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Argyll shakes as Loch Fyne earthquake hits

By COLIN CAMERON
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

BUILDINGS were shaken and family pets left terrified earlier this week as an earthquake struck the shores of Loch Fyne.

With an epicentre on the eastern shore of the loch, on a hillside north of Lephinchapel Farm – opposite Lochgair – the magnitude 2.4 quake, from a depth of 11km, hit at 4.35pm on Tuesday January 24.

The effects were heard and felt by witnesses as a muffled ‘bang’ followed by a prolonged rumbling which lasted for around 10 seconds. People from a 15-mile radius reported buildings shaking and dogs being scared during the

seismological tremor. A spokesman for the British Geological Survey said: ‘We have been contacted by around 40 members of the public who reported hearing and feeling an earthquake.’

How did the earthquake affect you? Contact the Argyllshire Advertiser by Facebook, email editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk or call 01546 602345.

He added: ‘This is a fairly typical small UK earthquake. There are approximately five events of this size every year somewhere in the UK, from around 200 or so events in total.’

‘Most go unnoticed with around 10 per cent being perceived by the general public, such as this event.’

After the *Argyllshire Advertiser* reported the quake on social media on Tuesday afternoon,



Leaping into action was young Cameron Gilmour during the under-seven triple jump as athletics went under cover last Sunday when Mid Argyll Athletic Club held its annual indoor junior competition at Lochgilphead. Turn to page 48 for more. 06_a04athletic02

readers from an area including Lochgilphead, Ardfern, Tarbert, Tighnabruaich, Strachur and Inveraray replied to report their own experiences.

Among a flood of Facebook responses, one Cairnbaan reader said: ‘Our house shook for a few seconds and I heard the rumbling. It sounded and felt like

a landslide at first, and the dog didn’t like it at all ... scary!’

Another in Lochgilphead wrote: ‘The house and windows shook and the dog got quite scared. I thought I was imagining things, and glad to know I’m not.’

A reader in Cowal posted: ‘Here at Kilfinan there was a loud boom as if some-

thing was breaking the sound barrier and the house shook. At first I thought a lorry had come off the road and tumbled down the bank, but no.’

From Tarbert, it was reported: ‘I felt it. my chair and unit shook slightly.’

Outside Lochgilphead, at Castleton, a poster described it

as ‘like a blast at the back of the house. I assumed it was the local quarry.’

A reader in Lochgair said: ‘I felt a thump through the ground at about 4.30pm. At first I thought it was work on the Scottish Water construction site nearby, but when I looked, there was nothing happening there.’

INSIDE YOUR ADVERTISER THIS WEEK

Property damaged

POLICE are hunting vandals who targeted an empty Lochgilphead property. Full story, page 3

Cash for childcare

CAIRNDOW Child-care receives cash boost. Full story, page 4

A mystical monster

DO YOU know anything about the mystery Loch Fyne monster? Full story, pages 7

First Aid 4 Gambia

INVERARAY charity founder speaks of the troubles faced in Gambia. Full story, page 10

NFU Scotland hustings

CANDIDATES for NFU Scotland president and vice-presidents come to Argyll. Full story, page 46

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Online scam warning for Netflix users

NETFLIX users in Scotland are being urged to stay vigilant after an online scam has emerged targeting users' login and bank account details.

The Scottish Business Resilience Centre (SBRC) is warning people who use the online streaming service to be on high alert following a spate of fraudulent emails.

Users of the site have received emails prompting them to keep their memberships details up to date. They are then linked to a bogus login page on which they are asked to fill out personal details.

Once users have filled in their details, hackers are able to use them to either extract further

information or directly target finances.

Gerry Grant, an ethical hacker with SBRC, has given advice to those concerned about potentially being targeted. He said: 'Attackers are now taking more care in creating genuine looking emails. This can make it a lot harder to spot a fake email, but users should never click on the link in any email, but log on to the site directly from their browser.'

The popularity of streaming websites has boomed over the past year and the huge number of potential targets makes them an attractive proposition for online criminals.

A similar scam has

also surfaced in recent weeks that attempts to lure Amazon Prime users into passing on private information.

Gerry added: 'There are three simple steps people can take if they are suspicious of unsolicited messages like these.

'Do not click the link; check the link's URL to see if it is to trustworthy site; never put your personal and bank account details into any form that is not completely trustworthy.

'With the rise of personal information being cultivated by criminal gangs, it is important to be vigilant at all times when using devices that may store any personal information.'



Some of the happy helpers: Callum and Katie MacVicar, Craig Aitken, Lee Harris, Harry MacLean, Jamie Stewart and Tom West.

Swapping the pitch for the checkout

LOCHGILPHEAD Soccer Centre was on hand to help out customers at Lochgilphead Co-op, as a big thank you for the funding they have received through the Co-op membership scheme.

Community projects

When customers use their Co-op membership cards, they receive five per cent back on selected own-brand products and an additional one per cent is awarded to community projects, through the Co-op Local Community Fund.

Having benefited greatly from

this fund, the soccer centre decided to say thank you to the Co-op customers by offering to help pack their bags on Saturday January 21.

The group are set to receive over £1,900 which will be used on Coerver coaching sessions.

Coerver coaching is a Dutch approach to training, teaching players how to catch defenders off guard and incorporates passing and receiving drills, while emphasising the importance of high-speed play.

'Morning after' message getting through

THE FESTIVE drink driving campaign in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Oban saw 91 drivers breathalysed.

Of the total number tested, four people failed, two of which happened in tests 'the morning after', between 6am and 10am.

Across the whole of Scotland, the proportion of drivers found to be over the limit during the festive period rose from 2.8 per cent to 3.3 per cent on the year.

Police Inspector Julie McLeish said:

'Overall, across the whole force area, it was felt that while there were a number of early morning detections, generally the public are taking the reduction in permitted alcohol levels into consideration and either stopping drinking earlier the night before or making alternative transport arrangements the following day.'

Police files

Shoplifting

AT AROUND 3pm on Tuesday January 17, a man allegedly stole bottles of alcohol from the Co-op in Inveraray. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses

Speeding

A 60-YEAR-OLD motorist was driving at excessive speed on A83, near Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead, at around 6.50pm on Tuesday January 17.

The man was stopped and charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Drugs

About 3pm on Sunday January 22 in Paterson Street, Lochgilphead, a vehicle was stopped and searched by police. Subsequently a 28-year-old man and a 25-year-old woman were charged with possession of cannabis. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

If any member of the public has information in relation to the above, or to any incident, they can contact their local police office on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Vandals target steadying property in Lochgilphead

POLICE are hunting vandals after they forced entry into a Lochgilphead property and caused serious damage.

Outbuildings at a Crinan Canal-side property were broken into and ransacked while the owners were away last weekend.

Jane Renfrew, who owns the property, explained: 'It appears they took a lump hammer and battered down the door into the steadying.

'They went through everything we had stored in there, helped themselves to food and wine and pulled chairs out into the yard and sat round a fire they made in a bin. They had put snooker balls through the windows,

broke pictures and took an expensive set of golf clubs.'

Two guitars were also stolen – an Epiphone Les Paul electric guitar, white and gold in colour with a distinctive hard tan case with pink lining, and a bass guitar.

The owners estimate that the cost of all the damage to property adds up to £10,000.

Maxime Renfrew, Jane's daughter and owner of the stolen guitars, has been storing her belongings in the steadying while she is studying in Shanghai.

She commented: 'When my mum told me I couldn't believe it – that sort of thing doesn't happen in Lochgilphead. It is



An indication of some of the mess and damage the vandals left in the yard.

awful to hear how much damage has been done and particularly upsetting to hear they have also stolen from the property.'

Police Inspector Julie McLeish said: 'The incident was believed to have happened between 5pm on Friday January 20 and Sun-

day January 22, when entry was forced to the steadying outbuilding at the property and damage caused within, when it seems a group of people entered the property without permission.

'Several positive lines of inquiry are being followed and we

would request that anyone who has information about this incident contacts PC Neil McLeod at Lochgilphead police office on 101, as this has been particularly upsetting for the property owners.'

Parliament votes against government HIE plan

GOVERNMENT plans to centralise the governance of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) will have no immediate implications for the Lochgilphead office.

The assurances came from an HIE spokesman following a controversial vote, in which Scottish Parliament voted against the Scottish Government's plans to centralise the HIE board.

The motion, lodged by Donald Cameron MSP, called on the Scottish Parliament to 'oppose the Scottish Government's plans to abolish the board of HIE and ensure that the HIE board continues to take all strategic, operational and budgetary decisions'.

As part of a review, the Scottish Government wants all of Scotland's enterprise and skills agencies to be overseen by a new single body.

The current HIE structure includes a

network of regional offices, including one in Lochgilphead.

Enhanced

The *Argyllshire Advertiser* asked about the future of this under the review and a spokesman for HIE said: 'Our aim is to ensure that when the review concludes, HIE

is not diminished, and hopefully enhanced, and that the important features of our governance are replicated in future arrangements. There are no direct implications for area offices.'

Following the vote, Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute,

said: 'In my conversations with Keith Brown, he has been entirely clear that the steps being taken are designed to increase the ability of all agencies to assist the economic and social development of the Highlands and Islands and my constituency of Argyll and Bute.'



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Independent advocacy boost

PEOPLE with long-term health conditions across Argyll and Bute are set to benefit from a new independent advocacy initiative.

The new project will initially run until March 2019 and has led to the recruitment of five part-time advocacy workers across Argyll and Bute.

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Family centre plans gathering pace in Cairndow

by COLIN CAMERON
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

THE thriving Cairndow community is set for another boost as plans forge ahead with a new community childcare centre.

The Loch Fyne-side village has become a hive of industry over the past couple of decades following the establishment of businesses clustered around

the Clachan area at the head of the loch.

A rise in the number of working families led to increasing demand for childcare in Cairndow, and these days children attend from as far afield as Inveraray, Strachur and Lochgoilhead, as well as the local area.

Registered charity

Cairndow Community Childcare Ltd currently provides care for around 25 children in Cairndow Village Hall, employing four part-time staff members and a full-time manager.

It offers pre-school education and after-school care for children up to eight years old.

Purchase

The charity now has plans to develop purpose-built premises at a site near the Tree Shop at Clachan. This group aims to purchase 0.7 acres of a former coniferous plantation to develop the site for a new childcare facility and community resource centre, expected to cost around £1.9 million.

Earlier this month, news arrived that the Scottish Land Fund had granted £37,000 towards buying the land.

Alison Hutchins, chair of Cairndow Community Childcare,



An artist's impression of the new family centre.

said: 'We are delighted to have received the news that our application to the Scottish Land Fund has been successful.

Granted

'The land belongs to the Ardkinglas Estate, which generously agreed to reduce the cost by 50 per cent. The Scottish Land Fund has granted the rest, to enable the community to purchase the land.

'This is great news not just for Cairndow

but for the wider community. This is an important step in achieving our goal for the new building. The next step will be a decision by the Big Lottery regarding our application under the Growing Community Assets programme towards the cost of the new build.

'They will be making this decision in early February, which will be a pivotal date for the project.'



Alison Hutchins pictured at the proposed site, with the existing Clachan development in the background. 06_a04cairndow02



Three-year-old David McCulloch and his friend Amy Carvel, two, are delighted by the funding news. 06_a04cairndow05

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Early years expansion to benefit Argyll

by Advertiser reporters
 editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

ARGYLL and Bute is set to benefit following the Scottish Government's announcement that there will be an extra £1.5 million investment for more nursery teachers and graduates in deprived areas across Scotland. Set to receive three additional teachers or graduates, the new staff in Argyll and Bute are part of the wider strategy of tackling the attainment gap and giving every child an equal start in life. The provision of extra highly-qualified childcare professionals will ensure that Argyll

and Bute young people benefit from the best care and early years education. The Scottish Government says it is taking decisive action to improve early years learning and childcare, including expanding guaranteed free childcare provision to 1,140 hours by 2020. Commenting, MSP for Argyll and Bute, Michael Russell said: 'This new funding is very welcome news for Argyll and Bute, helping to ensure that more children in our most deprived communities are able to benefit from

specialised childcare and high quality early years learning. 'The Scottish Government is committed to closing the attainment gap, and targeting funding in this way is important in making this happen, and to ensure that every child across Argyll and Bute gets an equal start in life. 'The three new graduates or teachers that will be joining our workforce in Argyll and Bute will help improve childcare provision in our communities, and I look forward to seeing the Scottish Government continue to invest in our children's futures.'



Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute.

Council launches pier and harbour consultation

LOOKING to simplify the system and ensure the long-term future of key transport links, Argyll and Bute Council has launched a consultation on fees and charges at its piers and harbours. Councillor Ellen Morton, chair of Argyll and Bute Council's harbour board, explained: 'The 39 piers and harbours owned and operated by the council are vitally important to the local economy, bringing people and goods into Argyll and Bute and providing local communities with vital transport links. 'There are substantial costs associated with operating so many differing piers, from the small, unmanned and

quiet leisure slips to the large, busy ferry ports. 'In line with good practice and in the interests of ensuring the council is making the most of its assets, a review of fees and charges at our piers and harbours has been carried out. We are now looking to consult with users and members of the public on a set of general proposals.' Anyone with an interest in the council's piers and harbours is encouraged to share their views via the consultation. The consultation can be accessed at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/consultations/fees-and-charges-piers-and-harbours

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Earthquake is no laughing

There are plenty of cases in human history where this most terrifying of natural phenomena has caused death and devastation on a huge scale.

This week's quake under the hills beside Loch Fyne, however, caused nothing more than a bit of a shoogle and a rumble. There was not – as far as we can tell – any damage.

Our posting on the *Argyllshire Advertiser* Facebook page went somewhat viral overnight, with plenty of people talking about their experiences of the quake. Then there were the wags offering alternative theories as to the cause – from too much hot sauce on a takeaway to an excessive intake of Brussels sprouts, leading to unfortunate seismic outcomes. A couple of folk cheekily suggested that a member of staff here at the paper might have dropped his wallet. That seems unlikely, but is still more plausible than him opening it.

In the spirit of Rabbie Burns, whose birthday was marked on Wednesday January 25, we offer a wee ditty in his honour, and we hope Burns aficionados are not too offended.

Tae a quake

*The grun' did shoogle, and nae mistake
'Twas surely some pow'r the rocks did shake*

*The dugs beneath the tables did scoot
As fowk wunnered whit it was a' about
Wis it a muckle, burstin' purse
That landed wi' a thump, an' burst?
Yon hot sauce can be a scunner
Maybe 'twas it that caused the thunner
'Whit pow'r did it?' went up the shout
Richter 2.4 – the Brussels sprout!*

who's who at your advertiser

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Boys' Brigade is keeping it real

Sir,
I'd like to commend the launch of the Be Real campaign which has been working with charities, schools and public bodies to help build the confidence of young people in the UK.

A recent poll, delivered by the campaign, revealed that one-third of the 2,000 teenagers polled avoid getting involved in PE lessons because of the way they feel and look.

In the Boys' Brigade, we have noted similar figures to this relating to both body image and young people's mental wellbeing and have made considerable efforts to stress the importance of how our organisation and youth work can help provide support and advice in relation to these issues.

The BB offers a safe space where our members can discuss how they are feeling and learn about both external and peer pressures that could affect them and how to deal with them effectively.

One of our goals is to instil resilience in young people, which leads to an increase in confidence and better equips them to deal with various situations they could face in life.

Hopefully, more campaigns such as this succeed and we can work together to stamp out stigma around mental health and help address body confidence issues, while supporting

young people to reach their full potential.

Alan Hunter,
Acting director,
The Boys' Brigade
Scotland.

Thanks to the organisers

Sir,
I had the pleasure of attending the 2017 Tarbert senior citizens dinner. As always, this was a tremendous event.

Volunteers prepared the hall, welcomed us and then served a beautiful meal.

The entertainment was most enjoyable and encouraged everyone to get up and dance and enjoy the whole evening.

Congratulations to Tarbert Citizen of the Year Kenneth MacNab MBE, a well-deserved award recognising the effort he makes for charities.

Thanks and appreciation are due to everyone who helped in any way to make the occasion such a success.

Anne Horn,
SNP councillor
for Kintyre and
the Islands.

Would the NHS be any better off?

Sir,
I write in response to Alistair Redman's letter last week, in which he declared the Scottish Government incapable of running the NHS. Is he seriously suggesting that the Scottish NHS would be better off run by his Tory colleagues?

The champion of privatisation, under which the NHS in England experienced junior doctor strikes in 2016, wants GPs to work seven days a week, 24 hours a day, has increased waiting times and now proposes that non-urgent cases in A&E should wait up to 12 hours to be seen.

The NHS in whichever country and run by whatever government needs positive answers to its problems, not constant party political sniping and criticism. Mr Redman should bear this in mind when he next puts pen to paper.

Mary-Anne Buntin,
Lochgilphead.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Sir,
The theme for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day today (Friday January 27) is 'How can life go on?', raising challenging questions for individuals, communities and nations in the aftermath of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides.

At around 6,000 events taking place across the country, people will reflect upon the horrors of the past and remember those who were killed, while honouring all those who survived and went on, with bravery, to rebuild their lives.

Every January, when we listen to the testimony of survivors, we don't just learn a little more about the darkest chapters of human history, we are also reminded of where hatred and

bigotry can lead if left unchallenged and unchecked. Today, that lesson is more important than ever, which is why I urge you to attend an event in your community, listed at www.hmd.org.uk.

In our film for Holocaust Memorial Day 2017, Bea Green, a survivor of the Holocaust, tells the story of how she and her father were forced to flee Nazi Germany because they were Jewish and how Nazi law encouraged the humiliation they faced. Today, in the UK, such persecution is unlawful, but people still face prejudice and hostility because of who they are.

This Holocaust Memorial Day, let's learn from the lessons of the past to create a safer, better society.

Olivia Marks-Woldman,
Chief executive of the
Holocaust Memorial
Day Trust.

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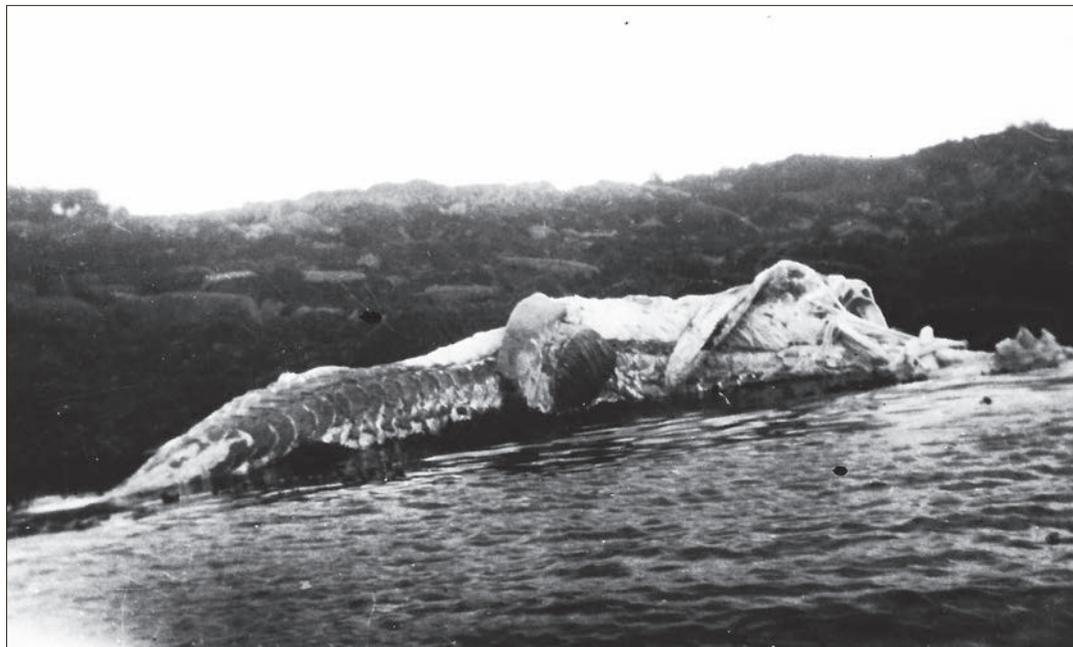
If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk; telephoning our senior reporter on 01546 602345 or write to the Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

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

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The Editor reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and addresses must be supplied to indicate good faith, although these details can be withheld from publication. Telephone numbers, if available, are also appreciated. Anonymous letters cannot be considered. Please write to: Letters, The Argyllshire Advertiser, 44 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8NB, or fax us on 01546 602661.

E-mail: editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk
E-mailed letters can only be considered if they have a name, full address and telephone number.



The puzzling monster on Loch Fyne postcard.

The mystery of the Loch Fyne monster

A READER of the *Advertiser* has been in touch with a monstrous puzzle.

After recently purchasing a blank post-

card on eBay, from someone in Transylvania, Romania, Michael Reid decided to contact the *Argyllshire Advertiser* to help solve

the mystery. Mr Reid, who has lived in Lochgair for the past eight or nine years, collects postcards featuring scenes from the area. He said: 'It's fascinating to see how the area has changed over the years.'

Described

The postcard in question shows a photograph of what is described as a monster in Loch Fyne.

Mr Reid commented: 'It looks to me like it could be the decomposing carcass of

something like a basking shark or whale.'

There appears to be a bunnet-wearing figure in the top right hand corner of the photograph, which has led us to believe the image was taken from a boat.

If you know the story behind the mystical monster, please get in touch by emailing editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk, visit the *Argyllshire Advertiser* Facebook page or by post to 44 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8NB.

Watch the birdie – over three days

THE RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch will be held over the next few days.

The world's largest garden wildlife survey, now in its 38th year, takes place on January 28, 29 and 30.

This year, for the first time, people will also be able to take part on the Monday, extending the birdwatch to three days.

RSPB Scotland media officer Jenny Tweedie said: 'Settling down with a cup of tea and a notebook to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch is a fun, relaxing way to spend an hour.'

'You never really know what you're going to see. But whether you spot your garden regulars or something more unusual, all survey results help us to understand how birds are doing right across the country.'

As well as counting their feathered friends, RSPB Scotland is once again asking participants to log some of the other wildlife they see in their gardens and green spaces such as foxes, hedgehogs, slow worms, stoats, great-crested newts and moles.

Invaluable

Gardens or outdoor spaces are an invaluable resource for many species as they can provide a safe habitat and enough food and water to survive.

To take part and download your free pack, visit rspb.org.uk/birdwatch.

The parallel event, the Big Schools' Birdwatch, is currently taking place during the first half of spring term until February 17 this year.

Further information can be found at rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch.

The sweetest hours that e'er he spent...

READER George Burns stopped by the *Advertiser* office to share with us his take on Burns. We thought it was a great, light-hearted way to round off the Burns celebrations.

Burns' Lassies By G Burns

*There's Peggy and Mary and Jeannie and Nancy
And Chloris and Anna, who all took his fancy
And Rosy and Nelly and Eppie Adair
And Jenny and Lesley and Phyllis the fair*

*For certain a charmer and sometimes a sinner
There was Sheila O'Neill and Grace before dinner
There was Delia and Polly and Meg o' the mill
Thro' Rabbie's sweet verses, they live with us still*

*Rabbie Burns was a charmer. That none can deny
When it came to the lassies he sure had an eye
With all of his conquests, life surely was heaven
No wonder he died when just thirty seven*

*Clarinda and Jessie and Anna the charming
Eliza and Katy, he found quite disarming
Jeannie Scott and Miss Riddel and Tibbie Dunbar
Rabbie's charm was weel kent, both near and afar*

Robert Burns had an eye for the ladies.



FREE Business Gateway workshops

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A workshop for anyone looking to move into self employment, this workshop will help you turn your ideas into a practical and effective plan to start your business. The workshop covers 3 key areas: marketing, business planning and finance.

Lochgilphead - 7th (9.30am-4.30pm) and 8th February 2017(9.30am-12.30pm)

MARKETING YOUR BUSINESS

Improve the marketing of your business, review the impact of current marketing activity, and develop a realist marketing plan that is right for your business objectives and budget.

Inveraray - Wednesday 8th February 2017, 10.00am - 4.00pm

REACHING MORE CUSTOMERS

Practical "hands on" workshop packed with proven techniques you can use to reach more customers and increase profitable sales. You will learn a range of simple but effective marketing actions that will help you reach as many potential customers as possible with your products.

Inveraray, Thursday 16th February 2017, 10.00am - 4.00pm

PRACTICAL BASIC BOOK-KEEPING

Learn how to keep accurate financial records, understand the key components of book-keeping and VAT and produce a bank reconciliation.

Campbeltown - Wednesday 22nd February 2017, 9.30am-12.30pm

PRICING FOR PROFIT

A workshop to help businesses identify their working capital requirements, understand different pricing strategies, identify break-even point and manage profitability.

Inveraray, Wednesday 22nd February 2017, 10.00am-4.00pm

SELLING WITH CONFIDENCE

A workshop to help you feel more confident selling and promoting your business. Learn some top selling tips, how to identify customer needs, why people buy and learn how to highlight features and benefits of your products or services. It will also cover overcoming customer objections, dealing with queries and feedback and identifying buying signals to help you close a sale.

Inveraray, Thursday 23rd February 2017, 10.00am - 1.00pm

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Warlocks and witches in a Burns' opera

PUPILS at two Argyll primary schools are learning and exploring a Robert Burns' classic through opera.

Kilniver Primary School and Dunbeg Primary School pupils will rehearse and perform an opera based on Robert Burns' iconic poem *Tam o' Shanter* in February.

Scottish Opera's annual primary schools tour hit the road earlier this month with *The Tale o' Tam o' Shanter*, a show created to re-introduce young people to the works of the celebrated Scottish poet.

Written especially for children in primaries five, six and seven, the fast-paced adventure features original lyrics by Ross Stenhouse and music by Karen MacIver, who also wrote the music for Scottish Opera's popular family show, *The Little White Town of Never Weary*.

Participating schools are provided with teaching resources to help introduce the songs from *The Tale o' Tam o' Shanter* to pupils in advance.

A team of Scottish Opera performers and arts education specialists then spend a day rehearsing and preparing the pupils for a choreographed, fully-costumed performance of *The Tale o' Tam o' Shanter* for family and friends.

The show follows a farmer named Tam o' Shanter as he makes his way home from market day with his faithful horse Meg.

As the night grows darker, the rain falls and the wind shrieks through the branches of the trees, he finds himself outside the church where he discovers a coven of witches dancing.

Fascinated, Tam stops to watch, but suddenly one of them spots him, and he and Meg must run for their lives.

Through the scheme - which sponsors the building of toilets in developing countries - it costs £60 to build a new toilet and wash-room in a rural community family home. For £240, a school could have a toilet block constructed.

The coffee morning, held on Saturday January 21, saw more than £450 raised for the cause, as the group served up mountains of delicious home baking and sold extra treats from the cake stall.



Pupils will tell the story of Tam o' Shanter through opera.



Having a great natter: Nora McArthur, Heather Cameron, Ivy Campbell, Grace Clifford and Andina MacKinnon.

Eco group serves tasty treats in aid of Tearfund

A BUSY coffee morning, held by Ardrish-aig Church Eco Group, helped raise vital funds for the Tearfund toilet twinning scheme.

Through the scheme - which sponsors the building of toilets in developing countries - it costs £60 to build a new toilet and wash-room in a rural community family home.

For £240, a school could have a toilet block constructed.

The coffee morning, held on Saturday January 21, saw more than £450 raised for the cause, as the group served up mountains of delicious home baking and sold extra treats from the cake stall.



Phyllis Angus, Isobel McMillan and Jess Hendrie enjoyed a morning coffee.



Eco group members Fiona MacFarlane, Jean Hodgson, Mary Stirling and Ann Watson explain what the money will go towards.

SPRINGBANK TOGOFF

Tour One Get One For **Free**

To welcome in the new year, we are running a special offer on our Springbank Tour each weekend in January and February 2017.

Our TOGOFF offer applies to the Springbank Tour (£7 per person) every Friday, Saturday & Monday in January and February.

Learn the whisky making process from start to finish at Scotland's oldest independent family owned distillery then return to Cadenhead's Whisky Shop for a dram of our famous whisky and take away a visitors miniature to enjoy at home.

Tours are available at 10am & 1:30pm.

To book a tour, email tours@springbankwhisky.com or call 01586 551710. Tickets should be collected from Cadenhead's Whisky Shop up to 15 minutes before the tour.

www.springbankwhisky.com



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Design a new picnic area and win a prize



How your group can enter

The competition opened to entries on Monday January 16 and will close at noon on Monday February 13.

To enter on behalf of your organisation or school, email your design to grace.macleod@btinternet.com or pete.creech@virgin.net. Alternatively, hand your paper design in at Argyll and Bute Hospital reception. Blarbuie Woodland Enterprise Ltd is offering a

£100 prize for the winning group and two runner-up prizes of £25 each.

Anyone seeking to enter is encouraged to visit and assess the site in plenty of time to submit their design before the closing date.

The Blarbuie picnic area competition is run under the sole control of Blarbuie Woodland Enterprise Ltd and the board of directors of this organisation will have the final say on winners.

BUDDING designers are being asked to 'use their loaf' to create a public leisure space in Lochgilphead.

An award of £10,000 through the Tesco Bags of Help scheme – using money raised from the supermarket's 5p bag charge – has allowed Blarbuie Woodland Enterprise Ltd to go ahead with a special project.

Located at Blarbuie community woodland, the plan is to create a picnic area around the octagon space and the enterprise compa-



Blarbuie Woodland is to have a new picnic area – and you could design it.

ny wants communi- ty groups to come up with the design. Any local group or school

can enter. The design should incorporate the seven picnic benches and eight pieces of timber-constructed adventure playground equipment that will be available.

The aim is to create an accessible picnic and children's play area with a woodland theme.

Wildlife-friendly features such as bird feeders and squirrel runs may also score well in the judging process.

So what are you waiting for? Enter the picnic area competition...

Swashbuckling Sinbad steals the show

CLACHAN Calamities will be pulling out all the stops during its family pantomime this weekend.

The community drama group, made up of all ages and abilities, will be performing a comical take on *The Adventures of Sinbad*. Treating audiences to spectacular costumes, plenty of belly laughs and, of course, some audience participation.

Sinbad and his mischievous pirates will be dropping anchor in Clachan Village Hall on Friday January 27 at 7pm, and will be making a second appearance on Saturday January 28 at 2pm, for a special matinee perfor-

mance, and at 7pm for another evening show.

Tickets can be purchased from Clachan

Village Shop or from John Hunts, Tarbert, or by calling Lesley on 01880 740203.

Adult tickets are £7 and tickets for primary school children and under are £5.



Will Captain Corsair marry his beloved Jasmine or will Sinbad save the day?

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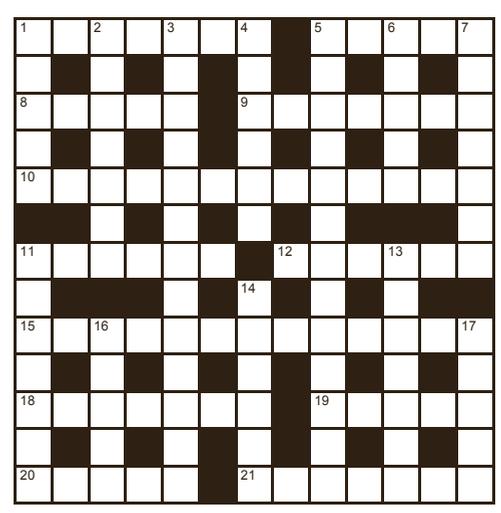
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- Across**
- 1 Earphones (7)
 - 5 Knock (5)
 - 8 Innards (5)
 - 9 Designers workshop (7)
 - 10 Party game (9,4)
 - 11 Pie topping (6)
 - 12 Pre-school group (6)
 - 15 Those who try to influe (8,5)
 - 18 Scale position (7)
 - 19 To the point in time (5)
 - 20 Child's moving seat (5)
 - 21 Wash (7)

- Down**
- 1 Exploding object (1-4)
 - 2 Business (7)
 - 3 Leaf covering... (5,8)
 - 4 ...leaf holder (3,3)
 - 5 Monitor of force (8,5)
 - 6 French parting word (5)
 - 7 This animal has got some neck! (7)
 - 11 Early writing material (7)
 - 13 Crispy garnish (7)
 - 14 Calamitous (6)
 - 16 Boredom (5)
 - 17 Beat (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

Argyll-based charity rides out the Gambian upheaval

BY COLIN CAMERON
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

A FOUNDER member of an Argyll-based charity has spoken of 'a difficult time' for personnel in Gambia amid political turmoil in the west African nation.

Based in Inveraray, First Aid 4 Gambia is a charity providing first aid training and equipment for schools and nurseries in Gambia.

The charity found itself in the middle of a volatile political situation in December as Gambian president Yahya Jammeh refused to accept the result of an election which saw his presidential position taken by rival candidate Adama Barrow. Refusing to budge, Jammeh declared a state of emergency on Tuesday last week.

With west African troops assembling on the country's borders, ready to oust Jammeh by force if necessary, tourists were advised to leave Gambia.

Bill Nelson, who set up First Aid 4 Gambia with his sister Fiona in 2009, said last week: 'It is a difficult time just now, with many Gambians concerned at the prospect of military action.'

'We have suspended all our work until the

situation is resolved. This was largely for practical reasons since majority of schools we deal with reported attendance of pupils substantially reduced after Christmas holidays.

'Many Gambians have sent their families either to the rural areas or across the border. Schools with 150 to 200 pupils reported only 10 showing up and, in some cases, teachers failing to re-

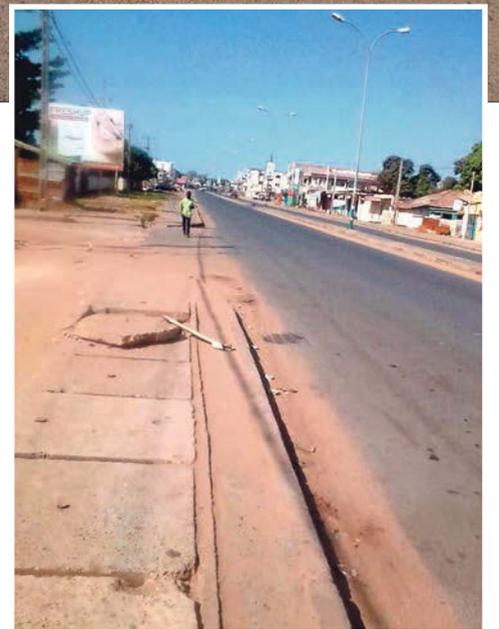


A gentle reminder to Yahya Jammeh.

He added: 'I am in daily contact with our Gambian project manager who reports that businesses closed, streets were almost deserted and tourists being repatriated. After a poor tourist season with the ebola scare, this will massively affect a weak economy heavily reliant on tourism.'

Then, on Saturday January 21, Jammeh fled the country, heading for Equatorial Guinea. Rumours persist that he took with him millions from the national coffers as well as numerous vehicles from his luxury car collection.

Speaking on Monday



The streets were eerily quiet last week.

as the country awaited the arrival of new president Adama Barrow from Senegal's capital Dakar, Bill Nelson said: 'It has been a very fluid situation, and there still may be a few twists and turns to come, but overall a mood of great optimism in the new Gambia.'

'They are going to need all the help and assistance possible.'



DigitalBoost is run in conjunction with Business Gateway and partners to offer you fully funded workshops, advice and support.

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Grazing conference speakers announced

A STRONG line-up of speakers from Scotland and overseas has been recruited to speak at grazing conferences being held in Moffat and Perth.

Better Grazing = Better Business offers free events, organised by Quality Meat Scotland (QMS), which will look at how managing grazing can help improve the bottom line for sheep and beef producers.

Those who attend will hear from some world-leading grazing consultants, as well as from other farmers who have successfully implemented changes to their grazing regimes to benefit their businesses.

In the morning, Andre Van Barneveld from Graise Consultancy in Ireland will speak about the value in grass and how it can increase profitability.



Jim Logan will be one of the guest speakers.

He will be joined by Trevor Cook, a vet and sheep and beef production consultant from Totally Vets Ltd in Feilding, New Zealand. Mr Cook will speak about how livestock production revolves around feed and link this to grass production and profit.

The final morning speaker is Jim Logan, QMS Borders Grazing

Group host farmer at Pirmtaton, Fountainhall, Galashiels.

The 570-hectare beef and sheep unit has a mixture of temporary and permanent grass, with a significant area of rough grazing and some fodder crops.

Mr Logan has made several changes to his system over the course of the three-year grazing group project and

will share how he has managed to reduce costs and increase output.

Talking about the systems they have in place to manage grazing more effectively on their farms will be farmer Alan Cowan from Northumberland, joined by farmer Robert Fleming from South Milton Farm, near Stranraer, at the

Moffat event, and Michael Shannon from Thankerton at the event in Perth.

The Better Grazing = Better Business events at Moffat House Hotel on Wednesday February 8 and at Huntingtower Hotel, Perth, on Thursday February 9, begin at 10am and lunch will be provided.

To reserve your place phone QMS on 0131 472 4040 or email info@qmscotland.co.uk

NFUS hustings

NFUS members got the chance to quiz each of the contenders for the NFUS president and vice-president jobs.

Turn to page 46 for more.



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W: www.fas.scot

Date Tuesday 7 February 2017
Time 10.30am - 3pm

Venue Nether Largie, Kilmartin, Lochgilphead PA31 8QQ Courtesy of Iain Malcolm

Interactive event aimed at Sheep and Beef Farmers in Mid Argyll looking at livestock, soil, grassland and biodiversity management and its place in business efficiency.

To book a place please visit www.fas.scot or call 01586 552502

Speakers:
Poppy Frater Sheep Specialist
SAC Consulting
Gavin Elrick Specialist Soil and Drainage Consultant SAC Consultant
Helen Bibby Conservation Consultant SAC Consulting
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Langa Farm

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Usual Classes Refreshments

All Welcome

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Furnace and Minard pupils enjoyed a trip to Kelvingrove Museum.



Children pose with Elvis – the King.

Primary pupils meet the King at Kelvingrove

FURNACE and Minard primary school pupils headed off to Glasgow for a day at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum last week.

The visit was planned as part of a mini Scotland topic but the pupils saw and learned much beyond their national heritage.

From Egyptian mummies to dinosaurs, Charles Rennie Mac-

Intosh art and the famous Spitfire, there was plenty to capture the pupils imagination.

Pupils said:

Kaine: 'My favourite painting was

Christ of St John of the Cross by Salvador Dali which was strange but amazing since you felt that you were looking into the painting from above.'

Jeremi: 'I really liked the floating heads

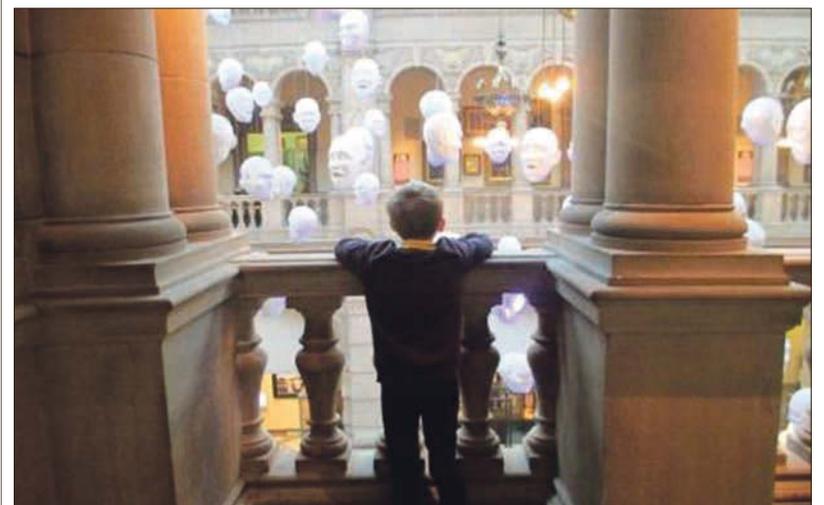
with all the different expressions on their faces, some of them were a bit creepy.'

Marie: 'The ancient Egyptian artefacts were amazing and we played

some fun games like Wrap the Mummy.'

Nicola: 'I'd like to go back to see the Ancient Egypt section and the weapons again. I could imagine what it was like to be a warrior in the past.'

After a storm, my Daddy makes sure everyone's electricity is on



The floating heads were fascinating.

Oban Music Society has grand start to piano appeal

A CASH grant from Scottish Sea Farms has got Oban Music Society off to a flying start in their fundraising appeal for a new piano.

The existing Steinway grand piano is 80 years old and the society is desperately in need of a replacement, which could cost £30,000.

Great start

The £5,000 sponsorship from Scottish Sea Farms has given the appeal a great start and the music society is hoping to raise the remaining funds over the course of the next 12 months.

Jeremy Church, secretary of Oban Music

Society, said: 'We are delighted to receive this cash from the Heart of the Community Fund, as it helps us get the fundraising appeal off to such a positive start. We are hoping that other supporters will now come forward, as a new instrument is so important to our young musicians.'

'The piano is also used by the Mòd, the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, by the Mendelssohn on Mull Festival, the Winter Series of concerts, the Lorn Live Festival and a number of other musical events which take place in St

John's Cathedral. In total, about 500 people will benefit from a new grand piano being purchased, so we are hugely grateful to Scottish Sea Farms for this initial support.'

Grants

The Heart of the Community Grant Trust provides financial grants to community projects within the regions Scottish Sea Farms operates in.

Application forms for the Heart of the Community Grant Trust can be found on the Scottish Sea Farms website – www.scottishseafarms.com – together with full details of the criteria required.

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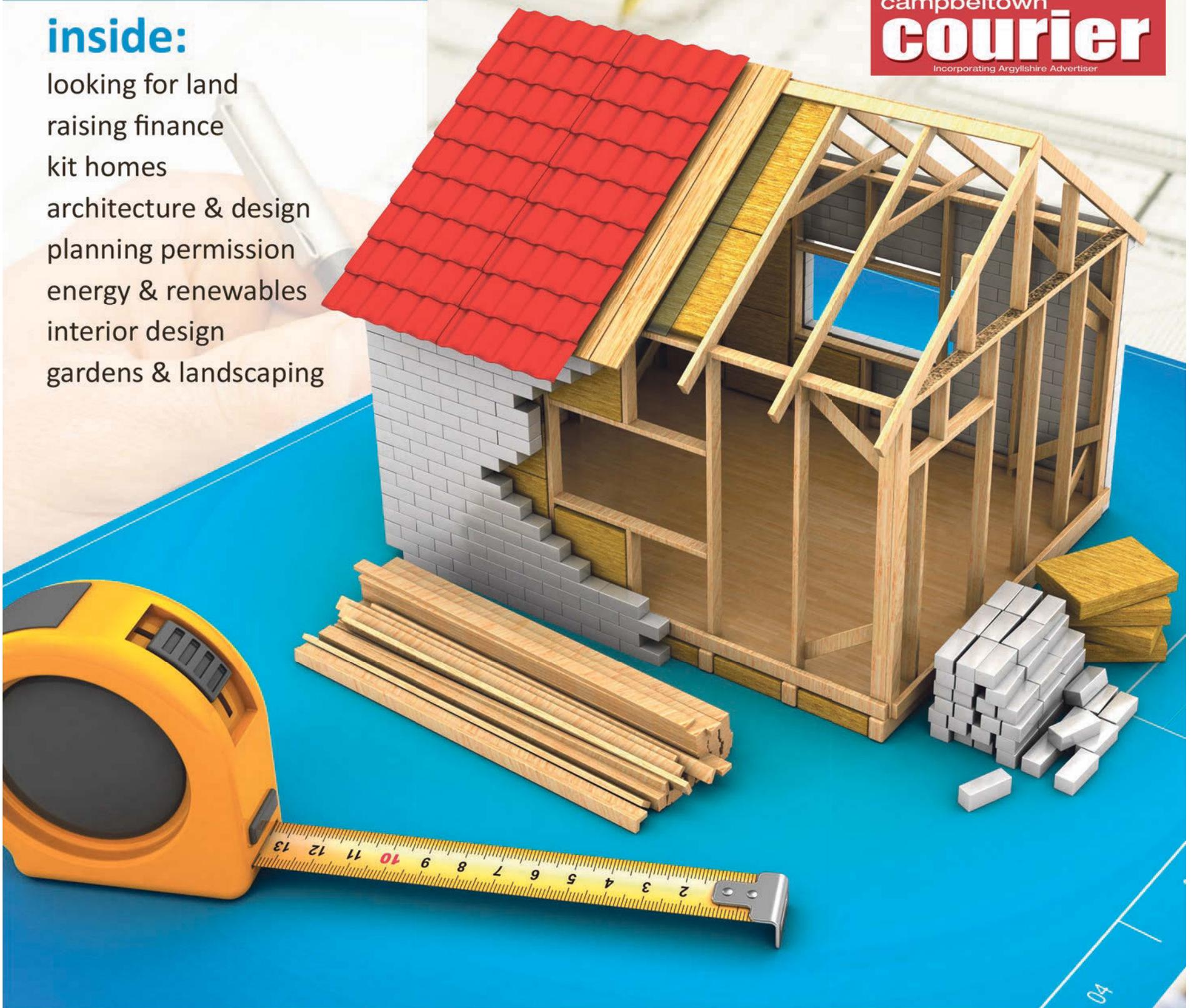
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Your comprehensive guide to self build and renovation,
from finding land to furnishing

Beginners Guide to Self-build

Building a Future

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Many people get excited at the thought of self-building, but then balk at the size and complexity of the task. Common fears? Lack of knowledge of the building trade, a belief that they are not sufficiently practical and an anxiety that their main life asset - their home - may be put in jeopardy if things go wrong.

The simplest answer to this is: don't worry! More than 20,000 people in the UK self-build homes each year. More than 90 per cent have never built anything before. The majority end their projects successfully and most contribute only marginally in practical terms.

Self-build currently represents about 25 per cent of the detached house building market and about 15 per cent of the larger house building market - more than any single commercial developer.

Self-builders come from all backgrounds and all ages, though they tend to be existing homeowners. Other popular categories include couples in their 30s and 40s with young families who are keen to leap two or three rungs in the housing ladder, and empty-nesters, people coming up to retirement, perhaps living in a large home where they brought up their children, who want to downsize to somewhere smaller, easier and cheaper to maintain. What this disparate group does share, however, is the ability to organise.

That includes knowing how to work out a budget, how to prioritise, how to nego-



tiating - often the most worrying aspect to the beginner, but a skill that develops with surprising ease - and, perhaps most important of all, knowing how to ask questions, and to go on asking until you get an answer that makes sense.

All that can be summed up by the term 'project management' - something many of us do all the time in our jobs or social and family lives. On top of that, there is more help available than ever before, so let our guide be your starting point to the dream of a self-build home!

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First steps to follow

Set a realistic budget

Take a sensible approach to your budget and your project won't turn into a money pit like those seen on shows such as Grand Designs. Set a firm, realistic figure before the design stage begins, but include a contingency (10-15%).

Arrange financing

Whether through a bank or a dedicated self-build mortgage company, your next step should be to secure funding. That way you will know exactly what your budget is from the start, and when you find a plot you love, you will be able to seal the deal before it gets sold out from under you. Self-build mortgages often work on a stage payment basis, in which funds are released at key points throughout the project, either in advance or in arrears, depending on the product you choose.

Choose a building route

Many first-time builders choose a package company to guide them through the entire

process, from design to build. These companies generally offer customisable standard houses and bespoke design options. The other option is to hire an architect and contractor or professional project manager, so that the house can be built to your exact specifications. Check listings, then ask around to find out if others had a good experience with your potentials.

Find an architect or self-build package company

Whether you choose a package supplier (who designs and builds the home for you) or a local architect, make sure they understand your requirements and budget. The more information they have up front, the more efficiently they will be able to design your dream home. Continually going back to them with changes or additions will slow down the process and add to the cost.

Start the planning process

Get in touch with the local planning authority early. Argyll and Bute council offers a

pre-application system called Planning for Firm Foundations, so you can find out whether your proposal is likely to be acceptable in terms of the provisions of the adopted development plan.

Sort out the essentials

Before going any further, make certain you have all the proper consents in addition to planning permission (sometimes you need other special local permissions, such as conservation area consent.) Be sure to safeguard your investment by getting the contracts, warranties and insurance in place. Even if your contractor has insurance, you may need to take specialist self-build insurance.

Prepare the plot

The first step before starting the build is preparing the site, something your contractor usually deals with. This includes clearing vegetation, levelling the plot, installing drainage and setting out the trenches.

Get building

Most home building projects fall into five stages: foundation work; getting the house wind and weather tight (roof on, windows and doors in); first fix (initial services, structural carpentry and plastering); second fix (after the plastering) and final decoration. You can choose to have the interior completely fitted out, or, if you are handy with carpentry, perform the details such as cabinet installation, carpet laying and painting yourself.

Enjoy your dream home!

By this stage, you will be raring to move in. First, consider a few practicalities, such as obtaining the Completion Certificate from building control, making sure any last minute snags are dealt with - and don't forget reclaiming the VAT. After months of paperwork and stress, it's time to enjoy the fruits of your labour!

SLJ INTERIORS

*Interior Design before architectural approvals?
An inside out way to look at things...
but that's exactly what it is.*



SLJ Interiors has been at the forefront of Interior Design for over 30 years. Now based in Oban, they have recently worked on a variety of different projects including the complete redesign of older properties, the renovation and refurbishment of the new Argyll Tapestry shop on Oban Esplanade, and numerous new build and house extension projects.

We asked them about working on new build projects:

If people are wondering if they need both an architect and an interior designer, what would you say to them?

Experienced interior designers can offer invaluable ideas on the use and flow of interior space. They are experts at

finding out about the lifestyle, atmosphere, look and feel their clients would like to realise in their new home and will make sure the new space delivers that. So, involving an interior designer early in the process really can help achieve a very successful and lovely new home.

SLJ Interiors have extensive experience of working with clients, their architects and

Experienced interior designers can offer invaluable ideas on the use and flow of interior space. They are experts at finding out about the lifestyle, atmosphere, look and feel their clients wish to achieve

trades from initial conception through to a finished home.

An example of recent new build and extension projects by SLJ Interiors includes a generous extension to a modest coastal bungalow. SLJ Interiors worked with the architect from the very first stages to create an elegant new drawing room, kitchen, breakfast room and entrance hall. They also suggested the remodelling of the exterior of the whole building to create a finish that looks gorgeous and compliments the surroundings.

The best way to find out more about what SLJ Interiors can do to help you with your project, large or small, is to call and have a chat with them.

At what point does a 'self-builder' involve an interior designer?

'Homeowners want to make sure their project is built or remodelled as efficiently as possible, and that means assembling the right design and build team from the very beginning. People often only start thinking about the interior towards the end of the build process. However, interior space is so much more than just furniture and furnishings. Every surface in an architectural space needs to be considered as part of the overall design. Elements such as colours, textures, proportions, lighting, balance as well as furniture and fabrics all come together in the final scheme. Considering these elements early on can help the success of the whole project'.



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Scottish Building Society

Self-build mortgages individualised for you

A mortgage is one of the most important financial commitments you will make, and the Scottish Building Society is committed to providing individualised service to each and every client.

SBS has been helping people in Scotland buy homes since 1848. Self-build Mortgages are one of their specialties, with expert advisers available to help you through the entire application process.

A Self-build Mortgage from Scottish Building Society is different from a regular mortgage, in that the funds are released in stages as the build progresses. You can borrow up to 80% of the total cost of the land and construction costs or valuation, whichever is lower, so the whole build process is more flexible.

Scottish Building Society has been recognised with a

'Highly Commended' award by the readers of What Mortgage magazine in the Best Guarantor Mortgage provider category. They are the only independent building society based in Scotland, and is believed to be the world's oldest mutual. It has assets of some £397 million, a mortgage book of £275 million and a network of six branch offices and 60 agencies throughout Scotland.

To find out more about a Self-Build Mortgage, talk to one of the Scottish Building Society qualified mortgage advisers on 0345 600 4085, or visit www.scottishbs.co.uk



Raising finance

What will it cost?

Everyone knows that when you buy a traditional home, you get a mortgage. But how do you go about financing a self-build, and how much will it cost when you factor in the land and the build?

This will be based on available savings, the likely profit from the sale of your existing home and what you can expect to raise on a mortgage. Traditionally, around a third of the total has been devoted to purchasing a plot, with the remainder covering construction. At today's land prices, 40-60 per cent is more likely to account for the plot, and in popular areas the percentage can rise even higher. Estimating the build cost will depend on the house size, the form of construction, the complexity of the design, the materials selected, local labour rates and the specific conditions of the site such as poor ground conditions that demand specialist foundations.

Setting budgets

In other words, it's complicated, and you're almost certain to require specialist help. Having said that, architects' and builders' price books, detailing the costs of every aspect of construction and updated annually, are available in local libraries or at bookstores (look for names like Spon or Wessex).

Estimating software such as EstimatorXpress from HBXL is a good way to plan the cost of your project. Easy to understand building diagrams help you input your project's dimensions to calculate the cost, and because it's linked directly to a builders' merchants price list, the estimates are totally accurate.

It also guides you through each build phase step by step, so you don't forget to factor in certain materials, labour or plants that can prove costly later on. Design and build package companies will also provide basic estimates for their standard designs. Some builder's merchants will supply free estimating services based on detailed house plans.

Traditionally, construction estimates are provided by a quantity surveyor, though the service is unlikely to be cost-effective for a project as small as a single house. In practice, arriving at a precise budget will depend on negotiations with your designer or project manager and your contractor. Don't expect to tie everything down before you start. Every build has its own peculiarities. A 10 per cent contingency fund is recommended.

Financing a self-build home

Most people obtain a mortgage to finance their project. Mortgages, however, are granted on the basis of collateral. That obviously doesn't exist when all you have is a building plot. Self-build mortgages are therefore funded on the completion of various stages of the build, typically four or five.



Cash flow

This means, of course, that you need to be able to fund stages, either from your own resources or other borrowing, before you are reimbursed by the next payment from your main lender. In the case of a timber frame house, where the frame might account for a third of your total budget - payable in one go - this is likely to require careful juggling of finances. Always establish clearly with your lender when and how stage payments will be made so you don't find yourself running into cash flow problems and perhaps losing a reliable subcontractor. One solution is to raise a loan on your existing home, to be re-paid when you sell it.

Another way of managing cash flow is to open an account with a builder's merchant. Thirty days' payment is common and provides a welcome respite when cash is tight. Clear your credit cards, too, before you start. They are useful, short-term back up.



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They say it pays to shop around – but loyalty pays too

Switching mortgage products didn't mean changing lenders for Joe Kelly and Catherine Hallett

When they decided to take the plunge and build their own home, Joe Kelly and Catherine Hallett turned to Scottish Building Society for help. A self-build mortgage from the society allowed them to draw down funds as required for each phase of the project. Now happily settled in to their new 5 bedroom detached home on the outskirts of Perth, they have switched to a standard mortgage, and are delighted that the Society had a competitive product to offer.

Catherine takes up the story: "We bought the land for our new home in December 2013 and broke ground ten months later in October 2014. Originally we went through a mortgage broker to finance the build project, and he put us in touch with Scottish Building Society. As the build progressed I was glad to be able to deal directly with the Society's Fiona Dyer who kept me right

through every stage of the process.'

"It was great to be able to pick up the phone to someone who took the time to explain things to me clearly, and who had local knowledge. I really welcomed her expertise and it was for that reason that we turned to Scottish Building Society when the time came to switch to a standard mortgage once the build completed. I had shopped around a bit on the internet so I knew what rates were available and when Fiona responded quickly with a competitive quote we snapped it up. We were already inclined to remain loyal to Scottish Building Society because of the support and personal contact I had throughout the build, and we are both delighted to remain a member of the Society with our new mortgage."

Catherine and Joe's new home

Build cost - £240,000 including land
Current value - £350,000.

Project highlights

"We worked well with our architect and our builder to create a unique space for the family," says Catherine. "The kitchen is at the heart of the home and it is where we spend most of our time so it was important that it was big enough to accommodate us all. Joe is a pipefitter and, with the help of his brother, he carried out most of that work which saved us money and ensured we have a high quality product. We are glad that we used local trades-people, building suppliers and professionals as we built some good relationships along the way. I love the kitchen and our upstairs lounge with its fabulous views and cosy wood burning stove. It's a great family home and affords us good space for socialising."



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McKinven and Colville employ a vast team of skilled, qualified and experienced tradesmen. New builds are a major part of their business and they pride themselves on their growing portfolio. Traditional build, Timberframe, System-Build, Greenfield and Brownfield sites are all within their areas of specialization. All statutory consents and certificates are supplied upon completion as standard.

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Guide Price £90,000

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Plot At Torrisdale Square, Carradale, Argyll and Bute

A substantial plot.

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Finding land is the first and biggest hurdle, and it deters many prospective self-builders.

Unless you are lucky enough to own land, finding a suitable plot from scratch is likely to take time and effort. Not only are the most popular areas highly developed or fenced off by planning restrictions, plots that come on the market are constantly sought by local and national developers.

So what chance does the lone, usually inexperienced self-builder have? Actually, he or she has advantages denied to the professional. The first is that paying the keenest price is not always a priority. A developer will usually need to build and sell a new property as soon as possible - to reduce borrowing and maintain his business.

A self-builder, however, is likely to spend several years in the house they build, allowing them to spread the cost of the plot over a long period. Not all plots are going to appeal to developers. They may be too small to generate sufficient short-term profit or they may have potential problems - a steep slope or an awkward shape. Remember, no plot is going to be perfect. Often solving a local problem can inspire you or your designer to think in new and imaginative

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Finding land



directions that might never have occurred to you otherwise.

Where should you start? Estate agents are a good starting point, so get on the mailing lists. Another approach is to use a plot-finding agency, which, for a subscription, will typically provide plot opportunities, such as PlotSearch, plotfinder.net or UK Land Directory Ltd.

Auctions are another plot source, but demand strong nerves and ready cash. A 10 per cent deposit is normally required at the fall of the hammer, with the remainder payable within a month. If you are targeting a particular area, visit it often. Chance conversations in pubs, wine bars or cafes can sometimes flush out potential vendors. Even more important, explore the area, preferably on foot. Look for large, neglected gardens, particularly with road access or gaps between terraces. Find out the

owners by asking locally or through the Land Registry.

Another source of plots is the local authority planning department. Occasionally, applications are not acted on or are unsuccessful. You may spot an opportunity. Sometimes you, or your designer, may see a way of making an application successful - perhaps by changing the size or position of the house.

Finally, an increasingly popular option in high priced areas is to buy a run-down property and replace it. At least you know that planning permission exists for a dwelling on that spot, even if the new house - as sometimes happens - has to cover the same footprint.

Useful websites:

www.plotfinder.net; www.plotsearch.co.uk;
www.highlandhousingalliance.com

Planning Permission

If there is not already detailed planning permission for your home for the plot of land you are buying, you will need to secure this before you can start building as the planning authority (your local council or national park authority) will need to be satisfied that your plans for your home are in line with the Council's Development Plan(s) and that your home's design will be acceptable in terms of its impact on the surrounding homes and landscape. Don't pay for land before it has planning permission - don't sign a contract or include a clause that it will be void if the property fails to get permission.

You should try to get planning permission as early as possible,

as the process can take some time. Try to speak to a planning officer at the relevant council before submitting your application as they should be able to let you know if there are any issues you should be aware of or any restrictions they might impose (for example they might restrict the size or height of the home, its distance from a road or the plot boundary, etc.).

The council should also be able to help if you need advice or guidance on completing a planning application. There will be a fee for submitting an application. The planning authority will notify any neighbours, but if your plot has no immediate neighbours, there is also currently an

additional charge to advertise your planning application in the local newspaper(s) so that any other residents who may wish to comment have an opportunity to do so.

Your architect can help or you may choose to employ a specialist planning consultant. A list of planning consultants operating in Scotland is available on the Royal Town Planning Institute website at rtpi.org.uk.

In addition to planning permission, you will also need to apply for a building warrant before you can start building work on your home.

You can contact your council's Building Standards Department

for more information on how to apply The Scottish Government's Building Standards website at gov.scot/bsd provides links to the building regulations. If you are not familiar with the building regulations, you can get your architect or other design professional to help you with preparing your warrant application as well as providing drawings of your plan.

Normally your home must be completed within three years of you receiving your building warrant, although you can apply to extend this deadline (you need to pay an extra fee for this though).

John Robertson & Sons - Experts in house building

John Robertson & Sons Joiners is a family run business situated in Blackwaterfoot and is now entering its 50th year of trading to the public on the island. They run a busy joinery business ranging from refurbishments, extensions, double glazing, kitchens and all day to day joinery and glazing needs. They keep a stock and supply timber, ironmongery and glass for the DIY enthusiasts amongst you.

After completing the first phase development of 14 houses, they are excited to be starting their next development of eight detached dwelling houses and four semi-detached dwelling houses in the beautiful village of Blackwaterfoot, close to all local amenities and walking distance to

the beach and golf course. If you would like to live in Blackwaterfoot and wish to have a big input into the whole process from planning to completion, John Robertson & Sons are there for you from start to finish. Please feel free to call into their office or give them a ring if you are interested in building your own home or if you have any other joinery/building requirements.

John Robertson & Sons are members of NHBC, Scottish Building Federation and the CITB.



'If you would like to design your own home and live in Blackwaterfoot, John Robertson & Sons can take you through the whole process from planning to completion.'

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Architecture

So you have finally settled on that perfect plot of land and have started brainstorming a vision for your ideal self-build. Wait a minute!

Although the temptation to do as much on your own as possible is admirable, this can often be a risky business that is devastating in the long run. Instead, for a traditional timber frame custom build, we recommend hiring an architect to ensure you get the most out of your project.

Your architect will construct designs that cater to your specifications, style and budget that are presented in the brief. Self-build architects cater to the individual needs of your project, and possess experience with a vast number of building styles and construction techniques.

All architects registered with the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS), Architects Registration Board (ARB) and the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) have the ability to prepare scale drawings and often 3D models of the proposed self-project. This information will be presented to you in design development meetings. This ensures you're getting exactly what you want before building work starts.

An architect will ensure that you are in compliance with all statutory obligations such as planning permission, party wall agreements and building regulations. He or she will have extensive knowledge and experience to guide you through the application processes when obtaining these permissions.

Your architect will aid you in selecting the proper fittings, finishing, materials and lighting that are compatible with your lifestyle and will



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ultimately increase the value of your home. Furthermore, the architect can also help control costs during the design and specification stages of the project to make sure you are getting the most out of your budget.

He or she will oversee the project to completion, helping to control the programme and costs during the build process. Your architect can also help you select the right builder and arrange and administer your contract with them. This contract will ensure the building work is being done in accordance with the drawings and specifications to a predefined time-frame and cost. The architect will make regular inspections and issue certificates for completed work so you will only ever pay for the work that has been done. In addition, an architect can coordinate with various consultants and engineers to ensure all parties are on the same page throughout the project.

An architect can prevent headaches for you during construction, as they will solve various construction issues that may arise as the project develops. Specifically, your architect will be able to prepare change orders that are necessary when there are deviations from the original plan. And, because they are required to hold professional indemnity insurance, if there is anything in the design work that causes problems later down the line, you will be protected.



An architect will ensure that you are in compliance with all statutory obligations such as planning permission, party wall agreements and building regulations.

CP Architects is behind you all the way

New-build and renovated homes come to life with the CP Architects team behind you.

The well-known Oban-based team on George Street has more than 30 years' experience in sympathetic renovations which breathe new life into old buildings and a sensitive design approach to each new house site that recognises that no two locations are the same and each client's needs are unique.

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The team's 3-D modelling helps bring ideas to life and test them out along with their skills in integrated renewable energy systems each individually designed for existing properties and new-builds.

The experienced team at CP Architects is headed by Iain, with Robert Wilson, architect; Iain Hurst, associate; supported by Brian Reffin and Jimmy Crawford. Together they have a reputation for reliability and innovation and this can be seen by the number of their projects short-listed for Argyll and Bute Council Design Awards.



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Building on th

Have you dreamed of building a home in a remote, romantic Highlands or islands location? The increased costs of getting materials and workmen to your build site may make this seem like an impossible dream. But don't give up. Here on the west coast, there are companies that specialise in working on and delivering to the islands. With a bit of extra planning and thought, there's no reason not to self-build on the islands.

Think Before You Act

The number-one rule in rugged design is to plan ahead. With rugged sites, special factors come into play. In addition to normal home-design decisions, you'll need to think about your site's accessibility, energy options, terrain and weather patterns. Sometimes these issues can raise your costs dramatically.

How Do You Get There?

Is your site accessible by paved roads, or will materials need to be delivered by ship or plane? If roads are available, are they wide enough—and strong enough—for trucks filled with heavy loads of building materials? Evaluate your site's accessibility ahead of time and

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The know-how

Unless the site is already fully 'serviced', you will need to arrange for your site to be connected to mains water and sewerage systems and for electricity and (if applicable) gas connections to be provided. It is helpful

for you to check with Scottish Water and power companies early on to make sure you can get connections when you need them. In rural areas, particularly if the site is far from other properties or on a hill, there can be

problems in connecting sites to the mains water and gas grids in particular and the cost of the connection can be high; therefore if your site is in a remote area, you should check the feasibility of arranging connections before you commit to buying a site. In certain circumstances, you may need to consider providing your own energy or water/sewerage supplies (Scottish Water and the energy companies, along with your builder, architect

e islands

work with your production team to come up with solutions- local haulage and construction companies know how to get materials to challenging locations.

Choose a Good Spot

Don't underestimate the importance of siting your home on your lot. Where you choose to situate your house will impact daily living. Sure, it's nice to capture great views, but you also want to make sure that you maximize energy efficiency and avoid terrain troubles.



Materials Matter

In a rugged setting, materials may dictate a home's long-term durability. Windows and also play a role in a home's longevity. Choose energy-efficient windows with a good R-value. Cladding on exterior windows also is a good idea. Remember, a little extra research now goes a long way toward creating a home that will last a lifetime.

or project manager, should be able to give you further advice on this). Where possible, you should arrange for the water mains drainage and electricity supply to be provided for the site as early as possible because the builders will need access to water in particular during the build process and also to electricity at certain stages (although not necessarily for the initial stages). However, if it is not

feasible to arrange at least a temporary connection (such as a water standpipe) in time, it should be feasible to put in place other temporary arrangements, such as hiring an electricity generator or making arrangements with any nearby neighbours to use their water supply if they have an outdoor tap.

For more information visit: www.gov.scot and search 'Building my own home'.



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Kit homes

Kit homes are pre-fabricated homes designed and manufactured in the factory and shipped onsite with all or most of the materials, components and even plumbing included. It's like a jigsaw puzzle with each parts measured, designed, and fabricated to fit perfectly to create a complete piece.

Some people think that these are lesser quality homes that have smaller spaces and low-grade materials. However, this is a real misconception, because quality will always depend on the supplier or manufacturer. You can get a huge kit home that will last for a lifetime with a reliable supplier that offers high-quality materials, components, and services.

First and foremost, what makes this type of home popular is the potentially lower cost to build. The overall expense can be reduced further if you build it on your own without hiring contractors for construction. This works for homeowners who have the skills and some help from family members and friends.

The time it would take to finish building a home is much faster because design, materials, and other components are already available and would simply need to be put together for completion. With the help of contractors, it could take a few days to finish building a home. That's faster than site-built homes that would normally take months or years to be completed. It saves you time and cuts down more costs along the way.

Few limitations prevent self-builders from availing of this low-cost property alternative. Considering terrain and other environmental conditions, a regular kit home may not always be appropriate to areas with uneven and challenging terrains, which requires a customized home design and architecture.

If you prefer your home to be a certain way with a couple of inclusions and alterations, a kit home may not be ideal for you. Homeowners, however, are initially given several options from existing designs by suppliers. While adjustments are not always accommodated by suppliers, you can inquire if a supplier can oblige you with slight modifications to existing designs.

If you are thinking of a self-build, why not explore the advantages of a kit home today?



Types of kit homes

Most kit homes fall into one of four main categories:

Log homes

Log homes are made of hand-crafted logs or factory-milled logs that can expand and contract due to changes in humidity and temperature, so it's important to seal the logs properly together. Log homes can also shrink after being built, so keep this in mind and plan ahead. Log kits include interior fixtures.

Timber-frame homes

Also known as post-and-beam homes, timber-frame homes have no interior structural walls, so they offer flexibility when designing the interior layout. They also provide large wall space for windows, which allows for passive solar design. Timber-frame homes facing south with insulated roof and wall panels are energy-efficient.

Dome homes

They're flexible, spacious, energy-efficient and made of triangular fibreglass panels that can withstand severe weather conditions. Dome homes are easier to build as cutting the pieces in the same shape, size and angle is done repeatedly. They can also be built quickly, as you can erect the shell and install the windows and doors in one day.

Panelised homes

Panelised homes can have an open panel (e.g. a frame with exterior sheathing and a non-insulated/unfinished interior) or a closed panel (e.g. a frame with a finished interior or a structural insulated panel (SIP)). Using SIPs for the floors, walls and roof help create an energy-efficient home. Panelised kits can come with roof trusses and wall sections and have flexible floor plans.

Create a checklist

Creating a checklist will help you to stay organised from the start and ensure that you obtain the right knowledge, skills, budget and people you need prior to building your kit home.

Here's what to put on your checklist:

- Do your research – If you have no experience in building homes,

then do some research on the process of building a kit home and on local building codes. Know how long it might take to build your kit home, e.g. large kit homes take around 8-12 months to complete. Choose a kit home company with a good reputation and good customer reviews.

- Take a course – If you're thinking of building your kit home yourself, then take an owner-builder course. It's short, cheap and will prepare you for building your own kit home.
- Create a budget – Include the main costs and additional costs, including upgrades during the building process. Make a budget for what it is you want and stick to it.
- Speak with a lender – If you'll be borrowing money for your kit home, get a loan from a small bank, as they're more open to lending for non-conventional homes. Expect to pay a bigger deposit than for a conventional home. The lender may also choose who gets to build the home (e.g. you or a contractor), so that they get a good-quality product from the deal.
- Find the right builder – If you want to hire a builder, read people's reviews of home builders and look at their finished work before choosing one. Also look for a builder who can gather a team of good tradespeople that they can manage in order to complete the project on time and within budget. You can also ask the kit home company or their local dealer if they know of a good contractor who can build your home.
- Get the building site ready – You'll need to source and buy land, then complete the foundation before the kit home arrives. Ensure there's space to accommodate the truck and have your work crew ready to go when the materials arrive.
- Be organised – Stack the materials neatly together and somewhere safe from the weather. Read the manual, follow the steps in order and have someone be in charge of the manual throughout the building process.

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Norscot is a leading manufacturer of timber frame kit homes in the Highlands & Islands. Since its inception in 1984 over 1,000 kits have been supplied, primarily to self-builders.

What sets Norscot apart from other timber frame manufacturers is its overall external wall construction 'EcoWall'. The type, thickness and position of insulation and other non-structural components, combined with high levels of air tightness, provide the perfect balance between cost and benefit in terms of energy efficiency, whatever your budget.

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Common mistakes to avoid

Owner-builders often make mistakes when building their kit home, which can be a huge drain on time, money and resources. To prevent the same thing happening to you, here's what to avoid:

- Don't just place your kit home anywhere on the site. Consider views, privacy, and cardinal directions for hot and cold temperatures.
- Don't pour all the cement at once in order to save money, as it will harden before you can even finish the job.
- Don't schedule tradespeople out of order, e.g. plumbing, insulation and electric work should be done before you call in the drywaller.
- Don't settle on the design and budget before knowing what the site requirements are, e.g. earthworks and access to essential services.
- Don't do everything yourself. Have an experienced professional help you out.
- Don't create a large kit home with no design features or it will just look like one big box.
- Don't go for cheap wall frames when installing the roof or the walls will not stay straight.
- Don't create a unique design that will be unappealing to others and make it hard to sell the home.
- Don't hesitate to seek professional advice where necessary. Spending a few bucks on expert advice can save you considerable money later on.
- Don't set impossible deadlines that could ruin your health and family life.
- Don't make any guesses. Figure out how many hours is required for each task from the bids given by subcontractors.
- Don't just look at prices when comparing kit homes. Also consider the number of standard inclusions.
- Don't just choose contractors with the lowest bid price. Find out why it's cheaper than others.
- Don't forget to set aside some money for landscaping.
- If you don't apply glue to the floor sheeting, it will squeak.
- If you don't re-plumb door jambs, the doors will not hang correctly.
- If you don't seek help to fix a mistake you made, you could create even bigger, more expensive problems later on.
- Learn the rules before you break them, e.g. conventional flashing will still be needed for alternative triangular windows.
- Pick a design based on the lifestyle you want, e.g. privacy, entertaining, or space for a growing family.



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Greig MacLeod, 'Business Development Manager' tells us 'We are a family-run business and passionate about what we do. We offer a lot of services, but house building is our speciality. We build around 150 kit homes a year. The process is very flexible, allowing the customer to customise their

kit to their own specifications. We can supply a timber frame kit (one of our tried and tested designs, or based on an architect's drawings), or we can manage the whole design and build project from start to finish.

If you are planning to build a house:

We are able to offer a full range of services from obtaining planning permission and building warrant right through to completion.

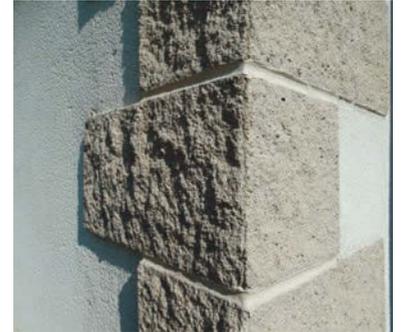
You can also pick and choose trades from our extensive services division – either direct or as part of a self build project, as required:

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Energy and renewables



to adapt the criteria so it is important that you, and your installer, keep up to date. Further changes have been mooted for 2017, including a cap on larger properties and the removal of support for solar thermal installations.

Feed in tariffs (FITs)

The Feed in Tariffs (FITs) scheme is another Government scheme designed to encourage uptake of a range of small-scale, renewable and low-carbon technologies to generate electricity. Under FITs, you could be paid for the electricity you generate if you install an eligible system such as solar PV or a wind or hydro turbine.

Energy saving loans

Did you know you can apply for an interest free loan to install a variety of measures such as solid wall insulation, double-glazing or a new boiler?

Through the HEEPS loan scheme, an owner occupier or private sector landlord could get up to £15,000 per property, and landlords with multiple properties are eligible for up to £100,000 in total. The repayment period varies based on the amount you intend to borrow but those taking out higher value loans will be able to pay back over 10 years.

From October 2016 for a limited time and subject to available funding, applicants are eligible to receive a grant of 25% of the cost of their work, up to a maximum of £3,750. Applicants must be able to complete works and claim funding by March 10, 2017 to benefit from this offer.

To accommodate this change the HEEPS loan will be reduced to a maximum of 75% of the cost of eligible works. The maximum loan value remains at £15,000.

Applicants are also entitled to claim up to £150 towards the cost of the Green Deal Advice Report that is required before a loan can be approved.

If you are installing external wall insulation and apply directly to your local authority for a building warrant you can also claim back this cost. Payment in these circumstances will only be made based on the actual cost paid to the local authority for lodging the warrant and you must be able to supply a copy of the bill, receipt or invoice issued by the local authority.

This special offer will also be available to private sector landlords for a maximum of three properties. If applying for work at more than three properties loan funding, the interest free loan will still be available for 100% of the eligible costs, up to a maximum of £15,000 per property. For more information on the loan scheme, visit energysavingtrust.org.uk.

Installing green technologies in your self-build can not only offer energy savings in the long run, you might qualify for Government schemes to help pay for them.

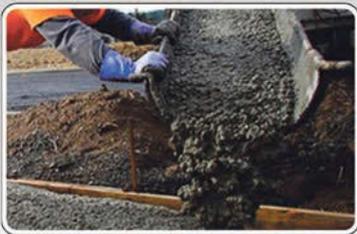
Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

The main funding scheme offered by the Government for installing renewable heating such as biomass, ground source and air source heat pump technologies,

is the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). The domestic RHI is for single-rated properties and is payable for seven years. Quarterly tax-free payments, which increase annually in line with the consumer price index, are made to the homeowner. The amount of RHI payable is based on the energy performance certificate (EPC) you receive once your heating installation is complete. Typically, a biomass installation could payback in about eight years (depending on fuel source). A ground or air source heat pump system usually pays back in four to five years.

The rates paid under the RHI vary depending on what system you are installing. Currently, heat pumps (ground and air source) are seen as the best technology to use and offer higher payments. While the scheme is currently supported until at least 2022, the Government continues

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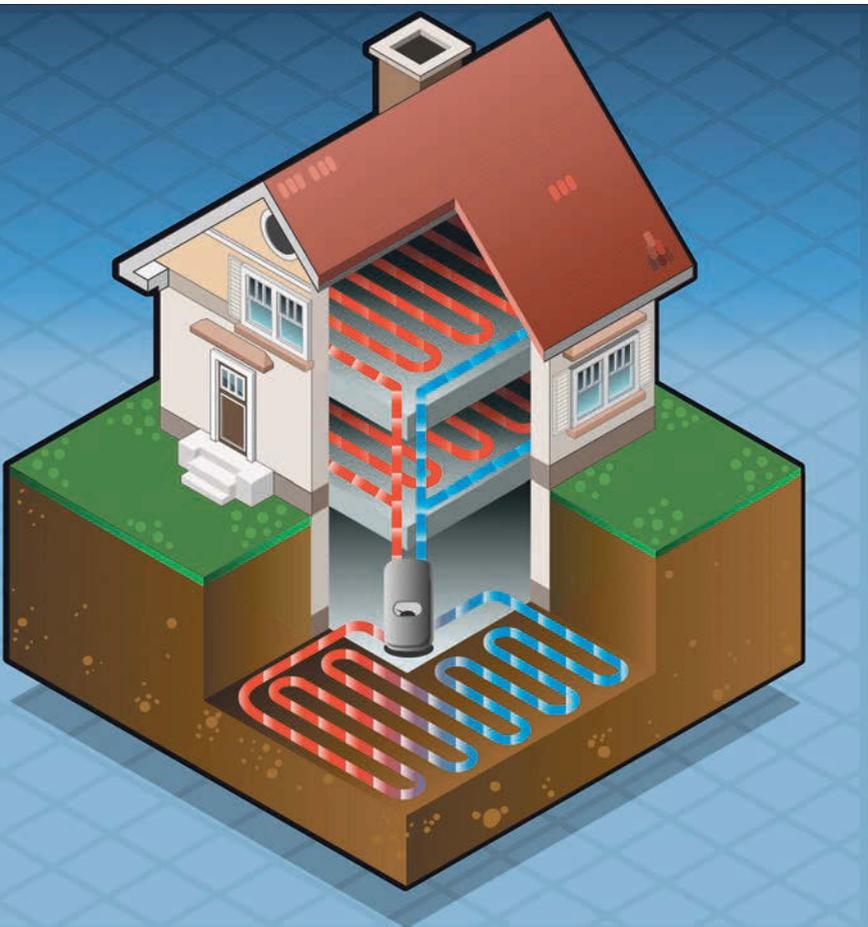
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At Home Energy Scotland we have a team of specially trained home advisors who can provide free, in-depth advice tailored to your individual circumstances either over the phone or in your current home. When deciding on the right renewables technology a professional opinion can come in handy.

As part of this free service we will:

- Discuss your plans for your new build.
- Advise you on your options for saving energy in your new home and generating your own energy (heat or electricity).
- Make recommendations in a written report, explaining the savings you might make, financial support available and technical and planning considerations around installing.

- Provide ongoing support through the process of installing your energy saving improvements and/or renewables system. We can look at installer quotes, and tell you more about funding to help with the costs.

One customer told Home Energy Scotland recently:

"I was really confused about all grants and different options and what would work best for us. The advisor explained all of it in a way I could understand, answered lots and lots of questions and helped me develop a plan of action."

To book a home visit get in touch with us for free by calling our friendly advisors on 0808 808 2282 or requesting a call back.

How to qualify

To qualify for the RHI and/or FITs, the installation must be carried out by a Microgeneration Certification Scheme company. It is a nationally recognised quality assurance scheme, which certifies microgeneration technologies used to produce electricity and heat from renewable sources.

Your installation must also adhere to the Renewable Energy Consumer Code (RECC), operated by the Renewable Energy Association. In addition, to qualify for RHI payments, you must have funded the heating installation yourself.

The renewable heating companies in our guide will be able to guide you through the RHI process, including providing an idea of how much your quarterly payments will be. Renewable heating is the obvious choice for any self-build project and with Government incentives in place, it has never been a better and more profitable choice.



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Renovating a Home: Top Ten Dos and Don'ts

When renovating a home it's essential to carefully plan and budget for your project. Make sure you follow our Top 10 Dos and Don'ts when renovating a home:-

There are lots of things that you need to do when considering a property project, but here are our Top Ten Tips to get you started:-

1. Do make a list of everything that you want to do, not just in one room, but around the rest of your home too.
2. Do write down a priority order of what needs doing. For example, do you renovate room by room, or get the home painted throughout first?
3. Do work out how much you have to spend - keeping up to 30% of the budget as a contingency.
4. Do write down a list of materials that are required and start to work out and then find out the difference in value versus quality.
5. Do make sure you shop around for materials - or if professionals fitted ask them to list and break out cost of materials and labour.
6. Don't employ a tradesperson or professional company, unless you are sure you have read and both parties have signed a contract.
7. Don't pay for work upfront, agree stage payments for work and make sure you keep 10% of the final cost back until the work is finished to your satisfaction.
8. Don't skimp on items that need to last such as taps or showers.
9. Don't keep changing your spec throughout the project - you will go over budget and annoy the trades people!
10. Don't try to do too much in one go, do things in the right order and take one step at a time.



Kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms

Kitchens

Liberated from old-fashioned customs like colour-coordinated appliances and the sacred single work triangle, designers are thinking about kitchens in new and exciting ways. On trend kitchen design for 2017 includes new thoughts about colour, finding your own workflow and use of authentic materials and natural lighting.

Colour redefined-A base of neutral and soft colour palettes are a very popular choice this year as they allow the homeowner to experiment with his or her own individual expression of complementary colour.



Finding flow- A greater level of collaboration between designer and home owner is driving the desire for better integration between kitchen and living areas. Open-plan kitchens that allow for seamless interaction between living and prep areas will remain key, as will the need to maximise cupboard usage to increase storage through functional design, without compromising organisation and access.

Materials matter- Combining materials is still popular, especially when it comes to countertop materials, as are sleek lines, with integrated profile door handles and work surfaces becoming slimmer to enhance this clean linearity. Diversity is key to current kitchen design, with

elements being created in such a way as to make them resemble crafted furniture and not just functional storage."

Mindful tech- An increased awareness of technology in the kitchen will see kitchen designers incorporate a tech perspective in the kitchen cabinet and we can expect to add-ons such as built-in charging stations, hands-free functionality and tablet holders. Think designs that feature touchscreen control panels, heating membranes, sound activators, aromatic scent dispensers and LED lights along with multimedia entertainment systems.

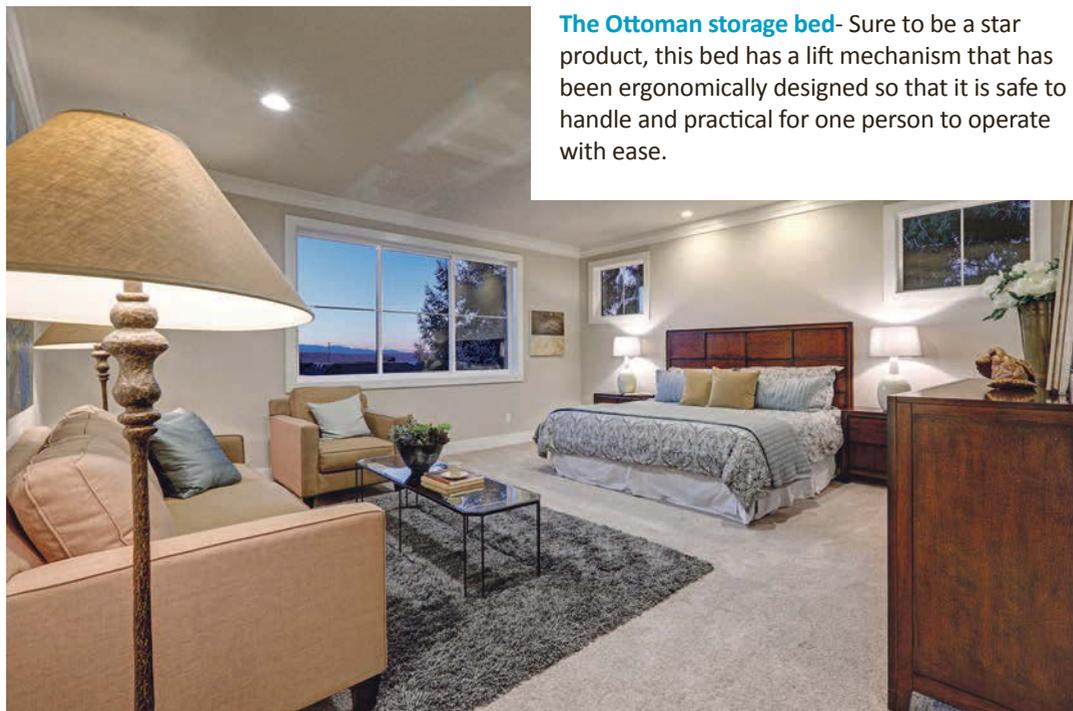
Bedrooms

The bedroom market is coming of age as homeowners seek a designer look. The range of options available in the fitted bedroom market has expanded offering more choice and extensive range. Recent developments have seen an explosion of not just colours, textures and styles but a totally new approach that coordinates bedside tables, beds and occasional furniture. More sophisticated hidden storage options and lighting allows consumers to personalise their bedroom design like never before.

Growth in synchronised MFC finishes- Modern technology has enabled the production of beautiful wood grained finishes with texture and variety that are much closer to the real thing, making these very popular. In terms of colour, grey continues to lead in both matt and gloss and different shades of grey.

Sliders are the way ahead- In the past a sliding wardrobe door was considered to be a solution to a small room, rather than a preferred option. This has changed and there is a growing demand for sliding wardrobes because they present a sleek solution to bedroom storage and are available in a wide range of colours and finishes.

The Ottoman storage bed- Sure to be a star product, this bed has a lift mechanism that has been ergonomically designed so that it is safe to handle and practical for one person to operate with ease.



Bathrooms

Clean, modern style and neutral colours dominate bathroom design for 2017. Neutral colours dominate the bathroom, with white being the most popular fixture colour and whites and greys being the most popular overall colour schemes. Increasingly popular are bathroom amenities including electric heated floors, easy maintenance features, one-piece toilets, towel warmers, humidity-sensing fans, steam showers, smart toilets/bidets and water sense toilets and faucets. Some other hot trends in baths for 2017 include:

Freestanding tubs- Built-in bathtubs are declining in popularity. Freestanding bathtubs are the preferred bathtub of choice among 2017's trendsetters. When you're initially designing your bathroom layout, freestanding tubs offer a lot of flexibility in their placement. Interestingly, some people are choosing to put their freestanding tubs inside their shower areas.

Fifty shades of grey-Grey has been a trendy colour for the past few years, and it's still going strong for 2017. If plain grey or a combination of grey and white doesn't excite you much, remember that grey can take on any other colour as an undertone. For example, we've been seeing a lot of grey and turquoise combinations around; this works because the greys being used are greenish-bluish-greys that complement the turquoise perfectly.

Polished metal finishes- In 2017, expect more polished metal finishes and less matte. Brass has been a hit for this year, but you can go full-on metal come 2017. From gold, silver, platinum, stainless, brushed steel - metals sure will be back in full strength. These finishes are perfect to grace your cabinet knobs and even your faucets.



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stage. Jewson offers the widest range of quality materials and products from everyday core essentials to the latest sustainable innovations - Jewson's friendly and knowledgeable staff continue to provide the highest levels of customer service. In addition to timber and building materials, Jewson also has specialist landscaping, joinery, insulation, tool hire, brick, kitchen and bathroom centres up and down the country. Call into your local branch today, to find out where, go to www.jewson.co.uk.



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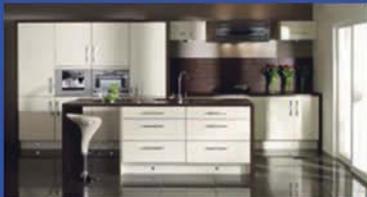
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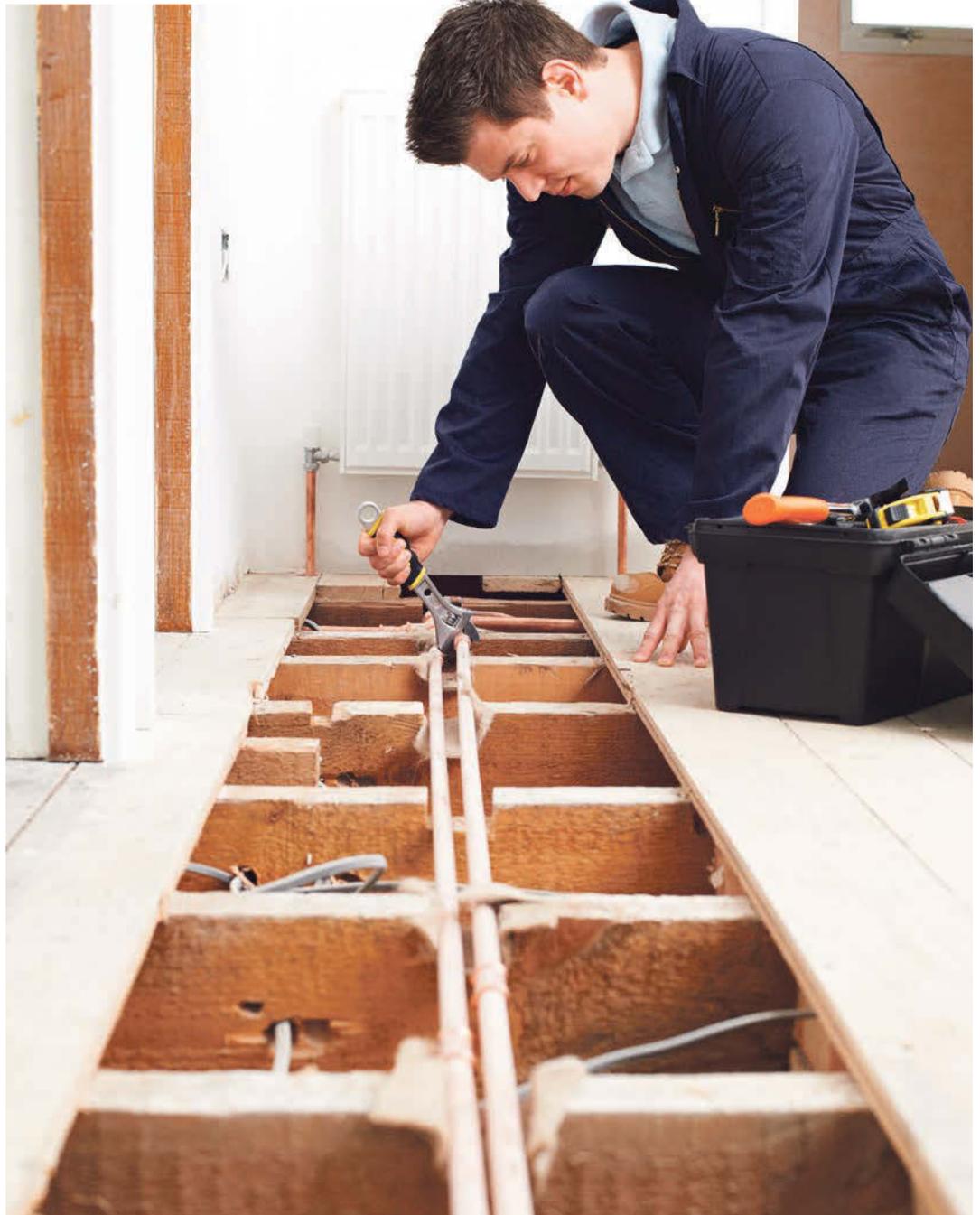
Opening Times: Mon-Fri 07:30 to 17:00 Sat 08:00 to 12:00 www.jewson.co.uk

Trades and professionals

Choosing the right company to work on your self-build is a big decision. With rogue tradesmen and poor workmanship widespread, how can you find a local rated tradesman or company you can trust? Follow these handy tips to help you choose the most suitable approved tradesmen for the job:

- Ask to see references from other satisfied customers.
- Ask if the work is covered by a guarantee, how long the guarantee should last and whether it is backed by insurance. Should the company cease trading, any defects will still be remedied. An insurance backed warranty is desirable, especially if the project is a large undertaking.
- Evaluate how well a company or tradesman responds to your enquiry; do they turn up on time, how closely do they listen to you to find out what you require and how carefully do they survey and measure?
- Are they members of an established trade association such as the Scottish & Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation or CORGI?
- Beware of employing a tradesman who is unable to provide a home or business address and a landline phone number.
- Make sure you check the company's qualifications and experience of carrying out similar work.

Ultimately, the individual or company you select for your project will determine the quality of the final result, so ensure you choose a trusted, certified tradesman and receive expert workmanship and peace of mind.



Trade Associations and what they mean

In the area that this supplement serves, where there are many tight knit communities, word of mouth and recommendations are very important. We all know someone who knows someone and many advertise locally in The Oban Times business directory and via social media. The tradesmen who are the busiest are often the best choice (they are busy for a reason!) but it can get frustrating sitting on the waiting list for a site-visit and quote, when you really want to get things started. If you need to widen your net, checking a tradesman

sounds like a chore. But do you really know a decent builder from a dodgy one without checking?

The best way to check that your tradesman is legitimate is to check their Trade Association and insurances; a good indication of their qualifications and professionalism. Once you have found your tradesmen, you should check they are who they say they are:

1. Ask your tradesman what association they belong to
2. Call the association and ask if your tradesman is a member. If the association has an online search function, then this will save you some time

Beware – some Trade Associations are better than others....

Trade Association membership is a good indication that your tradesman is professional – and especially important if it means the tradesmen can sign off their work as Building Regulation compliant. This is important when you sell your home and you will need to produce certificates to prove that your work meets the national building regulation standards. It sounds dull, but building regulations are the law.

To qualify, Trade Associations may ask tradesmen to meet certain criteria and demonstrate high quality standards. It is

a good first port of call – but take note: these organisations are funded by membership fees. They will have varying levels of checks, and striking someone off their list will mean a loss of income. So while they offer some protection you can't take them at face value. If you want to compare and contrast then look at their codes of practice to see how much protection they give you. It is also very important that your tradesman has public and employer liability insurance and professional indemnity insurance.



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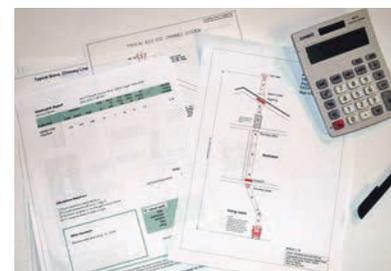
Although the majority of our customers are fitting a stove into an existing house, a significant part of our time is also devoted to working on new-build and renovation projects with architects and developers. We will work closely with you from the beginning of your project and provide advice on the best site for your stove and chimney in order to ensure maximum performance and efficiency from the installation. Comprehensive advice is freely available to local customers and covers everything from heat-loss calculations to water heating and chimney design. We offer a CAD service and can work directly from your architect's plans or from PDF's sent via email. Chimney design is critical to the performance of a stove and we always recommend that you

are fully aware of the implications of stove position at the early stages of the project which we are happy to advise on.

Our recommendations are (wherever possible) based on a thorough on-site

appraisal, usually carried out at our expense and without obligation. Our aim is to ensure that you end up with a safe, efficient installation.

For further information please call us on 01631 720539.



Backwoodsman

Backwoodsman is a specialist supplier of wood-burning and multifuel stoves. We are situated on the edge of Barcaldine Forest 11 miles north of Oban. The business is family run with over 30 years experience in providing the highest quality service possible to Argyll, Lochaber and the West Highlands & Islands

STOVES

We are agents and stockists for several manufacturers including Woodwarm, Charnwood & Morsø. The range covers everything from traditional and contemporary models to full central-heating options

CHIMNEYS

Backwoodsman holds large stocks of chimneys and flue material. We are experienced in chimney design and can provide CAD drawings for complete systems on request to both trade & retail customers

SERVICES

Our services are provided to household customers throughout the local area as well as trades, architects, developers and local authorities. We are able to offer a high level of technical advice and support.

SHOWROOM

We have a showroom (by appointment) at our premises in Barcaldine, 11 miles north of Oban where you are assured of a warm welcome. Please call before visiting to ensure there will be someone available to see you.



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Highland Blindcraft

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"hand made with a touch more care"



What could be more appealing than getting a great night's sleep in your new bed from Highland BlindCraft?

Highland BlindCraft has over 100 years' experience in manufacturing beds and mattresses at their factory in Ardconnel Street, Inverness, but don't think for a minute that they are stuck in the past.

Their mattresses use the most up to date fillings and spring units such as pocket springs, traditional bonnell spring and a range of memory foam options. The variation in styles and models are quite startling and you are sure to find a mattress to suit your requirements.

They have also introduced a range of fabrics that enhance the look of the divan base. These are available in a choice of colours and looks well in both the modern and the more traditional bedroom.

Don't forget that they also make a

range of headboards at their factory using a vast range of fabrics, and can also make these to a specific size or shape that you might have in mind as a centre piece for your bedroom. In their new extended showroom in Ardconnel Street they also have a large range of pine beds and furniture, metal beds, a range of children's beds as well as leather bed options.

When you buy a bed from Highland Blindcraft not only are you sure of a quality product but you are also helping to sustain local employment. The company has a first class sales to door service and their experienced sales team will not only assist you in making sure that you choose the bed that is right for you but will make sure that the delivery suits you.

So come and have a look at their showroom in Ardconnel Street, to see what they can offer.



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Fax: 01463 710809 Email: sales@highlandblindcraft.co.uk

Address: Sales Office, Factory and Showroom,
39 Ardconnel Street, Inverness, IV2 3HB
Scottish Charity Number SC030764

Interior design

From dark jewel tones to oversized statement lighting, here's what's hot in interior design for 2017.

Rich, dark jewel tones: Creating a mood of mysterious glamour, dark and jewel tones such as black, charcoal, purples, blues, wines, and especially forest green, are making interiors feel elegant and inviting this year.

Layered neutrals: As a counterpoint to the bold colour trend, neutrals communicate appealing depth and intensity when skilfully layered with tone and texture.

Colour of the Year: Pantone's much anticipated announcement of its annual Colour of the Year was met with high praise for its selection of 'Greenery.' The colour is the brightest neutral, which embodies freshness and a connection with nature.

Terra cotta: Terra cotta, a material that has been used for thousands of years, is getting

fresh attention in interiors, appreciated for its earthy connection to nature and history.

Artistic wallpaper: Intriguing backdrops are a highlight this year, achieved with meticulously detailed artistic wallpapers.

Matte finishes: In paint, metal, and tile, the subtlety of a more natural matte texture is a sophisticated finishing touch.

Dark kitchens: While white kitchens remain timeless, dark grey, black, and navy blue are coming into the spotlight as a stylish alternative.

Brass, Bronze and Gold: Replacing the popularity of copper and rose gold last year, we're now seeing a return to the more classic glamour of gold, bronze and brass.

Integrated indoor/outdoor living: Space planning with an emphasis on indoor/outdoor living continues to grow in importance as modern families yearn for more open, connected homes.

Handmade, Organic, and Natural: Maintaining a relationship with the natural world by integrating woods, hides, fur, and woven textures in design makes interiors feel more comfortable and welcoming.

Oversized statement lighting: From modern geometrics to dangling chandeliers, oversized lighting works as sculptural art in a room, an architectural element with function and character.



Vintage modern: Translating exceptional vintage pieces with modern materials, colours and patterns is a fresh approach with staying power.

Interesting faucets: Organic shapes with a playful simplicity are a trend in today's bathrooms, particularly with faucets.

Flooring focal point: Cool floors of every kind are underfoot in 2017, from engaging juxtapositions of tile to natural woods with deeply weathered textures.

Complex patterns: Global, tribal, and Aztec patterns strengthen the eclectic appeal of spaces with vibrant colour.

Be inspired



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What to expect from your Interior Designer...

What an interior designer does: A designer visualises, plans and designs spaces that become both beautiful and functional. He or she balances aesthetics with the room's architectural structure and features to reflect the clients' lifestyle, taste and mood. They will also take into account the practical elements such as electrical sockets and fixtures and how they fit into the overall scheme. An interior designer also builds and nurtures relationships with trusted designers, artisans and retailers who bring the whole look to fruition.

When to hire one: Whilst you might have a clear idea of what you want, a trained eye and creative thinker allows for solutions that you might never have imagined. Attention to the finer details will transform your space into a stunning environment that reflects your personality and lifestyle.



Before and After: SLJ Interiors transform a room for one of their clients.



Exterior Design & Landscaping

You are almost there! This is such an important part of completing your Self-Build project and you should give it the attention it deserves, right from the outset. The exterior look of your home will have been considered at the stages of early groundworks, tree felling, levelling and clearance, but now is the time to add the finishing touches to make it a beautiful haven. Your garden and outside space is an area that you will tend to, grow, develop and nurture for many years to come, but getting the design and

layout just as you envisage, might be a job that you want to leave to the professionals. Whether you want to extend your house out into the garden, or create a completely contrasting space, the opportunities are endless. A good, creative designer, with the practical resources at hand can make all your garden dreams come true!

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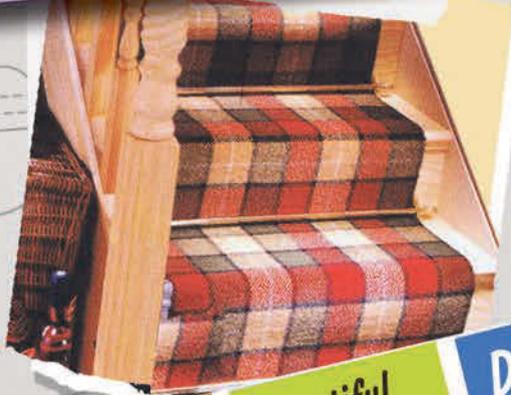
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AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE MACHRIHANISH GOLF CLUB WILL BE HELD IN THE CLUBHOUSE ON MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2017 AT 7:30PM

A motion that the members instruct the committee to run the Professional Shop for ourselves.

The committee wants to establish the will of the membership for the status quo i.e.:-

A Professional on a new retainer or if they want a change and the Club run the shop.

All members are respectfully invited to attend.

M Wylie, Secretary.



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GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Richard Drake trading as Richard Drake of Brenfield Farm, Ardrishaig, Argyll, PA30 8ER is applying for a licence to use Brenfield Farm, Ardrishaig, Argyll, PA30 8ER as operating centre for one goods vehicle and two trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Kintyre Juvenile Pipe Band Association

A.G.M.

Tuesday 7th February at 7.00pm in Campbeltown Grammar School.

CAMPBELTOWN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

The 200th Annual General Meeting will be held in the Red Cross Centre, Kirk Street, Campbeltown on Wednesday 1st February 2017 at 12 noon. All interested welcome to attend.

Registered charity number SCO08192.



Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba gov.scot

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A83 TRUNK ROAD STRONE POINT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION BY THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS UNDER SECTIONS 20A AND 55A OF THE ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984

The Scottish Ministers hereby give notice that they have determined that their proposal to carry out improvement works on the A83 Trunk Road at Strone Point 1.61 kilometres or thereby east northeast of Inveraray.

(a) not a project which falls within Annex I of Council Directive No. 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by Council Directive No. 97/11/EC and Council Directive No. 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and Council;

(b) is a relevant project within the meaning of Sections 20A(9) and 55A(7) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, and falls within Annex II of the said Directive but that having regard to the selection criteria contained in Annex III of the Directive it should not be made subject to an environmental impact assessment in accordance with the Directive, and accordingly the project does not require the publication of an Environmental Statement.

F BROWN

A member of staff of the Scottish Ministers Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF 18 January 2017



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Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
16/03423/PP	Construction of two additional water intakes with associated buried pipeline and open channel, formation of access track and associated works	Hydroelectric Generating Scheme At Douglas Water Inveraray Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Inveraray
17/00036/PP	Erection of equipment store (retrospective)	Land South East Of Jeannies Cottage Dunmore Tarbert Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Harbour Street Tarbert
16/03413/PP	Installation of floating pontoon	Creagan Gorm Inverneill Lochgilphead Argyll And Bute PA30 8ES	Mid Argyll Area Office
17/00017/PP	Demolition of existing dwellinghouse and erection of replacement dwellinghouse	Lunga Mill Craobh Haven Lochgilphead Argyll And Bute PA31 8UU	Sub Post Office Ardfern

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982

TAXI FARE REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that Argyll and Bute Council, having consulted with taxi operators licensed by the authority, propose to make no amendments to the maximum fares and charges for taxis operating within the jurisdiction of Argyll and Bute Council as detailed below. It is proposed that these will be effective from 25th July 2017.

Any person wishing to lodge representations in respect of these proposals should do so by writing to the Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT by no later than 27th February 2017.

Tariff 1	Hirings from ranks or "flag" Hiring between 7am and 10pm	
	Initial charge (860 yards or part thereof)	£3.00
	Subsequent charge (each 176 yards or part thereof)	20 pence
Tariff 2	Hirings from ranks or "flag" Hiring between 10pm and 7am	
	Initial charge (860 yards or part thereof)	£3.60
	Subsequent charge (each 150 yards or part thereof)	20 pence
	Tariff 2 also applies to hirings from ranks or "flag" between 6pm and 10pm December 24th, 6pm and 10pm December 31st and between 7am 2nd January and 7am 3rd January	
Tariff 3	Hiring from ranks or "flag" between 10pm 24th December and 7am 27th December and 10pm 31st December and 7am 2nd January	
	Initial Charge (860 yards or part thereof)	£4.20
	Subsequent Charge (each 120 yards or part thereof)	20 pence

Soiling Charge - £100 maximum (with permission to display warning signs indicating that there may be an additional charge for any potential loss of earnings suffered as a consequence)

Waiting Time - 35 pence per minute commencement of journey, charged on a pro rate basis per second

Taxi called by means of telephone - 30 pence additional charge

Large Mini-bus type vehicles (carrying 5 or more passengers together at their own request) -

- a) Where Tariff 1 would apply - charge Tariff 2
- b) Where Tariff 2 would apply - charge Tariff 3
- c) Where Tariff 3 would apply - Surcharge £1.00

Fee by negotiation - for all journeys commencing within but finishing outwith Argyll & Bute, in a place of the above charges, such fares may be charged as prior to the acceptance of the hire, were proposed to the hirer and accepted by him/her

Ferry Fares - The hirer shall be liable for the cost of a return ferry fare for any journey involving a ferry

Charles Reppke, Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT

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Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

A MEETING OF THE MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL, MAIN STREET, CAMPBELTOWN

AT 10.30A.M. - WEDNESDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2017

Members of the public are welcome to attend and a public question time will take place for 30 minutes during the meeting. Questions can be asked on the day or can be submitted in advance to the Area Committee Manager, The Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre, 38 East Clyde Street, Helensburgh G84 7PG. Telephone: 01436 657605.

The Agenda for the meeting is available to view at the Servicepoint, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead and at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Douglas Hendry, Executive Director - Customer Services

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CLEANER: Part time, 5 mornings a week.

CHEFS, ALL LEVELS: Full time.

KITCHEN ASSISTANTS: Full time & Part time.

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We are currently recruiting for a Quality and Regulatory Compliance Coordinator for our Shetland and Orkney regions.

The role will have the following responsibilities:

- To assist Scottish Sea Farms in maintaining a leading industry performance in respect of environmental sustainability, customer assurance and aspects of Health and Safety.
- Working throughout both regions to ensure optimal operation of the QMS system as demanded of customers, retailers and other stakeholders.
- Generating relevance, professionalism and a cross regional standard in the QMS system.
- Champion the need for sites to demonstrate sustainability, by good example, innovation and participation by the whole site team.
- Export success to a national stage through 3rd party endorsement.

The successful candidate will have proven experience in identifying and managing risk compliance management, preferably within the Aquaculture Industry. You will display a methodical and diligent attitude towards work and possess strong accuracy and attention to detail. You will have excellent interpersonal skills able to manage both internal and external relationships. You will be a proactive, driven individual with experience of dealing with regulators, licensing bodies and other third party suppliers.

In return Scottish Sea Farms will offer an attractive salary package, depending on experience. The position is based in Scalloway and will involve regular traveling throughout Shetland and Orkney, for which a company vehicle will be provided.

To find out more, please contact Angela Hand, Recruitment & HR Coordinator on 01786 445521 or email angela.hand@scottishseafarms.com for an application pack.

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Location: Dunstaffnage Marina, Dunbeg, Oban
Hours: Normal working hours. WILL include weekend work on a rotational basis
Wage: TBC (Depends on experience)

Role: The role of the shop assistant/receptionist is to ensure the effective and efficient running of our Marina Shop and Chandlery. The suitable candidate should enjoy customer interaction as this role is very customer based. Experience in a similar role or knowledge in the Marine Industry is desired but not essential. Polite telephone manners is crucial.

Responsibilities: Welcoming customers when entering the shop and ensuring everyone is being looked after. Taking customers registration details and collecting payments.

Handing out brochures when required. Answering all inbound phone calls and emails and or taking bookings. General Admin duties and tidying the shop floor. The ideal candidate will be enthusiastic, confident, friendly, organised, well presented and most importantly reliable. This role is open to Male and Female applicants of 18 years +.

Enquires: If you're interested please email or post your CV FAO Ranulph McLauchlan to;
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The successful candidate should be computer literate (training will be given with regards our bespoke hire IT system). Have a strong commitment to deliver good customer service, with excellent communication skills. Be organised with the ability to multi-task. Having knowledge of tool and plant preferable, but not essential. A driving licence is also required.

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Applications can also be handed in to the Ardrishaig depot.

Please provide information on previous experience. Closing date Friday 10th February 2017.

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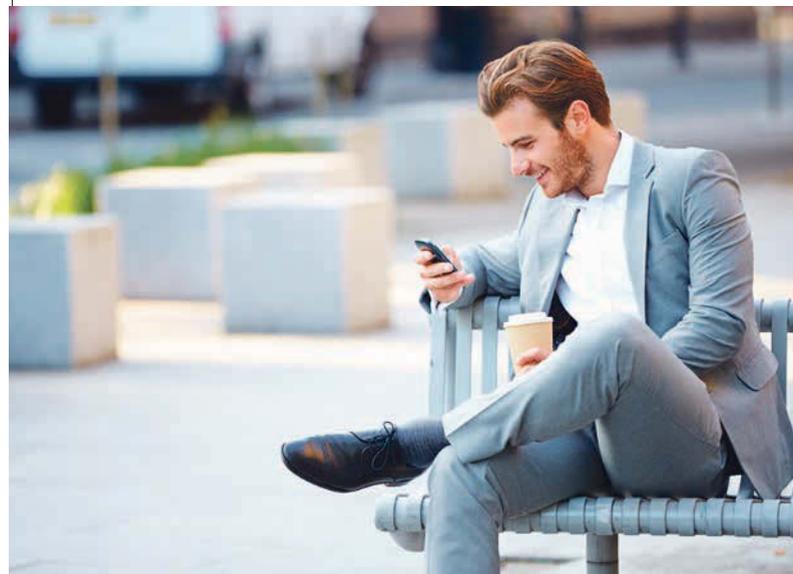
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North Argyll Carers Centre is a value-based charity, which supports those who look after a family member or friend due to illness, disability, frailty or addiction, on an unpaid basis. We provide information and advice as well as practical and emotional support. The organisation is seeking to recruit highly motivated individuals with excellent interpersonal skills to join our team.

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The successful candidates will be required to join the PVG Scheme or undergo a PVG Scheme update check. Use of car and a current driving licence essential for both posts.

Closing date: **Friday 3rd February 2017**

North Argyll Carers Centre's commitment to Equal Opportunities is reflected in our selection process

For a recruitment pack or further information on both jobs please contact Morag MacLean, Manager on telephone 01631 564422/ 07771647290 or email: morag@northargyllcarers.org.uk

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BEDROOM CHAIRS 2 red button back velvet bedroom chairs. VGC, £25 each Telephone 01631 565602

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DRAWERS 2 pine bedside cabinets. 3 drawers, £15 each Tel 01631 565602

LEATHER POUFFES Brown leather pouffes with storage, £10 each Tel 01631 565602

SIDEBOARD Mahogany, excellent storage, good condition, £90ono Telephone 01546 603654 (Eves)

WARDROBE Stag Minstrel dark wood wardrobe in excellent condition, £40 Tel 01631 570651

WARDROBE Dark Oak, nice condition, mirror and shelf inside, £30ono Tel 01546 603654 (Eves)

GARDEN

HYDROPONIC EQUIPMENT Quantity of metal halide and sodium light units (1,000w, 600w & 400w). Fans. Industrial online duct extractors and other odds and ends, no reasonable offer refused, Tel 07887 746151 (Connell area)²

QUALCAST LAWNMOWER & TRIMMER Qualcast 1300 watt Electric Rotary Mower plus 320 watt Grass Trimmer. Used only 3 times. Reason for sale - moving to flat! £45 Tel 01631 358731

TOP SOIL loaded into your trailer or tipper lorry, FREE Tel 01631 564848 Call Office Hours

TWO LARGE PLANTERS Black matt steel, 90cm tall, Square section, Top 40 x 40cm, tapering to base 30 x 30cm. As new, £60 Tel 01631 565507

HEALTH AND FITNESS

FIT FLOPS Genuine Fit Flops, brand new, size 6, pewter, cost £60. Call evenings and weekends £50 Tel 01631 562750²

V-FIT AB ROLLER sit up frame - complete with frame computer. Call evenings and weekends £20 Tel 01631 562750²

WOMEN'S RUNNING SHOES BROOKS ADRENALINE ASR 13

Trail running shoes. Bought new in November. Excellent condition. boxed. size 40. Cost new £85.00, £50 Tel 01880 770385

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

18 KILOWATT BOILER solid fuel stove, good condition £300 Tel 07742 087839²

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

PEARLISED PAPER & CARD White, Blue and Pink colours in stock available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print, Tel 01586 554975

HOME FURNISHINGS

DOUBLE DIVAN BED Complete with reversible memory foam orthopaedic mattress brand new still in packaging cost £599 will accept £190 can deliver, Tel 07555 644702²

HOME OFFICE

SMALL DESK COMPUTER Small computer desk, excellent condition, size: L=82cm, H=80cm, W=50-58cm. Call evening, £30 Tel 01852 300154

INDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

TABLE TENNIS Slazenger Junior Table Tennis table (foldable), new bats and balls, good condition, Oban, £60 Tel 07776 251218

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

BASKETS 2 kitchen wicker baskets, £15 each Telephone 01631 565602

PERCOLATOR Phillips Coffee Percolator, £20 Tel 01631 565602

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

BABYLISS HOTSTIX as new and in carry case. Call evenings and weekends £20 Tel 01631 562750²

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Places include: Stirling, Fort William, Glencoe, Aberdeen, Isle of Skye, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Loch Lomond, Kelso, Aviemore, Forfar, Rum and Eigg, Shetland, Glentool and Dryburgh. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Places include: Inveraray, Appin, Oban, Seil, Isle of Mull, Campbeltown, Tarbert, Machrihanish, Fort William. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

MISCELLANEOUS

WATER FEATURE Vintage bronze effect water feature, ideal for conservatory use, beautiful mermaid with shell, complete with triple lights with antique shades. Cost £350. Call evenings and weekends £99.99 Telephone 01631 562750²

MOBILE AND HOME TELEPHONES

GIGASET CORDLESS TELEPHONE lots of features, still boxed. Call evenings and weekends £10 Tel 01631 562750²

MOBILITY

WHEELCHAIR Adult size, used once, as new condition. Proceeds to go to charity. Can be part delivered if necessary £50 Tel 01967 431230 Ardnamurchan area²

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

PIANO full working order, free to good home, must uplift Tel 01586 830621

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

SALAMON BOOTS Salamon climbing/walking boots, size 9.5. worn once, insulated and rigid for crampons £50 Tel 07780 795870

PET ACCESSORIES

DOG GUARD as new dog guard, £20 Tel 07780 795870

PHOTOGRAPHY

FUJIFILM CAMERA Finepix S800fd digital camera, in excellent condition, complete with leather case, strap, all cables, CD, manual and 256mb card. All in original box. Call evenings and weekends £85 Telephone 01631 562750²

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

EPSOM PRINTER Stylus SX130 series colour printer, used twice. Call evenings and weekends £20 Tel 01631 562750²

PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL Market your business effectively with professionally designed leaflets, posters and flyers from Krisp Print, Tel 01586 554975

THANK YOU CARDS New baby or wedding, with a photo of your new arrival or big day. Truly individual, a treasured keepsake. Call Krisp Print, Tel 01586 554975

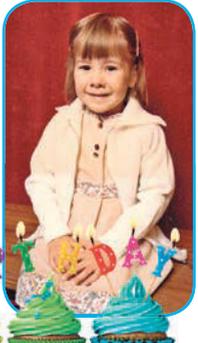
WANTED

WANTED - BROKEN OR UNWANTED 4 stroke lawn mowers for student training purposes. Mid Argyll Area Tel 07555 703747²

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COURIER
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PERSONAL NOTICES

HAVE A WONDERFUL 40th!
Love from all your family in Lochgilphead and Oban



Happy 80th Birthday Agnes
on 31st January
Lots of love, Mac xx

Happy Birtyhday Mum
Have a great day
Love David, Linda and Dave. xx



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01546 602345



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Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Shedden



WALKING on the beach with our collies, we love to look at the various footprints and try to work out what they are.

Tiny otter prints tend to be near the source of a local burn, while the deer scamper happily across the whole beach.

Birds of all shapes and sizes also leave their mark and paw-prints in the sand zig-zag in all directions.

It reminded me of that wonderful saying from Chief Seattle: 'Take only memories, leave only footprints.'

Chief Seattle was a wise and respected native American.

He even has a city named after him.

He was one of the earliest eco-warriors and his mantra still applies today.

In modern language, this has been adapted to: 'Take nothing but pictures. Leave nothing but footprints. Kill nothing but time.'

This is part of the 'Leave no Trace' philosophy of naturalists all over the world.

Chief Seattle cared about the natural world and respected every living creature that shared it with him.

He said: 'All things share the same breath – the beast, the tree, the human ... the air shares its spirit with all the life it supports.'

'Humans did not weave the web of life, they are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.'

In an age of so much devastation and destruction throughout our beautiful world, we would do well to heed the great chief's advice.

Some footprints have gone forever and leave the world a poorer place.

Nature is the great designer working hand in hand with the great Creator.

Who are we to become the great destroyers? 'Leave only footprints and kill only time.'

INVERARAY

Could it be magic for senior citizens?

THE Inveraray Senior Citizens' Wednesday Club is set for a mystical afternoon next month.

Magic from Minard with David Hay will keep the group entertained and on their toes with an entrancing magic show, on Wednesday February 8 from 2pm at Nicoll Hall.

All are welcome to join in the fun and enjoy afternoon tea with the group.

TARBERT

Bookbug sessions are back at Tarbert

BOOKBUG sessions, for babies and toddlers, have begun again in Tarbert.

Taking place on Thursdays from 10.30am at Tarbert Library, the sessions are free, fun and friendly events for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their families.

Each session includes songs, stories and rhymes and can benefit your child by helping to build up their confi-

dence and social skills and give their speech and language development a real boost.

OBAN

Oil depot gets the go ahead near airport

A PLANNING application has been approved to develop an oil depot near Oban.

Argyll and Bute Council's planning, protective services and licensing (PPSL) committee approved the application from Oilfast for an oil depot on the site of the former roads depot, next to Oban Airport, on Wednesday January 18.

The new depot will create jobs and provide kerosene heating oil for homes and business across the area.

Councillor David Kinniburgh, chairman of the PPSL, said: 'This is good news and will see a vacant industrial site brought back into use, creating jobs and providing a service for people across the council area.'

'Oban Airport is identified as an area for action, in our Scottish Government-approved local development plan, and the council is

KILMARTIN



The guided walk will let you explore the archaeology of the glen.

Museum seeks volunteer guides

KILMARTIN Museum is looking to recruit and train people interested in joining its team of volunteer guides to lead short walks in Kilmartin Glen.

Now in its sixth year, the guided glen walk programme offers visitors an opportunity to explore the unique and fascinating archaeology of Kilmartin Glen.

The volunteer group is a great way

to meet new people, get outdoors and share your knowledge of Kilmartin Glen.

If you keen to learn more or take part in the guided glen walk, the group will be leaving from Kilmartin Museum at 1.30pm on Wednesday February 8.

For more information, contact education@kilmartin.org or call 01546 510278.

committed to developing the airport as a strategic transport hub, expanding its operation and bringing in new businesses.'



Send your photos and stories to editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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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.

TEXT FOR THE WEEK

God says, 'You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God ...' (Exodus 20:7)..

BIRTHS

MACCORMICK - Coll and Shelley are delighted to announce the arrival of Piper-Rose, on December 31, 2016, in Dunedin, New Zealand. Another lovely granddaughter for Dugie and Dorothy, Carradale.

MULLEN - BELL - David and Lesley are delighted to announce the birth of David Keith McKerral, born January 7, 2017. Second grandchild for Neil and the late Mary McEachran, and sixth grandchild for Walter and Maureen Bell.

ENGAGEMENTS



ANDERSON - MCGOUGAN

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Peter to Louise, January 20, 2017 at Portavadie.

MORRISON - POXON - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Richard, elder son of James and Mary Morrison, to Jessica, eldest daughter of Neil and Cecille Poxon.

DEATHS

ALLEN - Suddenly at home, 4A Lady Mary Row, Campbeltown, on January 6, 2017, Alexandria Allen (Alexa), in her 41st year, dearly beloved partner of Dennis O'Brien, loving mother of Natasha and Alexander, loving daughter of Jean and the late Alex, much loved sister of James and loving aunt of Sophie.

BROWN - Peacefully, at Campbeltown Hospital, on January 19, 2017, Richard John Brown (Dickie), in his 64th year, 33A Albion Avenue, Campbeltown, dearly beloved son of Stella and the late Thomas Brown and a loving father, grandfather, brother and uncle. Funeral private.

BUNTAIN - Suddenly, at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, on January 10, 2017, Iain McKellar, aged 66 years, husband of Inga, son of the late Kenny and Jenny, and brother to Kenneth, Archie, Allan and Donald. Funeral service to be held at Clydebank Crematorium, on Monday, January 30 at 3.30pm. No flowers please.

KEITH - On January 15, 2017, peacefully, at Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, Alexander (Alex) Keith, in his 91st year, beloved husband of the late Agnes Crawford, much loved father of Helen, Senga, Jim and Alison, a dearly loved father-in-law, grandpa and great grandpa. Funeral service was held at Cumlodden Church on January 23, interment thereafter at Killeven Cemetery. With grateful thanks to family, friends and neighbours, with a special thanks also to all his carers

and staff at the Mid Argyll Hospital, for all the kind care and attention received. Thanks to Rev Roderick Campbell for a comforting service, Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for professional services, George Hotel for excellent catering and to all who paid their last respects at church and graveside. The collection for Macmillan Palliative Care Unit raised £310.

MACVEAN - Peacefully at her home, Dalvore, Kilmichael Glassary, on January 21, 2017, Elizabeth Janet (Betty) MacVean, née MacDonald, aged 82 years, beloved wife of Alasdair MacVean and loving mother of Eric, John, Angus, Peter and Elizabeth. Dear sister of the late Angus, Margaret, Marjory, Donald, Colin and Ian and a much loved aunt, great aunt and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service was held in Lochgilphead Parish Church, on Thursday, January 26, 2017, followed by interment at Achnabreac Cemetery. Sadly missed.

MCKINVEN - Peacefully, with her family by her side, at Peacock Nursing Home, Livingston, on January 23, 2017, Morag, aged 82 years, beloved wife of Duncan, much loved mum of Pearl, Iain, Allan and Janette, devoted gran and great gran. Sadly missed by all.

MILLAR - Annie Mead (Nan), née Robb. Peacefully, after a short illness, in Perth Royal Infirmary, on Saturday, January 14, 2017, Nan, (former Postmistress of Saddell Post Office and latterly of Lochgilphead and Auchterarder), in her 87th year, wife of the late Willie Millar, much loved mum to Moira and Billy and beloved grandmother to Gillian, Tracey and Maria. Loving great grandmother, auntie, sister and friend to many others. Funeral service in Auchterarder Parish Church, on Monday, January 30, 2017 at 10.30am, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Interment thereafter at Auchterarder Parish Cemetery, arriving at 11.15am.

PATERSON - Peacefully, at the Knapdale Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, on January 24, 2017, after a long illness borne with great dignity, Dora Johnstone Paterson, née Drummond, in her 89th year, formerly of Strone Farm, Minard, beloved wife of the late Joey Paterson, much loved mother of John, James, Kenneth, Hilda, Ailsa and the late Douglas. Adored Granny Dora and great granny and a dear sister, aunt and cousin to all the family. A good friend and dear neighbour to many. Funeral service will be held in Lorne Street Funeral Parlour, Lochgilphead, on Monday, January 30, 2017, at 12.00 noon, thereafter to Kilevin Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired, to Alzheimer Scotland.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
ANDERSON - Janice and family would like to thank

everyone for the many kind expressions of sympathy, phone calls, visits, baking, cards and flowers received following the sad loss of Alisdair. A special thank you to the district nurses for their very kind care of Alisdair. Thanks to all who attended the crematorium and to my brother, John, for his comforting service. Special thanks to Kenneth and Rhys Blair for their professional services and to everyone who attended Stronvaar Bowling Club for the celebration of Alisdair's life. Thanks to Kirsteen for her excellent speech about her dad and to David for singing Alisdair's song. Thanks also to Katherine and friends for the catering and to the bar staff. The collection for the Macmillan Nurses and Marie Semples raised £620.

GELDER - Friends of Barrie would like to thank Rev Steve Fulcher for his support, help and comforting service, Catherine Black for her excellent and appropriate music, Alasdair, Kenneth and Rhys Blair for their guidance and excellent professional service and Iain, Frances and staff at the Muneroy for the lovely purvey. Special thanks to all who attended and helped on December 21 and to everyone who attended at the church. The retiral collection for RNLI raised £1,129.23. Barrie was cremated at Cardross Crematorium on January 23, 2017.

MACCALLUM - Mary's family would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy and support following her sudden death and for their comforting presence at her funeral service. Sincere thanks are extended to the doctors and staff in Lochgilphead and Oban Hospitals for their appropriate attention, to the carers and the Marie Curie nurses for their exemplary home care and to Myra Strathie for everything. We are especially grateful to Rev Hilda Smith for her support at this difficult time and for her uplifting and thoughtful service, both in the church and at the committal; to Donald MacDonald for professional assistance and supervision at the church, the graveside and the purvey arrangements at the Stag Hotel, who provided excellent hospitality. A retiring collection realised the sum of £200, to be forwarded to the Marie Curie cancer care and support.

MCKINLAY - With graceful acceptance of the loss of their mum, Elizabeth Agnes Barbour, Elspeth and Moira, along with their families, would like to express their heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the support and kindness shown to them at this poignant time. Sincere thanks to the Rev Philip Wallace for his inspiring and comforting service; to the Rev Catriona Hood for her excellent and appropriate music; to Alasdair, Kenneth and Rhys Blair and staff for their sensitive and dignified professionalism; to Flora, Marion and staff of the

Ardsheel Hotel for their welcoming hospitality and enjoyable afternoon tea; to all health professionals, ambulance service, all staff and ancillary departments of Campbeltown Hospital and Campbeltown Medical Practice, most especially all community teams and carers involved in the nursing of Elsie at home, your care, commitment and support has been exceptional. The family has been deeply humbled by the beautiful flowers and floral tributes, cards and letters, phone calls and messages and visits received. Finally, to all who attended the church and graveside to pay their respects, Elsie would have been truly honoured.

IN MEMORIAM

CAMERON - In loving memory of Isobel. We miss you in your fireside chair. Your loving smile your gentle air. Your vacant place no-one can fill. We miss you Mum and always will. - Bryan, John and Robert.

MACKINLAY - In loving memory of Alexander MacKinlay Jnr, died January 25, 2016. Memories last forever.

- Sadly missed by Mum, John, Jason, Kelly-Anne and family. Gone but not forgotten. - Your daughter Courtney.

ROBERTSON - In loving memory of a dear brother and uncle, Charlie, died January 31, 1988. Loved and remembered always. - Anne, Stuart and family.

CHURCH NOTICES

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



75 Longrow, Campbeltown

Sunday 29 January 2017
Family Communion Service at 11.00am
Gordon Cosgrove will be the speaker
Visitors welcome.

Wednesday 1st February
12.30pm at the Free Church
Joining with Campbeltown Free Church for Prayer and Bible Study
What is missing from CH CH? UR

For details, contact the church office on 01586 551200 or the Church Secretary on 01586 551237.
www.springbankchurch.co.uk
SCO14646



George Street, Campbeltown

Sunday 29th January
11.15am Worship Service
Mr Iain R Morrison

Wednesday 1st February
12.30pm
Bible Study and Prayer

Saturday 4th February
9.00am Prayer Breakfast
All Welcome
www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

ST. KIERAN R.C. CHURCH ST JOHN ST, CAMPBELTOWN SCO02876

Vigil Mass,
Saturday 6pm
(except the 1st Saturday of the month)
Holy Mass, every Sunday 10am

Highland Parish Church



SCO02493
Sunday 29th January 2017
The service will be conducted by Rev Catriona Hood and will be held in the Church at 11.15am
All welcome.



Argyll Street, Campbeltown
St Kieran Episcopal Church: Campbeltown
Scottish Charity No SC023277
Sunday 29th January PRESENTATION
Holy Communion 10.45am
Enquiries Tel: 01586 551141
The Scottish Episcopal Church is a Province of the Worldwide Anglican Communion



LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 29th January
11.00am WORSHIP SERVICE
Rev. Hilda Smith
All Welcome
Every Tuesday
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Bumps, Babies and Toddlers
Every Wednesday
10 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.
Drop-In Cafe
More info. at www.lpchurch.co.uk
Lochgilphead (Church of Scotland)
SCO16311

LIVING STONES CHRISTIAN CENTRE KILMARTIN

Sunday 29th January
11am - All welcome to our Worship Service (and light lunch)
Speaker this week - George John Stewart
FOR HE KNEW WHAT WAS IN MAN
Saturday
from 10am/Sunday after service
Victorious Christian Life Training Seminar
Tuesday 31st January
at 7.30pm
Praise and Sharing
May The Lord bless you mightily this week.
www.livingstoneschristiancentre.com

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND WEST LOCHFYNESIDE

Sunday 29th January 2017
Cumlodden Lochfyneside and Lochgar
Charity No. SC016097
Minister: Rev. Dr. Roderick D. M. Campbell
Morning Service in Lochgar Church at 10 am
Glenaray and Inveraray
Charity No. SC016665
Morning Service in Inveraray Church at 11.30 am
ALL WELCOME

LORNE AND LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity Number SCO11686
Sunday 29th January
Morning Worship 11.15am
Creche, Triple C, Gen 1 Rev P Wallace
Monday 30th January
Messy Church Church Hall 3.45pm-5.30pm
Tuesday 31st January
Tiny Tots New Hall 9.45am
Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys 6.00pm Junior Section 7.15pm Church Hall
Company Section New Hall 7.00pm
Thursday 2nd February
Choir Practice
Friday 3rd February
Lunch Club New Hall 12.00 noon
Next Generation 7.00pm

ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES

"It is good to sing praises to our God"
Ardrihaig at 11:00am
Achahoish at 12:30pm

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCHES

Christ Church
Bishopton Road, Lochgilphead (SC013787)
Sundays 11.00am
Eucharist & Coffee
St Columba's, Poltalloch (SC031391)
1st Sunday of the month 9.00am Holy Communion
3rd Sunday of the month 3.30pm Evensong
Father Simon Mackenzie
01546 602315

ST MARGARET'S R.C. CHURCH LOCHGILPHEAD

Holy Mass Sunday 10am
All Saints, Inveraray
Holy Mass Sunday 12.30pm
Fr. David Connor
01546 602380
All Welcome (SCO002876)

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GLASSARY KILMARTIN and FORD PARISH CHURCH

January 29th 2017
Sunday Worship
Ford 11.45am
Rev. C. R. Acklam
All welcome
SCO 02121

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

Charity Number SC001002
Sunday 29 January
Tayvallich Church 10 am
Morning Worship
Saturday 28 January
Achnamara Hall
CAFE CONNECT 10:30 - 12:30
Monday 30 January
Tayvallich Church
Prayer Time 10:30 am
All welcome
Enquiries 01546 606926
www.northknapdale.org

SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 29th January 2017
Skipness Service 10am
Tarbert Service 11.30am
Mr John Morrison
For all church enquiries and pastoral care
Contact Rev. Hilda Smith, Interim Moderator
on 07826 235735
Everyone very welcome
Tarbert & Kilberry SC002622
Skipness SC004280

Brexit dominates as NFUS runners come to Argyll

NEVER mind Trump and Clinton, the big presidential race is about to reach a thrilling climax right here in Scotland.

Six candidates are contesting the top roles within NFUS Scotland, with elections to take place at the union's council meeting on Tuesday February 7 – the day after the AGM, conference and annual dinner.

Current president Allan Bowie and sitting vice presidents Rob Livesey and Andrew McCornick are contesting the presidential position. The two vice presidential roles will be decided between Forth and Clyde regional chairman Tom French, Less Favoured Area committee chairman Martin Kennedy, and Dumfries and Galloway regional chairman Gary Mitchell.

The presidential position is held for two years and a president can

serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. Those elected to the position of vice president will initially serve for two years before the post reverts to an annual election.

As part of a whistle-stop series of hustings around the country, the candidates came to Argyll earlier this month to speak following the Argyll and the Isles regional AGM at Stonefield Castle Hotel, Tarbert.

State their case

Each of the candidates was given a chance to individually state their case, before reverting to a panel format, with the whole event chaired by Argyll and the Isles NFUS regional chairman John Dickson.

The vexed topic of Brexit featured prominently, and each had a subtly different take on the best strategy to adopt in the face of such momentous change.

Vice presidential candidates



Gary Mitchell

Stranraer dairy farmer, Gary Mitchell was first up.

He spoke about the need for Scotland's farmers to truly understand their market to take advantage of the post-Brexit world outside the European single market.

Rather than being at the mercy of markets and being the 'punch-bag' for buyers and processors, he said the time had come to take control.

'We must ask where is the demand,' he said 'and how do we supply it?'

Having converted from a beef and arable enterprise to milking 800 cows in a process started a decade ago, he stressed that Scottish farmers should never be afraid to ask

questions to learn more about their business.

'We must understand the costs of production,' he said 'and where the demand is coming from.'



Tom French

Tom French was the next contender to speak.

Declaring himself to be an optimist by nature, he added that he did not, however, underestimate the problems presented by Brexit.

Mr French, who farms 200 acres of rented upland grass/arable land at Crawfordjohn, near Biggar, said: 'What with the uncertainty created by Trump and Brexit, we have to defend and promote our industry. We also must market our products properly.'

He reserved criticism for farming marketing bodies, which, he claimed 'could do a lot better'. He also advo-

cated the promotion of the tenanted sector as 'the only way into agriculture'.

In the role of vice president, he said he would listen to members views and concerns.

He added: 'Let's work together to create a sustainable and more rewarding future.'



Martin Kennedy

Aberfeldy farmer Martin Kennedy runs 600 ewes and a suckler herd on land rising to 2,500 feet.

Setting out his vice presidential case, he said: 'Scottish agriculture is facing one of the greatest challenges in its history. Whether we like Brexit or not, we have to move on.'

There are four main priorities, he said – trade, financial support, minimising red tape and protecting the environment.

'We now have the



The audience of NFUS members listens intently. 06_a03nfus01



Pictured from left to right: Martin Kennedy, Argyll and the Isles NFUS chairman John Dickson, Gary Mitchell, Rob Livesey, Allan Bowie and Andrew McCornick. 06_a03nfus06



Branch chairman John Dickson (centre) introduces the speakers. 06_a03nfus02

opportunity to influence trade rules with the EU, which should give us an edge. But in Scotland we export 80 per cent of our produce to the rest of the UK, so that needs to be right as well.'

He said: 'Farming is the key rural industry, but we need to get the message across that farming must get a realistic share of the margins for what we are producing.'

Presidential candidates



Andrew McCornick

A native of Wigtownshire, Andrew McCornick now farms suckler cows and sheep outside Dumfries.

In a passionate presentation, his view was that we need to turn Brexit into an opportunity. One in eight jobs in Scotland, said Mr McCornick, is in the food and drink sector.

He added that Scotland's farmers need to persuade the public and politicians just how important the industry is for food security, community benefits, the export trade and the environment. Do this, he claimed, and the markets would deliver better profitability with less reliance on support.

'We want profitable, sustainable agriculture with innovation, but the driver behind it is profitability.'

Selling his personal attributes for the top job, Mr McCornick emphasised his NFUS experience, adding: 'I've always tackled things head on, and if it's difficult to understand, I'm the man to get my head round it and explain.'



Rob Livesey

Melrose farmer Rob Livesey was meas-

ured in tone, voicing his opinion that he had served his apprenticeship after four years as vice president.

He explained his vision for the future as one where farmers are not 'at the mercy of four or five powerful supermarkets', but one where there are a number of options, particularly the export trade.

Red tape would always be necessary to some degree, he said, largely to offer assurances on food safety, the environment and animal welfare. Financial support must change, however, so that it is directed towards people who are actively farming, whether as landowners or tenants.

He concluded: 'We have a lot to do, but we need to do it together. If we do, we can inject the enthusiasm and confidence back into agriculture.'

Present incumbent in the president's seat, Allan Bowie, is from St Andrews but operates a cereal farming operation in Clackmannanshire.

In another cool and confident pitch, Mr Bowie argued that he may be a victim of his



Allan Bowie

own success as president, judging by the number of people ready to come through and lead the union. He cited his experience and the fact that he has 'gained respect' as significant attributes.

He said: 'I am looking for fairness in the agricultural supply chain and better cash flow for Scottish farming.'

Leadership, he said, is about 'knowing when to thump the table and when to back off'.

'We're going to need to work with the government, environmentalists and others in dealing with Brexit. There is unfinished business, and I am looking forward to the challenge.'

'Passion is not enough; we need results.'

Sports club lottery numbers

THE NUMBERS drawn at the Tarbert Football Club lottery were 2, 9 and 10. There were no winners so the jackpot next week will be £200.

In the Kilmory Camanachd Club lottery draw the winning numbers were 12, 14 and 17. There were no winning tickets so £200 will be up for grabs next week.

At the Inveraray Shinty Club lottery the numbers drawn were 1, 4 and 8. There were no winners and next week's jackpot will be £900.

SAFL results and fixtures

Jimmy Marshall Cup, first round-Dunoon 4, Drumchapel Colts 2; second round - Port Glasgow OBU 0, Oban Saints 6; Inverclyde v Campbeltown Pupils, postponed; Division 2B-Claremont 4, Tarbert 1.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils no game; Oban Saints v Ferguslie Star; Premier Division 1-Alba Thistle v Dunoon; Premier Division 2A - Rossvale v Lochgilphead Red Star; Premier Division 2B - Tarbert v East End United.

Red Star knocked out West of Scotland Cup

Lochgilphead Red Star	1
Cambria	4
West of Scotland Cup - 5th Round	

THE home side were looking to continue their good form in the cup this season with the last 16 looming. Unfortunately the team were stretched to the bear minimum with no less than 11 call offs, due to injuries, suspensions and work, in what was their biggest game of the season.

It was the Caledonian League visitors who started the game on the front foot, with Star struggling to find their normal passing game - although it was the home side who almost took the lead when young McPhie crossed over for the in rushing Moore, who just missed connection.

Cambria took the lead mid-way through the first half with a quick counter attack. The ball played through, where the nippy number 10 placed his shot and passed the outstretched hand of keeper Kalache. This seemed to kick-start the home side who started to play their normal passing game. Both Mclean and Russell had efforts which were just off target.

Cambria were proving quick on the break and almost added a second goal with two quick fire chances, which were just off target. The second half began in the same vain as the first, with Cambria dominating the

ball. From a corner, the number 10 rose unchallenged to head the ball into the net and with this scored a second goal on 50 minutes.

Star had to get the next goal to have any chance of getting back into the game, and this they did on 62 minutes with a corner not properly cleared. Weir played the ball back into the box where Moore managed to get a touch over the keeper's head.

Star could have equalised after another good move - Kennedy shot goalward with the keeper palming the ball into the path of Moore who took his shot, only for the Cambria number five to deflect the ball from his hand and clear, with the referee waving play on.

Almost immediate-



Ciaran McPhie teases the Cambria defence. 08_a04redstar06

ly, as Star were pushing players forward, Russell was fouled on the edge of the box but again the referee waved play on. With the home side committing players forward, Cambria's number nine managed to beat the offside trap and coolly slot home goal number three.

This seemed to knock the stuffing out the home team but they continued to press on and created a number

of chances, unfortunately it was not to be due to good goalkeeping and shots off target. In the dying minutes the visitors added a fourth, which was cruel to the home side's second half efforts.

Manager Moore said afterwards: 'We didn't start the game well and were a tad fortunate to only be one-nil down at half time. I thought our second half performance deserved more and if we managed to

grab the equaliser it could have been a different game. We are a very young team and will only learn and get better playing decent teams like Cambria.'

Red Star return to league action this weekend when they travel to Bishopbriggs to take on Rossvale AFC, the current league leaders. The Argyll side will be looking to avenge their one-nil loss earlier this season.

SPOT THE BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £3850

LAST WEEK'S BALL WAS HERE...



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

F Chisholm
Lanes End
Lochgilphead

L Macdonald
Tayvallich
Lochgilphead

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.

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Name

Address

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Please tape your £1 coin here (if posting)

Focus on fun at indoor athletics

THE JOINT campus was jumping as Mid Argyll Athletic Club held its annual indoor competition in the games hall.

Last Sunday's event was the first of a series of local area competitions being held in Argyll this winter.

There were several impressive performances throughout the three hours of action and intense competition. The under-nine girls' contest attracted an entry of 12 girls and resulted in Lochgilphead's Jorja MacDonald winning by a clear margin. Jorja won four events outright and also shared first place in an exciting six-lap race, with Sara Bakali

from Inveraray in 55.7 seconds. Jorja won the three-lap race in 25.5 seconds and also won the triple jump, javelin and speed bounce. Sara won the long jump and was second in an exciting high jump contest won by Beth Johnstone from Tarbert who cleared 1.06 metres, only four centimetres below the Argyll age record.

The girls' under-seven age group was very close, with only half a point between champion Nell Houston from Ardrishaig and Scarlet Spears from Inveraray. Nell won the long jump, triple jump and three-lap race, while Scarlet won the javelin and

speed bounce. The six-lap race resulted in a dead heat between Nell Houston and Charlotte Dale from Ardrishaig, who was third on overall points.

Rose MacCallum from Kilmartin was the under-11 champion, thanks to success in the high jump and both the three-lap and six-lap races. Erin Naisby from Inveraray won the javelin and triple jump. Other event winners in this competitive age group were Holly Gilthorpe, Lochgilphead, in the long jump and Maisie Gilmour, from Ardrishaig, in the speed bounce.

Kirstin Blair from Crinan won a very competitive under-13 age group, just one point ahead of Amy Anderson from Kilmichael Glassary, with Eilidh Cameron from Inveraray third overall.

Kirstin excelled in the running events, winning the three-lap race in 24 seconds and six-lap in 51.7 and was placed highly in the other five events. Amy won the three jumping events, including an impressive 1.25-metre high jump and also the shot putt.

Jodie Robertson was



The under-seven boys' winners, left to right: Luke McVicar (third), winner Ethan Kerr and runner-up Cameron Gilmour. 06_a04athletic14

the under-15 champion and Chloe Fairman the under-17 winner. Chloe's jump of 2.28 metres in the standing long jump was only three centimetres behind the long-standing Argyll age record still held by Jackie Geddes from Ardrishaig.

The entry numbers in the older boys age groups were disappointing for the organisers, but there were several fine individual performances.

The under-15 champion, Jake Gillespie from Lochgilphead, impressed in the running events despite nursing an injured arm, recording 21.9 seconds for the three-lap and

47.1 seconds for the six-lap event.

The three youngest age categories were better supported, and the entry of three young lads all the way from Tighnabruaich created additional interest.

The mothers of the Tighnabruaich boys – Nicola and Melanie Irvine – competed in the Argyll indoor events in the 1990s with much success. Melanie's son Ethan Kerr was the under-seven champion, finishing two points ahead of joint runners-up Cameron Gilmour from Ardrishaig and Ethan's cousin Luke McVicar from Tighnabruaich. Ethan won the triple jump

while cousin Luke Cameron Gilmour excelled in the running events, winning the three-lap in 27.8 seconds and six-lap in 59.9 seconds, and also won the standing long jump. Joseph Brown from Tarbert won the javelin in this age group.

Keiran Blair from Tarbert won the under-nine contest, just half a point ahead of Roan McVicar from Tighnabruaich. Keiran won the high jump, triple jump and speed bounce, while Roan impressed in the running, winning both the three-lap in 25.6 and six-lap in 56.2 seconds. Sam Gillespie from Lochgilphead won the javelin in the under-nine age group.

Murray MacDonald from Lochgilphead was an impressive winner in the under-11s, winning five out of the seven events. Murray won the three-lap,

six-lap, long and triple jumps and also the speed bounce. Murray's 5.74-metre jump in the standing triple jump was well clear of the field. Callum Green from Ardrishaig was runner-up to Murray thanks to a win in the high jump.

Joe Anderson from Glassary school was third on overall points, just ahead of his triplet brother Sam who impressed with his 15.75-metre winning throw in the javelin.

Logan Allan from Ardrishaig was the under-13s winner and Donald Ferguson from Kilmichael Glassary the under-17s winner.

Successful athletes from Sunday's competition will be invited to compete in the Argyll final to be held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban on Sunday March 19.

Qualifiers for the Argyll final will be advised by letter through the local club or their school.



The under-seven girls' winners, left to right: runner-up Scarlet Spears, winner Nell Houston and Charlotte Dale in third. 06_a04athletic15

Two more wins for unbeaten Red Star youths



Carla Todd from Ardrishaig has a crack at goal. 06_a04starkids04

TWO WINS from their first two games have made it a good start to the year for Red Star 2004s.

Sunday January 15 saw the youngsters travel to play Helensburgh 2004s. A much improved home team made for a close game, before Red Star eased away to secure a victory in the closing stages of the match.

For the home match last Sunday January 22, Red Star welcomed Dumbar-ton United to Lochgilphead. A committed Dumbar-ton United team made Red Star work hard.

Though not at their best, the youngsters did enough to secure the three points, making it 12 wins and two draws from their 14 league games.



Lee Harris from Ardrishaig has the Dumbar-ton defence on the run. 06_a04starkids03



Boys' under-nine winner Keiran Blair from Tarbert on the left, with boys' under-11 winner Murray MacDonald and girls' under-nine champion Jorja MacDonald from Lochgilphead.

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