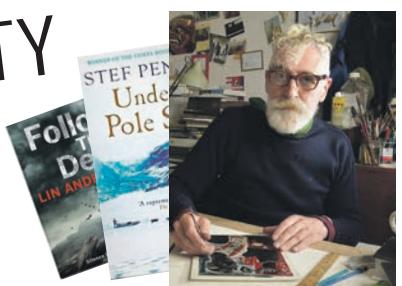
Plus  
THE GREATEST SCOTTISH FORGER JASON CONNERY ON THE COUCH SCALLOP DREDGING'S DIRTY SECRET THE REWINDING WARRIOR

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# Advertiser Farming

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# Brexit, co-operation and public support is crucial

THE SUPPORT of governments and the public will be crucial factors if Scotland is to prosper in the post-Brexit era, writes NFU Scotland vice president Martin Kennedy.

Firstly, relative to Scottish farmers, Norwegian costs are high. However, what they receive in terms of price for their product plus how they are supported makes up the difference and more.

Secondly, the general public in Norway is connected to agriculture compared to the relative disconnect we have here. That leads to a real appreciation of what agriculture is doing, not only by way of providing a high-quality product but by recognising farmers as essential

way is only around 50 per cent self-sufficient in food, farming is a business that is on an upward trajectory. The reason for this is two-fold.

Although Norway is not a member of the EU, it is a member of the European Economic Area agreement and, as such, pays a subscription to trade with EU member states.

This has some caveats attached. They must take on board a fair percentage of the regulation that is commonly agreed throughout Europe, but non-membership of the EU also has its advantages when it comes to their own agricultural policy and support.

Co-operation is key,



Martin Kennedy - Norway trip .06\_a01nfusKennedy01

players in looking after the environment. This explains why they have no need for extra environmental measures as they feel agriculture in Norway is already doing a pretty good job.

Arable cropping re-

ceives an area-based

support and some of

most herds are farmer, but £1,000 per ewe investment is still truly amazing.

As there is considerable support delivered on either a production basis or indeed by

way of a headage payment, it begs the question of how the Norwegians get around World Trade Organisation regulation when it is paying everything on acreage and headage? The answer puts things into perspective.

According to the Norwegians, it is not a production or headage payment. It is an environmental and cultural sustainability payment, but delivered through area and headage.

Surely this only goes to show that where there's a will, there's a way.

## Christmas livestock market round-up... Christmas livestock market round-up...

STIRLING United Auctions (Thursday December 28, 2017) sold 4,661 prime sheep comprising 3,288 lambs selling to an average of 190.5ppk and 1,373 ewes and rams.

Lambs (3,288) Errol Enterprises (Tex) £114; Doune Farms (BTex) £110; Drummie (X) £100; Southfield (Suff) £98; Shanry (X) £97; Westwood (Chev) £95; Eastmill (BF) £92.

It was clear to all that Norwegian agriculture is recognised and supported by its government and the vast majority of the public.

And although Nor-

550kgs- Longfaugh, 167.30p; 551-600kgs – Longfaugh £990, 178.70p.

Heifers: Up to 250kgs- Townhead £540, 230.80p;

301-350kg- Townhead £660, 208.90p; 351-400kgs-

Townhead £770, Lurgan 209.90p; 401-450kgs-

Lurgan £870, 201.40p; 451-500kgs- Lochlands

£940, 191.10p; 501-550kgs- Balnabroich £900,

172.40p.

OTM Cows: £ per head – Lesliepark (CH)

£1530; Upper Auchenlay (Cont) £1390; Easter Clunie (Sim) £1210; Macmerry (AA) £1210; Hillend (Lim) £1190; Balnabroich (BS) £1030.

PPK- Scrotong (Lim) 183.90p; Lesliepark (CH)

173.79p; Graystale (AA) 151.00p; Upper Auchen-

lay (Cont) 150.80p; Braendam (Sim) 145.60p;

Braendam (BS) 134.30p.

OTM Bulls: £ per head- Barns of Airlie (Lim)

£1390; Hillhead (CH) £1,130; Burnside of Bal-

haldie (AA) £1,170.

PPK- Hillhead (CH) 196.90p; Barns of Airlie

(Lim) 110.10p; Burnside of Balhaldie (AA) 99.00p.

United Auctions also sold 984 store lambs and

feeding sheep.

Leading Prices: Millhouse (Tex) £69; Skelmorlie

(Tex) £60; Linnwater (BF) £60.

Stirling, Caledonian Marts (Wednesday Decem-

ber 20, 2017) sold 102 store cattle and suckled

calves, 37 breeding cattle, 250 store lambs and

feeding ewes, and 58 cast cows and bulls.

Bullocks (19) averaged 189.63p to 247.30ppk

for a 372kg LimX from Lurgan and to £990 for 554kg

CHX from Longfaugh.

B&W bullocks (18) averaged 131.16p to

183.40p; for a 501kg HFX from Nether Pratis,

and to £675 for a 501kg HFX from Nether Pratis.

Heifers (24) averaged 190.86p to 232.80ppk

for a 232kg SimX from Townhead, and to £940 for a

492kg SimX from Lochlands.

Cast cows (90) averaged 125.36p to 183.90ppk

for a LimX from Scrotong and to £1,530 for a CHX

from Lesliepark.

Leading Prices: Texel (Tex) £69; Skelmorlie

(Tex) £60; Linnwater (BF) £60.

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Leading Prices: Texel (Tex) £69; Skelmorlie

(Tex) £60; Linnwater (BF) £60.



Last chance to  
vote for your  
**FINALISTS!**



014  
Angus  
Cat  
Dunstaffnage, Oban



029  
Marni  
Jack Russell Terrier  
Caol, Fort William



037  
Max  
Cat  
Lochgilphead



038  
Scooby-Doo  
Dog  
Inveraray



068  
Mr Bigglez  
Staffordshire Bull Terrier  
Bowmore, Isle of Islay



072  
Daniel  
Goldfish  
Lochgilphead



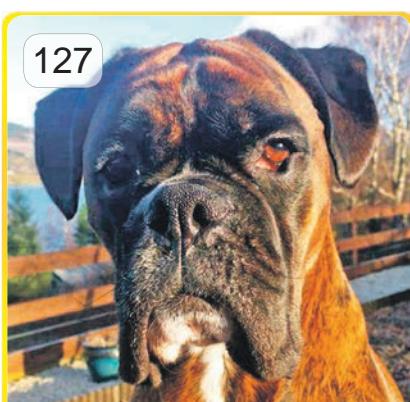
073  
Ozzy  
Dog  
Oban



111  
Meg  
Dog  
Kilmichael Glassary, Lochgilphead



125  
Cooper  
Cavachon  
Oban



127  
Bracken  
Boxer  
Fort William



207  
Max  
Cheviot tup lamb  
Oban



220  
Archie  
Lhasa Apso  
Oban



270  
Grayson  
Siberian kitten  
Lochgilphead



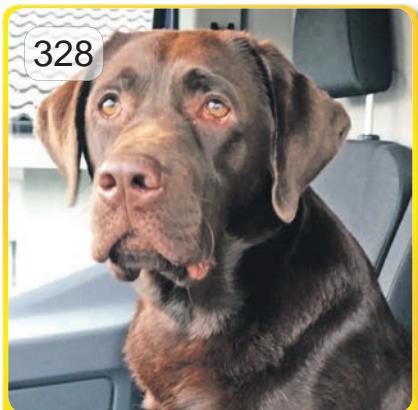
277  
Bear  
Dog  
North Connel



280  
Hamish  
Cockapoo  
Tarbert



282  
Keira  
Boxer/Staffordshire Bull Terrier cross  
Oban



328  
Isla  
Dog  
Oban



329  
Daisy  
Jack Russell/Bichon Frise cross  
Campbeltown



332  
Blue  
Dog  
Oban



348  
Finn  
Cockapoo  
Campbeltown

# Time to vote for your TOP TEN!

The votes just keep pouring in...

We have been completely overwhelmed by the sheer volume of votes since we launched Pet Idol. Our readers truly love their pets.

We have now reached the top 20 and voting is now open for our final ten. Because of the Christmas festivities and the pressure on the postal service we will allow votes to be cast into the new year.

The closing date for entries is 10am on Monday 8th January and a voting coupon will appear in every issue between now and then.

## VOTING COUPON

Round 4

I would like to vote for:

Pet number\*:.....

Pet's name: .....

Please post to Wyvex Media, Pet Idol VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or votes can also be handed in to our offices in Oban, Fort William, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown.

\*Pet number must be supplied. This can be found at the top left of each pet photograph.

**Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted and will not count as one vote.**

**You may send in multiple voting coupons in one envelope.**

**Votes must be received by 10am, Monday 8th January.**

**The Oban Times**  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**LOCHABER TIMES**  
& Oban Times

**Argyllshire  
advertiser**

**Campbeltown  
courier**

**Votes must be received by 10am, Monday 8th January.**

You can vote for as many pets as many times as you like. Only one pet can be voted for on each voting form. Just make sure you use the number quoted on the pet's photograph when voting. Photocopied coupons will not be accepted. One coupon counts as one vote. We will also accept multiple vote coupons in one envelope. Good luck to the 20 hopefuls.

# RECRUITMENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH **HIJOBs**

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Key is a leading Social Care provider working across Scotland for adults with disabilities. We provide person centred support to individuals to live in their own homes and be active citizens; enabling each individual to use their talents, fulfill their dreams and be in control of their lives.

If you are looking for a rewarding job with a well established, sustainable organisation which has an excellent reputation for supporting its workforce then this could be the job for you! Key offer excellent support and training alongside a range of benefits and opportunities for career progression.

We are currently looking for people who:-

- Enjoy and have experience of working with people
- Have a positive attitude to life and a commitment towards making a difference to the lives of people with disabilities
- Have excellent life skills and the ability to share these with others
- Have common sense and can understand and adhere to Codes of Practice and Care Standards

Experience of working with adults with disabilities although desirable is not essential as full training and 'on the job' support will be provided.

For informal discussion or support contact: [Stephen.Riches@key.org.uk](mailto:Stephen.Riches@key.org.uk)

For an application form and job description, please visit our website at [www.key.org.uk](http://www.key.org.uk)  
email: [jobs@key.org.uk](mailto:jobs@key.org.uk) or tel: 0141 342 1892.

closing date for applications is 19th January 2018.

Key, Key Support and Key Housing are names used by Key Housing Association Ltd, a charity registered in Scotland, No SC006652.

Visit: [www.key.org.uk](http://www.key.org.uk)



## Apprentice Mechanical Technician



The Oil and Pipelines Agency is a Public Corporation formed by the Oil and Pipelines Act 1985. Our current primary purpose is to manage, operate and maintain 6 Naval Oil Fuel Depots and 1 Petroleum Storage Depot for the Secretary of State for Defence. The sites are spread across the UK, with 4 in Scotland, 2 on the south coast of England and the Petroleum Storage Depot is located in Cheshire. We have around 120 employees.

Our Head Office is currently based in London at Aviation House, 1st Floor, Zone A, 125 Kingsway, London WC2B 6 NH. You can obtain some further information from [www.gov.uk/opa](http://www.gov.uk/opa)

A new and exciting opportunity has arisen for an apprentice Mechanical Technician to join our team at our Campbeltown Oil Fuel Depot, Kilkerran Road, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6RD.

The successful candidate will be enrolled on 3-4 year Mechanical Technician apprenticeship programme. The Mechanical Engineering Apprenticeship Program is designed to develop your expertise across a breadth of operational and technical areas of the business. Your plant based training program is supported by the nationally recognised apprentice framework structure (PEO 2 SVQ/NC Mechanical Maintenance / SVQ Level 3). We support the apprentice framework / standard with all the relevant technical certificates to enable the apprentices to develop their skills in all aspects of mechanical engineering. You will not only gain valuable skills and knowledge around Engineering but you will also learn all aspects about working within a COMAH Bulk Liquid Operations Site. In the area of Process Safety you will gain valuable insights into all aspects Process Safety study techniques, COMAH requirements, Human Factors and Functional Safety. We provide a positive environment together with a strong safety and team working culture. The programme is run in conjunction with Inverness College.

The first year (30 weeks) will be based at Inverness College and structured around a term time framework with the successful candidate required to attend college over a number of weeks.

Years two and three are based at the OFD Campbeltown under a mentorship programme.



Here are some of the tasks that the successful candidate will be doing:

- Routine maintenance of fuel storage equipment.
- Fault Finding and repair for OFD Campbeltown, including plant and equipment.
- Fixing faults or arranging for replacements to be installed.
- Overhauling and replacing parts according to schedule.
- Fit and assembly of mechanical components making use of appropriate machinery/hand tools.
- Be responsible for the filling out of Job sheets, planned maintenance cards.
- Carry out PPM and extra work requirements in adherence to set engineering standards in accordance with HASAWA requirements.

The starting salary is £11,000 per year (dependant of age raising to £18,000 in the final year of the apprenticeship). The hours are 07.30 am. until 16.00 pm. Monday to Friday (37 hours per week).

Whilst this vacancy is for an Apprentice Mechanical Technician at our Campbeltown Depot, we offer opportunities for individuals to develop their careers across other aspects of the OPA business (Project Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Process Safety Engineer etc).

Our Engineering Apprentice Program will ensure a well-rounded exposure to all of these areas of Engineering and we will provide you with the opportunity to make a genuine impact in a company with a pioneering spirit.

We are looking for Candidates who are hardworking, reliable, trustworthy and keen to learn and develop themselves within the Engineering and the Bulk Liquid Storage Industry. You need to be able to demonstrate good communication and problem solving skills and are able to work as part of a team. You must have minimum qualifications of National 4/Intermediate1/Credit Standard Grade in Maths English and a Science.

Contact: Mr Mathew Nicholson, Competency

Assurance Manager

Tel: 07590646757

Email: [Mathew.Nicholson@oilandpipelines.com](mailto:Mathew.Nicholson@oilandpipelines.com)

Vacancy Closing Date 31 January 2018

Interview Start Date 1 March 2018

Possible Start Date August / September 2018



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RECRUITMENT

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[mackinnonhaulage@btconnect.com](mailto:mackinnonhaulage@btconnect.com) or  
contact **01879220044** or  
**07767402937**.

# PUBLIC NOTICES



To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

**ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY SERVICES : EDUCATION  
REGISTRATION OF INFANT BEGINNERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS  
SESSION 2018/2019**

Children who attain the age of five years between 1 March 2018 and 28 February 2019 should be registered for education during the week commencing 15 January 2018.

Parents concerned should take their children to the appropriate local primary school on one of the school days during the above week between the hours of 10.00am and 3.00pm.

Gaelic Medium Education

Gaelic Medium Education is available in the following schools:- Bowmore Primary School, Islay; Tiree Primary School, Tiree; Salen Primary School, Mull; Bunessan Primary School, Mull; Rockfield Primary School, Oban; Strath of Appin Primary School, by Oban and Sandbank Primary School, Dunoon. Further information on Gaelic Medium Education can be obtained from Catriona Garvin, Education Support Officer: Gaelic, [catriona.garvin2@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:catriona.garvin2@argyll-bute.gov.uk).

A leaflet providing information for parents on enrolment of children in school and giving details of placing request procedures (including under age placing requests) may be obtained from any school or from Community Services, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon, PA23 8AJ (Tel: 01369 704000).

ANN MARIE KNOWLES

Acting Executive Director: Community Services



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## Notice of intention to move

Please be aware that there will be a total of 9 abnormal load movements from the CS Wind factory to Cambeltown harbour between the hours of 20:00 and 06:00 on the dates 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th of January 2018. These will include the following roads - A83, Millknowe Road, Aqualibrium Avenue, Kinloch Road and Hall Street. Can you please refrain from parking on these roads on the dates and times stated, parking on Hall Street in particular between 20:00 and 06:00 will be suspended.

Many Thanks, ALE

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All forms of Heating Installations  
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## NOW ONLINE

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### BABY EQUIPMENT

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## TEXT FOR THE WEEK

'Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!' (Romans 11:33).

### BIRTHS

**CLARK** - Stephen and Ammie (Fleming) are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Lucy Matilda Clark, on November 12, 2017. First grandchild for both Mark and Amanda Fleming, and Pat and Anne Clark. Sincere thanks to midwives at Mid Argyll and all staff at Royal Alexandra Hospital.

### RUBY WEDDINGS



### MCCALLUM - MCSHANNON

On January 6, 1978 at the Highland Parish Church, by the late Rev C M Henderson, Raymond to Elizabeth. Kelmscott, Campbeltown.

### DEATHS

**MACCALLUM** - Peacefully at home, 115 Ralston Road, Campbeltown, on January 1, 2018, Neil Scally MacCallum, in his 94th year, beloved husband of Elizabeth Galbraith (Betty), much loved dad of Elise and Mary, father-in-law of Sandy and Graham, loving granda of Iona, Lorna, Lindsay and Kirsty and great granda of Finlay.

### MCKERRAL

Peacefully, at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, on December 27, 2017, Donald McKerral, in his 95th year, 10 Drumore Gardens, Campbeltown, dearly beloved husband of the late Fiona McCallum, much loved brother of Jamie and a loving uncle.

### MCMASTER

Peacefully, at the Kintyre Care Home, Airdrie, on December 28, 2017, Rachel Mary Galbraith, in her 74th year, Arran Drive, Cumbernauld, dearly beloved wife of the late William Mason (Billy), much loved mum of Ross and Eric, and mother-in-law of Paulene. Service in the Lorne and Lowland Parish Church, on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 2.00pm, funeral thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. Family flowers only please.

**MCFARLANE** - On December 24, 2017, suddenly but peacefully, at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, Jenny McFarlane, née Archer, in her 96th year, beloved wife of the late Angus McFarlane, much loved mother of John, Margaret and the late Joe and a dearly loved sister, mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother, sadly missed by all. Funeral service at Tarbert Free Church, on Saturday, January 6, at 11.00am, interment thereafter at Carrick Cemetery, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Cancer Research UK.

**VAN POECKE** - At the Campbeltown Hospital, on January 1, 2018, Michael Andrew Van Poecke, in his 36th year, 96 Longrow, Campbeltown, beloved son of Rob and Linda, stepson of Dominique, much loved brother of Christopher and loving uncle to Gabriella and Amelia. Service in the Highland Parish Church, Campbeltown, on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 1.00pm, funeral thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. A retiral collection will be held in aid of Alzheimer Scotland.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**MCAULAY** - The family of the late Neil McAulay would like to thank everyone for the many kind expressions of sympathy following their recent sad loss. Grateful thanks to all who helped care for Neil, allowing him to remain in his home. Special thanks to Rev William Crossan for a comforting service and to Kenny and Rhys Blair for their professional services. Finally, our thanks to all who came to pay their respects.

**PAUL** - Ann would like to thank everyone for the kind expressions of sympathy, cards, flowers and especially the support of friends received following the sad loss of her mum, Jean. Sincere thanks to the Lochgilphead doctors, district nurses, ambulance staff and staff at Glenaray Ward for their care of Mum. Thanks also to Rev C Acklam for his comforting service and Roddy McDonald of Donald McDonald Funeral Directors for his guidance and efficient service.

### IN MEMORIAMS

**DURNIN** - In loving memory of my dear sister, Joan. Loved and remembered today and always. - Lorraine xxx

**COURIER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS  
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COURIER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS  
ADVERTISER**

**MCLEAN** - Agnes, Promoted to Glory on January 6, 2008. Our dearest Nana, ten years have passed but we will miss you forever.

- Love you, Senga, Sean and Millie, and Maureen, Eddie and family xxx. Precious memories of our dear mum.

- Forever in our hearts, Rene, Flora and Carolin xxx

**MCMILLAN** - In loving memory of my dear husband, William (Bill), who died January 5, 2000. The years pass by, but memories stay, Loved and remembered every day.

- From his wife, Mary and sons, Robert and Laurence.

Also remembering a loving son and brother, Dickie Brown, who died January 19, 2017. Always in our thoughts.

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**LORNE AND  
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PARISH CHURCH**  
Scottish Charity Number  
SCO11686  
Sunday 7th January  
11.15am Morning Worship  
Rev P Wallace

**SKIPNESS LINKED  
WITH TARBERT  
LOCHFYNE AND  
KILBERRY**  
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
Sunday 7th January  
10am TBA  
**Tarbert Service 11.30am**  
Joint service in Tarbert  
Free Church  
Rev Robert MacLeod  
Everyone welcome  
For all church enquiries and  
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Contact Rev. Hilda Smith,  
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Campbeltown Corps  
Church and Community Centre  
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Burnside Street, Campbeltown  
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**Sunday 7th January 2018**  
The service, which is a sacrament of baptism,  
will be conducted  
by Rev William Crossan  
and will be held in the church  
at 11.15am  
All welcome.

**free church  
of scotland**

George Street, Campbeltown  
**Sunday 7th January**  
11.15am Worship Service  
Rev Rodger Crooks  
**Wednesday 10th January**  
12.30pm Bible Study and  
Prayer  
**All Welcome**  
www.campbeltownfreecurch.co.uk  
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

St. Kieran's Scottish Episcopal Church  
Argyll Street, Campbeltown  
St Kieran Episcopal Church:  
Campbeltown  
Scottish Charity No SC023277

**Sunday 7th January**  
EPIPHANY  
Holy Communion 10.45am  
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The Scottish Episcopal Church is a Province of  
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as you are able

**ST MARGARET'S  
R.C. CHURCH  
LOCHGILPHEAD**  
Holy Mass Sunday 10am  
**All Saints, Inveraray**  
Holy Mass Sunday 12.30pm  
Fr. David Connor  
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All Welcome (SCO002876)

# Personal stationery

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## HELENSBURGH

## Having designs on town

A community project from Helensburgh will join others from around Scotland to share around £312,000 for neighbourhood regeneration.

As part of the Making Places Initiative, 19 projects will receive funding to bring people together to shape future planning and design.

The funding will support events that bring people together with design professionals to identify how their places and communities can be improved.

Among the successful bidders is a £15,000 initiative proposed by Argyll and Bute Council to create a vision and planning masterplan for Helensburgh.

## ISLAY

## Colonel's Commando cheers

ROYAL Marine Commandos from HM Naval Base Clyde travelled to Islay to collect their very own branded whisky.

The private cask of 10-year old bourbon cask matured Bruichladdich whisky was bought as a leaving gift to 43 Commando Fleet Protection Group Royal Marines by a former commanding officer, Colonel Paul Denning OBE. He left the unit in 2007 and 10 years on, the dram has now matured, ready for bottling.

Colonel Denning, along with colleagues from 2007, will be welcomed back to 43 Commando for a formal dinner at Faslane in April.



Lieutenant Quinn and Major Lawley inspect the 43 Commando whisky.

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

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

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4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed

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

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

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the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

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instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

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

12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

## DUNOON



Skipinnish thrilled Dunoon audiences at two rocking gigs.

## Show goes on for Skipinnish

TWO DECEMBER tour dates for Skipinnish went ahead in Dunoon despite the tragic news that the mother of lead singer Norrie MacIver had passed away suddenly.

## Rallied round

Musicians from other bands rallied round with offers of help, but Norrie decided to stay and perform at Dunoon's Burgh Hall for two of

the most difficult gigs he is ever likely to perform – but with the love of fans flowing towards the stage.

Also forced to sit due to a back problem, Norrie and the lads put on shows to remember, and the newly-refurbished venue was rocking as adoring fans of all ages danced the night away, singing along to every number.

## COWAL

## Witness appeal after young hen harrier is found dead

POLICE Scotland and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland issued a joint appeal for information after a young hen harrier was discovered dead with unexplained injuries on an estate near Dunoon on the Cowal peninsula.

The female, known as Kathy, was satellite tagged as a chick in August 2017 as part of an EU-funded pro-

ject on hen harriers by the RSPB.

Hen harriers are one of the country's most threatened birds of prey with the latest national survey recording only 460 breeding pairs in Scotland, a drop of 27 per cent since 2004.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 and ask to speak to a wildlife crime officer.

## Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Sheddell



'LIFE is a journey to be experienced, not a problem to be solved', said Winnie the Pooh.

I just love the wisdom in these wonderfully enchanting stories.

I think I gain more from them now as an adult than I did as a child.

There are profound truths tucked away amidst the honey pots of life.

Endings and beginnings play a big part in our lives and at the start of a new year we often look backwards and forwards with both nostalgia and anticipation.

Life is indeed a journey, and sometimes it's just like the A83 – full of potholes! There are hazards that rock us out of our comfort zone and we struggle to get back on the road again.

At other times, we look forward to good times – family weddings planned for the year ahead, holidays to anticipate, good things in store – like Pooh's honey which sweeten the days.

Life is a journey but sometimes we can make it into a problem-solving exercise.

We angst over things that might never happen; we try to work out solutions which are impossible; we waste precious time worrying.

Life is for living in the here and now and we should grasp it while we can.

This new year will bring its joys and sorrows as every year does because it is a journey.

We are blessed if we have friends who walk beside us on our journey who will sing with us when we're happy and who will weep with us when we're sad, and who will rescue us from the potholes.

May God go ahead of you this year and bless you with love and with friends as you journey through this year.



An ugly sister gets to grips with Dandini, played by David Hubbard. Photograph: Steve Carter.

## Charming, but not a stage prince

EAGLE-EYED readers spotted a mistake in the report on Acting up Argyll's brilliant pre-Christmas production of Cinderella in Ardrishaig Public Hall.

In the December 22 edition of the *Argyllshire Advertiser* two photos of Dandini, played by David Hubbard, were captioned as featuring Prince Charming, performed by Jock Spencer. David's mum Iseabal quite rightly pointed out: 'While Jock was a wonderful Prince Charming, the photos actually show David Hubbard in the role of Dandini.'

We apologise for the confusion, and are happy to publish the pic again - correctly captioned, this time.

# Scots charity boosts Argyll good causes

AN Edinburgh-based charity has handed out more than £40,000 to Argyll good causes over the past year.

Each year the Corra Foundation - previously known as Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland - distributes just under £1 million through its Henry Duncan grants programme

to grassroots charities working in their local communities.

In Argyll and Bute during 2017 the foundation funded £41,522 in grants for charities.

Those benefiting included Islay and Jura Community Enterprises Ltd, which has been awarded £5,000 towards the salary of the

project co-ordinator for the aquacare and hub project for people with support needs.

Mid Argyll Community Pool has been awarded £1,924 towards the costs of transport, pool hire and instruction for the Dip and Dine session for isolated elderly people, while Kintyre

Link Club received £2,000 towards running costs.

Kintyre's Shopper-Aide Ltd has been awarded £5,000 towards the salary of the part-time team leader.

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara welcomed the awards.

'I'm delighted to hear grassroots organ-

isations in Argyll and Bute will benefit from these additional funds at a time when everyone is feeling austerity pinch,' he said.

'Many of the Henry Duncan grants go on staff and running costs, meaning they are a lifeline for local charities in this tough financial climate.'

## Badden Farm children delight at Christmas

**PRE-SCHOOL**  
**children from**  
**Badden Farm**  
**Nursery,**  
**Lochgilphead,**  
**performed a highly**  
**entertaining nativity**  
**play for parents and**  
**grandparents just**  
**before Christmas.**



The children had a great time putting on the traditional Christmas play.

## SPOT THE BALL THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1550

LAST  
WEEK'S  
BALL  
WAS  
HERE...



This week's  
nearest the ball  
winners, who each  
receive £25 are:

Raymond Gosling  
Tormhor  
Carradale

Mr J Martin  
Mill Road  
Campbeltown

**All you have to do**  
We have removed the football from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 10 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons. The game starts with a jackpot of £250 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball.

**Entry will be void if crosses overlap.** Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

### Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 10 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Ball" Competition, The Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6AE by 4pm on Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

### Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The company's decision will be final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any persons otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



Name.....

Address.....

..... Tel No.....

I enclose £1 for 10 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 10, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Ten crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Crosses must not overlap. Send to 'Spot the Ball' Competition, Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6AE

Please  
tape your  
£1 coin here  
(if posting)

# SPORT

**INSIDE THIS WEEK:**  
Charming, but not a stage prince

## 2017 sports review



**January:** Alasdair Young, aged 28, was nominated for the Royal Yachting Association's Scotland coach of the year award. The Tarbert Loch Fyne Yacht Club member said that finding out he had been nominated and shortlisted was 'exciting and a huge compliment'.

**February:** The Camanachd Association welcomed Tulloch Homes as its new principal sponsor for the Camanachd Cup, for 2017 to 2020. Jim Barr, president of the Camanachd Association, said: 'The Camanachd Association looks forward to an exciting new chapter of the Camanachd Cup's 121 year history and is appreciative of the support for the further development of grass roots shinty which will result from this partnership.'



**March:** Shooting with a difference was the order of the day at Tarbert Gun Club. Members gathered on Sunday March 5 for the final shoot of the winter league. In a change of format, this was a flush shoot, with teams taking aim at a flush of 60, 80 and 100 'birds' from the traps.



**April:** More than 70 children travelled to Tarbert to take part in the inaugural football festival. Teams from Lochneil, Oban, Campbeltown and Arran joined their Tarbert hosts on the field for a jam-packed afternoon of football.

**May:** The annual Inveraray Jail Break attracted more than 100 runners from across the country to the royal burgh on Sunday May 14. Starting at Inveraray Jail, the hardy runners were faced with the gruelling challenge of scaling 250 metres up Dun Na Cuaiche before returning to Inveraray Castle where they were met with rapturous applause at the finish line.



**Colin MacFarlane, Gillian Tierney-Clerk and Brian Robertson at the finish line.** 08\_a20jailbreak09



**Inveraray's Ruairidh Graham is too quick for Neil MacArthur.**

**June:** As title contenders for shinty's National Division this season, Inveraray knew it was crucial to take home both points against Strathglass at Cannich, which they did in style.



**Lorne with Donald Clark of the George Hotel.** 08\_a29invgames28

**July:** After three rounds of competitive caber-tossing, Lorne Colthart from Lismore and now Blair Atholl was crowned world caber champion with an impressive performance in the final round.

Lorne was the first Scot since 2002 to win the World Caber Championship.



**August:** Mid Argyll's community swimming pool received a boost as one of the region's most high profile people signed up to support the cause. MACPool will have Eleanor, Duchess of Argyll, as patron after she agreed to take on the role following an invitation from the community company's directors.

**September:** More than 1,200 athletes from Scotland, England and Wales participated in a series of hard-fought but friendly competitions in 20 sports at the Special Olympics in Sheffield. Iain Macdougall won gold, Flora Currie won bronze and Campbell Ferguson took silver.



**Iain Macdougall, Flora Currie and Campbell Ferguson outside Mary's Meals in Lochgilphead.**

**October:**  
Lochgilphead Red Star 3 – Lanarkshire Forrest 2  
Red Star pummelled Forrest in a Scottish Cup thriller at the beginning of October, with Innes Meikle levelling the score and Star's Kieran Moore producing a moment of magic to put the home side in front.



**Red Star's Neilly Russell battles for the ball.** 06\_a40RedStar05

