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Bring our boys home



A candlelit vigil was held on Saturday evening – turn to pages 6 and 7 for more. Photograph: Abby Ashworth.

Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

IN ITS darkest hour, the tight-knit community of Tarbert has shone like never before.

After the tragic loss of two fishermen on the evening of Thursday January 18 when the Nancy Glen sank while fishing for prawns in Loch Fyne, the people have rallied to support the families affected.

Skipper Duncan MacDougall and crewman Przemek Krawczyk have not been found despite determined searches of the loch spearheaded by Tarbert fishermen. Another crewman, John Miller, was rescued by a fish farm boat before the Nancy Glen went down.

Duncan and Przemek were family men with young children. It is believed they went down with the boat.

In the days following the disaster, the Clyde Fishermen's Trust set up a fundraising campaign to support the families and raise the vessel from the 140-metre depth where she lies.

Elaine Whyte, Clyde Fishermen's Trust, added: 'Clyde fishermen want to do all they can to assist these families at this time and in the future.'



The Nancy Glen sank while fishing for prawns on Loch Fyne.

'Please give generously so that these families may lay their men to rest and that their children are supported through the tough times ahead.'

Tarbert fisherman Kenny MacNab, chairman of Clyde Fishermen's Association, said: 'The community spirit in Tarbert, as usual, is beyond exceptional but I feel I must concentrate my efforts on trying to raise the Nancy Glen and try and get closure for the families.'

'Let's hope we achieve the best outcome for the families. If we stick together as a community I have no doubt we will.'

As the Nancy Glen – which carried the number TT100 – appeal gathered pace, helped by a

passionate social media campaign using the hashtag #TT100bringtheboyshome, a remarkable £134,000 had been raised online as we went to press.

There was no peace for celebrities, as people used Twitter to encourage luminaries such as Sir Paul McCartney, Stephen Fry and Ally McCoist to support the appeal.

Support the Nancy Glen appeal by visiting the following online donation pages: GoFundMe, JustGiving and Crowdfunder. Or donate by cheque to: Clyde Fishermen's Trust, The Briggait, Unit 227, 141 Bridgegate, Glasgow, G1 5HZ. Alternatively you can give via bank transfer – email contact@clydefishermenstrust.com

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A83 closed following two road accidents

Colin Cameron

editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

ARGYLL'S main trunk road was closed for more than three hours last week on Tuesday January 16 and Thursday January 18.

With the wintry weather causing difficult driving conditions, police first received a report of a collision near the entrance to Fyne Ales Brewery, Cairndow, at around 10.20am on Tuesday.

Police attended and discovered four vehicles involved. The road was closed while the injured were dealt with and vehicles were recovered.

One lane reopened at around 1pm, with the road reopening fully

shortly before 2pm.

Enquiries are still ongoing into the cause of the crash, with one man likely to be reported to the procurator fiscal for alleged careless driving. There were no serious injuries.

The road was shut again on Wednesday following a report of an accident at 7.30am on the A83 just outside Furnace.

Police, fire and ambulance crews attended the scene, and found two vehicles involved in the incident.

The road was closed while the scene was assessed, with one lane opening at 9.50am and the road fully reopening at 10.40am. There were no serious injuries, and no drivers were charged.



Emergency services on the scene of the accident on the A83 outside Furnace on Wednesday. It was the second time in just three days that the road had to be closed.

Police files:

No MOT

ABOUT 3pm on Saturday January 13, a car was stopped by police on the A816 near Cairnbaan. Checks revealed that the vehicle had an expired MOT and the driver, a 56-year-old man, was charged and issued with a £100 fixed penalty.

Damage to door lock

BETWEEN Wednesday January 10 and Thursday January 18, the front door lock on a house at Duncholgan Cottages, Lochgilphead, was damaged. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Assault

ON FRIDAY January 19 at around 7.10pm a woman allegedly assaulted another woman at a flat in Church Terrace, Tarbert. Police noted details and the woman was later charged. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Possession of drugs

IN GLENBURN Road, Ardrishaig, at around 12.50am on Monday January 22, a car was stopped and searched and a 37-year-old man was allegedly found to be in possession of a small quantity of cannabis. The man was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

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GRADUATION



LORNA YOUNG

Graduated from the University of the West of Scotland with a BSc in Midwifery (Distinction). Lorna is the daughter of Campbell and Kathleen Young, Lochgilphead and granddaughter of Janet and the late Donnie MacVean and Alison and the late Billy Young. Lorna has taken up a post at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley.

Tie the knot in Argyll and Bute

MORE than 600 couples a year choose to have their marriage ceremony in Argyll and Bute - that's almost two weddings every day.

Since the law changed in 2002 allowing couples to be married anywhere, registrars in Argyll and Bute have seen an increase in people tying the knot in various locations across the area.

One couple even held their special ceremony on Ben More, the Isle of Mull's highest mountain.

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for corporate services Councillor Rory Colville said: 'We have some stunning scenery and ceremonies have been held in a huge range of locations.'



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BEAR promises 'immediate action' on potholes' plague

Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

TRANSPORT Scotland and operating company BEAR Scotland have promised immediate action to repair crumbling sections of the A83.

Road users have reported a growing number of incidents of burst tyres and damage to suspension after hitting potholes on many parts of the trunk road.

The move was welcomed by Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell, who said: 'As a regular user of the road myself I, too, have noticed a massive increase in potholes and places where the surface appears to be breaking up.'

'Just after new year, I drove to Inveraray and was horrified at the state of the carriageway at Strone Point, where major roadworks are under way. I have also noticed similar severe problems coming into Arrochar and have information and pictures from other road users elsewhere on the route.'

'The A83 is the main artery for much of Argyll. For



The crumbling road surface is badly pitted at Strone Point, near Inveraray.

some weeks, I have been making strong representations to Transport Scotland and to BEAR, alongside Councillor Dougie

Philand, as well as keeping the Transport Minister informed.'

Mr Russell and Councillor Philand held a telephone

conference on Wednesday morning with senior management at the companies, when they were assured of immediate action, first of all to tackle the worst of the potholes with more regular inspections and emergency follow-up work for the worst incidents, followed by a repair programme, replacing sections of surface where necessary. There will also be improved signs and an information campaign.

Mr Russell continued: 'I will be holding the company to these commitments and Transport Scotland has agreed to provide myself and Councillor Philand with a weekly update.'

'I will also continue to ensure that complaints are attended to with urgency.'

'I am grateful to all those who have used social media and other means to draw attention to this unacceptable state of affairs and I am glad that their concerns have now been listened to.'

'I would urge road users to continue to monitor the situation and to ensure that the promises are kept.'

Lochgilphead man admits abuse charges

A FORMER greenkeeper at an upmarket golf club abused a young boy there during a series of attacks.

James Harkins, of Lochgilphead, preyed on the child, who was just eight when he first pounced.

The 64-year-old had been employed at Whitecraigs Golf Club in Newton Mearns.

A judge heard how Harkins also tried to rape a young girl, who he has previously been convicted of attacking.

Harkins is now behind bars after he pleaded guilty at the High Court in Glasgow to abusing both victims. The crimes

occurred between 1986 and 1995.

Police detained Harkins in September 2016 at his home in Lochgilphead.

Harkins admitted a string of charges, including lewd and libidinous behaviour and attempted rape.

Lewis Kennedy, defending, told the court: 'He is realistic about his fate.'

The advocate asked for bail to be continued. But Lord Mulholland said Harkins was now guilty of 'very serious matters' and remanded him in custody. He is due to be sentenced on February 14 in Edinburgh.

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Marni the Jack Russell scoops Pet Idol crown

Colin Cameron

editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

MARNI, a Jack Russell terrier from Fort William, has been crowned our Pet Idol winner for 2017-18.

Making it into the final selection of 10, Lochgilphead's own celebrity goldfish Daniel, and Hamish, a fluffy Cockapoo from Tarbert, were further down the leaderboard.

Marni's owner Leanne Kennedy, a self-employed hairdresser from Caol near Fort William, says she is 'over the moon' and intends using the first prize of £500 worth of vouchers to buy items for a dog rescue charity in Glasgow.

Over the five rounds of the competition, launched in the autumn, hundreds of *Argyllshire Advertiser* readers, together with those of our sister papers, the *Oban Times*, *Campbeltown Courier* and *Lochaber Times*, voted for their favourites.



Pet Idol winner Marni with proud owners Leanne and Liam Kennedy of Fort William. Photograph: ABrightside Photography

These were slowly whittled down until just the 10 most popular pets remained, with 18-month-old Marni declared the winner this week.

Dogs made up the majority of the entrants along with a number of other pets, including cats, Daniel the goldfish, a tortoise, cockerel, rat, and the odd sheep.

Oban Times group editor Susan Windram said she was delighted with the response of readers to the company's Pet Idol competition.

'It was a fantastic response from readers right across all of our circulation areas and we've all enjoyed seeing so many great pictures of people's pets,' Mrs Windram commented.

'In the end Marni was a worthy winner and it's wonderful news that her owner Leanne wants to use the vouchers to help dogs who do not have the same kind of loving home that Marni obviously has.'

And a delighted Leanne, who is married to Liam, told us: 'She's a great wee dog, always full of mischief.'

'We've had her since she was just eight weeks old and this is the first time I've had a dog of my own,' Leanne said.

'Marni loves toys, especially anything that squeaks. None of

them last very long, mind you. She's very special and we love her loads.'

In the beginning, Leanne did not think her pet had a chance of winning, saying: 'I didn't think it was a great photo as it had just been randomly snapped on a mobile phone - just one of hundreds of photos we have of Marni.'

'But people obviously saw something in the picture they really liked and opted to vote for her.'

Leanne explained that in the run-up to Christmas she had been collecting blankets to help dogs being looked after by a charity in Glasgow and intends spending the vouchers on more of the same.

'Marni will get a few extra treats for winning the competition, but she's already pretty well spoiled and doesn't really need anything else, so what better way to use the vouchers than to help less fortunate dogs.'

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*All prices are inclusive of VAT

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(up to 60 people standing)	£40	per hire
Catering - Tea/coffee & biscuit	£1.50	per head (single round)

CHAMBERS

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Corporate Business Rate	£25.00	£35.00

MEETING ROOM

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Mon - Fri(9am-5pm)		
Evenings & weekends		
Community Rate	£6.00	£10
Standard Rate	£10.00	£14
Corporate Business Rate	£15.00	£20

Community Rate—including exhibitions, meetings, children's birthday parties, sports events, coffee mornings, community training events. One member of staff is provided during community events. Excess time is charged at £15 per hour (weekdays), and £22.50 per hour (after 1700 hours and weekends). 1 hr (half day) and 2 hrs (full day) set up time is included within the hire charge. There is no reduction in the above for registered charities and other non-profit making groups.

Standard Rate— including reunions, parties, concerts, drama performances and events where admission is charged or alcohol is being consumed. Rental includes services of a member of staff. 1 hr (half day) and 2 hrs (full day) set up time is included within the hire charge. Excess time is charged thereafter at £24 per hour. There is no reduction in the above charges for registered charities and other non-profit making groups.

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Main Hall, 4 hr hire	£80
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Lochgilphead's future is in the youth of today

YOUNG people from Mid Argyll Youth Forum have come together to showcase their ideas for the future of Lochgilphead.

The discussion took place at a pop-up exhibition at the town's community centre.

The young people participated in the 'Footsteps of Geddes' project delivered by Planning Association Scotland (PAS) and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The project involved a two-day workshop during the summer last year about how they

would like Lochgilphead to look in the future.

In the 'Footsteps of Geddes' is a project that encourages and equips young people with the tools, resources and capacity to celebrate the heritage of their local area.

The inspiration is taken from the work of the Scottish thinker and town planner Patrick Geddes.

Speaking about the exhibition, PAS chief executive Petra Biberbach said: 'The young people in the Mid-Ar-gyll Youth Forum have

demonstrated how digital technology can empower local people to help creatively shape great places, and their work throughout this project can be a source of inspiration for the wider community.

'At PAS, we believe it is especially important that our young people are engaged in the places in which they live and work.

'As the future generation, they have a fundamental right to shape the environment in which they live their lives.

'We want to congrat-



Lochgilphead High pupils Connor Campbell and Megan Davies with PAS project co-ordinator Wojciech Borowski. 08_a04midargyllyouthf

ulate the young people from Mid-Ar-gyll Youth Forum on their work on the future of Lochgilphead.'

le Cardboard virtual reality viewer which showed the project's field trip to Arichonan clearance village.

Alongside members of the Mid Argyll Youth Forum, planners, councillors, PAS volunteers and the public also attended.

Raymond Flanagan, co-ordinator of Mid Argyll Youth Forum, said: 'The Foot-steps of Geddes project went a long way to inspire digital creativity in young people who would not have had the opportunity to participate in such a wonder-

ful and innovative project. Through a series of workshops delivered by PAS the young people were able to express themselves succinctly both in nonverbal actions and through the imagery of text and drawings.

'Through attending this project, five of the young people have attained their Youth Achievement Award Bronze Certificate at National 4 level and three young people have achieved their Silver Youth Achievement Award at National 5 level.'

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Echoes of the Antares

LAST week's tragic events brought back sad memories for many local people of the Antares disaster, just over 27 years ago.

In November 1990 the Carradale fishing boat sank in the Firth of Clyde between Arran and the Ayrshire coast. All four crew members lost their lives. There was huge controversy and anger when it became clear that the 50-foot Antares was sunk after her nets became entangled with a Royal Navy nu-

clear submarine, HMS Trenchant, passing below.

The tragedy led to the introduction of major changes governing the way in which the Royal Navy carries out training exercises where civilian vessels are nearby.

Horrendous

Chairman of the Clyde Fishermen's Association Kenny MacNab said: 'There have been one or two incidents where people have lost their lives, but for a boat to go down I

can only think of the Antares. That was a horrendous experience for the people of Carradale then, and it still affects things today.'

He added, for the sake of clarity: 'With the Nancy Glen we've ruled out any submarine contact. There was a time when this would have been a likely cause, but not these days.'

'In fact, we've already been in touch with the Navy to see if it might help with raising the boat.'



Carradale fishing boat the Antares.

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With Campbeltown RNLI lifeboat co-ordinating matters and CalMac ferry MV Catriona alongside, fishing bo

A tragedy unfolds

Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

'WHATEVER happened, it was something that hasn't happened before,' is the view of Kenny MacNab, a Tarbert fisherman and chairman of the Clyde Fishermen's Association.

The 40-foot Nancy Glen was fishing for

prawns on Thursday January 18 in familiar territory on Loch Fyne, off Barmore Island just north of Tarbert. The weather was calm and the water quiet.

Experienced

On board were 45-year-old skipper Duncan MacDougall with crewmen Przemek Krawczyk, 38, and John Miller, aged

34. All were experienced fishermen. Duncan, from a long line of Tarbert fishermen, had taken over as full-time skipper of the Nancy Glen at the start of last year and had been at the fishing since his school days. Przemek, known locally as 'Shemic', had himself been a skipper and was described as a good deck-

hand and a very good worker. After going out fishing with the MacDougall family since he was a young teenager, John Miller started full time when he was 16 – some 18 years ago.

Kenny said: 'These were experienced men, so this was something unusual.'

Whatever it was that happened, the 40-foot boat is said to have capsized around 6pm.

Distress call

A big search and rescue operation was launched after a distress call was received first from the Nancy Glen by digital selective calling signal, then from a passing Scottish Salmon Compa-



Duncan MacDougall.



Przemek Krawczyk.



John Miller.

Focus now on raising boat

WITH no other sign of the men, experts believe that Duncan MacDougall and Przemek Krawczyk were probably trapped on the Nancy Glen when she sank. And this week local politicians voiced support for plans to raise the vessel from 140 metres depth on the bottom of Loch Fyne.

Kenny MacNab said: 'We are going to do everything in our power through the Clyde Fishermen's Associ-

ation to get the boat raised. The families want closure and they want the boys back.'

'The Marine Accident Investigation Branch has got to agree to that, and it is going to take a concerted effort politically – and a lot of money – to get it done.'

'It is deep, but possible to do, because it was done from a similar depth by the Royal Navy years ago when the Antares was pulled down,' Kenny continued.

He added: 'This is a specialist job, but we will certainly be doing our utmost to help the families recover their loved ones.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'I have already raised with Fergus Ewing,

the responsible cabinet secretary and with the Lord Advocate, who would have to order any inquiry, the need for the boat to be raised both to recover the remains – as the families wish – but also to understand what took place.'

He was joined in supporting the cause by Brendan O'Hara, Argyll and Bute MP. Mr O'Hara said: 'I have written to both the Marine Accident Investigation Branch and the Department of Transport, which oversees its work, seeking an assurance that the Nancy Glen will be recovered as soon as possible and a commitment to a reasonable timescale to minimise the pain the families will be suffering.'

How to help the Nancy Glen campaign

LOOK out for the many shops and other places where you can donate in cash, including Tarbert Post Office, where they have the facility to transfer the money on. You can also help by visiting the following online donation pages:

GoFundMe
JustGiving
Crowdfunder

Or donate by cheque to: Clyde Fishermen's Trust, The Briggait, Unit 227, 141 Bridgegate, Glasgow, G1 5HZ.

Alternatively you can give via bank transfer - email contact@clydefishermenstrust.com



Boats swept Loch Fyne nine abreast in the days following the sinking. 06_a04TarbertRescue01

Boats on Loch Fyne

ny workboat, the Lady Inga, which managed to pick up John Miller from the water.

RNLI lifeboats from Tighnabruaich, Campbeltown and Arran were involved in the search, supported by the Prestwick-based Coastguard search and rescue helicopter and Coastguard teams from Tarbert, Dunoon, Kames, Inveraray and Crinan.

Shore support was provided by Police Scotland, the Scottish Ambulance Service and local firefighters.

They were joined by several commercial fishing boats, as well as the CalMac ferry Loch Riddon.

The Loch Riddon and

a fishing boat managed to attach ropes to the Nancy Glen, before a large Royal Navy supply vessel, the Northern River, joined the rescue effort.

Strops

With a 50-tonne crane on board, the crew of the Northern River were attempting to get strops round the boat for lifting, but the ropes broke and the Nancy Glen sank, stern first, at around 8pm.

A remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV) was deployed from the Northern River, managing to attach a location finding transponder to the hull as the boat lay on the bottom.



Kenny MacNab, chairman of the Clyde Fishermen's Association and Tarbert fisherman.

08_a04TarbertKenny01

John Miller was taken to Mid Argyll Hospital for treatment. His crewmates have yet to be found despite a continuing week-long search by Tarbert fish-

ing boats and Coastguard shore teams.

Investigations are underway by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch and Police Scotland.

Tarbert shows its true colours at this time of loss

TARBERT has proved itself to be a true community since last week's disaster, if we didn't already know that.

The people of the close-knit fishing village came out on a cold night in a moving act of support on the quay on the evening of Saturday January 20, two days to the hour since the Nancy Glen was lost.

No words were spoken. None were needed.

Candles were simply laid along the harbour to light the way home for the missing men.

It stemmed from an idea by Tarbert woman Jean Lawrie, who posted on a local Tarbert Facebook page on Saturday afternoon: 'Some light to guide these boys home and to show support to the families.'

The people were there, too, with food and hot drinks to support the teams out searching.

On Loch Fyne, every Tarbert fishing boat that was able was out searching, and some pleasure boats too.

Boats from Greenock and Ayrshire joined the operation. Fishermen came up from Campbeltown and Carra-

dale to be extra pairs of eyes aboard other boats.

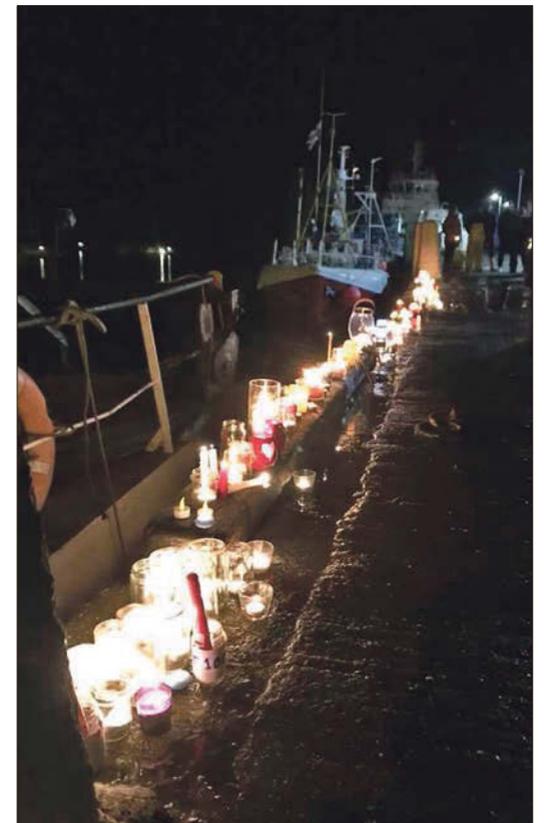
They came back day after day, ignoring any loss of days fishing. It's always been like that around here.

An inter-denominational church service at Tarbert Free Church of Scotland on Sunday January 21 was attended by around 200 people, reflecting the intense sense of loss in the village.

On a practical level,

the Clyde Fishermen's Trust Nancy Glen appeal is gathering funds at a stunning pace, and is sure for another boost on Saturday January 27 when a coffee afternoon is held at Templars Hall between 2pm and 5pm.

Elsewhere, a quiz is to be held in Campbeltown for the appeal and there are events in Lochgilphead and around the region to support the growing campaign.



Light in Tarbert's darkness.

at - for families' sakes



The Nancy Glen.

THE OLD CLUBHOUSE

Valentine's Day Menu
14-17 February | £40 per couple

Starters

Sweet Potato & Goat Cheese Samosas	Tuscan Bean Soup
Korean Barbeque Duck Spring Rolls	Cheesy Kintyre Madras Curry Pots

Mains

Roasted Scottish Beef	Stuffed Chicken Primavera
Thai Fish Cake	Vegetable Chili

Desserts

Salted Caramel Popcorn Pots	Apple & Ginger Crumble Ice Cream Sundae
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Eton Mess Cheesecake

Editorial

Tarbert's strength

IT'S HARD to know where to begin this week's editorial column.

Three young men left Tarbert harbour last Thursday heading for familiar fishing grounds on Loch Fyne. Two of these men didn't come back, and we must spare a thought for John Miller, who survived the tragedy.

Thank goodness for the strength of community spirit that has been witnessed in this fishing village since the very second the alarm was raised.

The families of the boys lost, and John himself, can rely on their neighbours for support. You can be sure of that.

The effort put in by everyone involved in the rescue and search effort has been phenomenal. And fishermen don't give up on their own.

In his understated way, Kenny MacNab has been a steadying influence, leading the way and lending help to anyone seeking it. He won't like being singled out, but he deserves it.

The agonies being endured by the families of Duncan and Przemek can only be imagined, and our hearts go out to them.

Lend your support by donating to the Nancy Glen appeal - details on page 6.

How to contact us

Argyllshire Advertiser,
44 Argyll Street,
Lochgilthead,
PA31 8NB
Phone: 01546 602345

Chief reporter

Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshire
advertiser.co.uk

Reporter

Emily Jamison
editor@argyllshire
advertiser.co.uk

Advertising

Lisa Smith
adverts@argyllshire
advertiser.co.uk

Head office

Wyvex Media,
Lochavullin
Industrial Estate,
Oban,
PA34 4HB

Potholes galore

Sir,

I would also like to add a similarly challenged road surface at the top of Manse Brae, for about two thirds of its length. This surface and its potholes have been 'filled in' again and again until there are more repairs than the original road surface.

The last time this road was properly resurfaced was more than 30 years ago. Similarly, the recent 'road resurfacing' on the stretch from Dunardy to Bellanoch carried out in August 2017 was not 'sealed' properly either in the middle or at the edges, and is now seriously starting to unravel very quickly.

The chippie stones used in the process were also not 'swept up properly' after the event, and can still be seen strewn at the edges and in both the middle of each carriageway, posing a danger to paint work and windscreens.

This may be a cheaper option in the short term, but certainly more expensive in the long term.

Whoever was responsible for signing off these works - paid for by the taxpayer - needs to take a long hard look.

Name and address supplied



There are plenty of examples of potholes on the A83. Pictured here is a cone inside a pot hole between Lochgilthead and Airdrishaig.

Words of comfort following the Nancy Glen tragedy

Rev Robert MacLeod, Tarbert Free Church

'THIS is a close-knit community, and when tragedy strikes it impacts not just those directly affected but many, if not all of us.

'For those touched most deeply by the sinking of the Nancy Glen, we assure them of our thoughts and prayers at this time.'

Councillor Anne Horn

'TARBERT, wonderful community that it is, will help where and whenever it can but we can't take away the awful pain of the families. We hope that our support helps in some small measure. Our hearts go out to them all.

'The emergency services and volunteers have been absolutely wonderful, working tirelessly to try to find the lads who only went out to do their day's work and didn't come home.

'Tarbert will miss these fine young men.'

Michael Russell MSP

'I HAVE been in constant touch with the Clyde Fishermen's Association, Anne Horn and the Scottish Government about this awful tragedy since it happened on Thursday.

'Everyone is thinking of the families and the wider community and all our sympathy and support goes out to them.'

Brendan O'Hara MP

'I EXTEND my deepest sympathy to families of both men who have been lost; they are in my thoughts and prayers. I hope that in time they will be able to take some comfort from the wonderful outpouring of support that has been shown by the community of Tarbert.

'It goes without saying that I will always be on hand to help in whatever way I can during difficult times that lie ahead.'

Plastic bag charges

Sir,

Am I being unduly cynical at the support from retailers for compulsory plastic bag charging? Apart from the few companies which claim to donate this income to charity, the rest will be laughing their way to the bank.

More to the point would be to allow customers to use the empty cardboard boxes in which products have been delivered to the shop.

My local supermarket used to have piles of these freely available at the checkout and plastic bag use was minimal as a result. Nowadays, these have to be disposed of by retailers at vast cost - surely far better for them to be taken home and disposed of by custom-

ers as domestic waste at no cost to traders?

**John Hein,
Edinburgh**

Holocaust Memorial Day

Sir,

This year's theme for Holocaust Memorial Day on Saturday January 27 is 'the power of words'.

This January, at around 8,000 events across the country, hundreds of thousands of people will gather to reflect on the power of words, and how they were used in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, in propaganda to incite hatred, in slogans written in resistance, and in memoirs to record survivors' experiences.

Holocaust Memorial Day is about remembering the atrocities of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides

in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, but also about finding ways to make sure they can never happen again. Recognising the power our words have is an important first step. On Holocaust Memorial Day I ask you to choose to use your words for good.

For more information on how you can get involved with this year's events, go to www.hmd.org.uk.

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

Deeply disturbing

Sir,

The assessment from the Scottish Government report that Scotland's economy could be £12.7bn a year worse off by 2030 under a so-called hard Brexit, is deeply disturbing and demonstrates why the eco-

nomie suicide that is Brexit must be reversed (January 16).

The report notes that even if the UK were to remain in the single market and customs union, and even if the UK government's preferred option of securing a free trade deal were to be realised, there would still be a cost to the Scottish economy compared with remaining in the EU.

Such impacts should, however, come as no surprise, as we will be leaving the largest single market in the world of over half a billion people, and by far the best option for the Scottish economy is to stay in the EU. This brings not only considerable economic advantages, but also immense social, environmental and consumer protections.

As the costs of Brexit become clearer and the public mood begins to shift, more people are realising that Brexit is seeing us sleepwalk to economic suicide and must be stopped, to the benefit of both this and future generations. Brexit is no longer the 'settled will of the people' in the UK, and it should be noted that Scotland voted overwhelmingly to remain in the EU. Given this we require a fresh public debate as support for Brexit wanes.

Although another national referendum isn't legally necessary to stop Brexit, we recognise that political reality may require a further test of public opinion before a majority in Parliament is prepared to stop Brexit altogether. If another referendum is held, over-16s and EU citizens settled in the UK should be able to vote, just as they did in the Scottish independence referendum.

We will continue to work to make the case for a democratic debate and decision on our European future.

**Alex Orr,
Policy adviser: The
European Movement
in Scotland**

Press policy

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

Dochas carers to benefit from free spring break

A GROUP of carers from the Dochas Centre in Lochgilphead will enjoy a well-deserved break at Saddell House in Kintyre.

The centre's carers will head to the historic Scottish building in March thanks to the Landmark Trust's 50-for-free scheme, which offers 50 short breaks free of charge to the beneficiaries of charities.

Overlooking Saddell Bay with views of Ar-

ran and Kilbrennan Sound, the house has a special history.

The area was previously chosen by the Bishop of Argyll, who built a castle near the shore.

In the 18th century the Campbell family built the eight-bedroom Saddell House as a more modern edition to the castle.

Caroline Stanford, head of engagement at the Landmark Trust, said: 'We're so pleased

that Landmark can offer a 50-for-free stay in Saddell House to Dochas Carers Centre.

'Thanks to the generous private donor who funds the scheme, 50 for Free allows those who need it most to take a short break in our amazing historic buildings. We really hope that the experience helps them with the challenges they face in their lives, and wish them all a wonderful stay.'

Maggie McLaren, Dochas Centre manager, said: 'This is the third year we have been awarded a holiday from Landmark. Our carers have had such an amazing time on these breaks. It means so much.

'It is so important for carers to look after themselves and get a wee break from their caring responsibilities.'



Saddell House in Kintyre where the Dochas Centre carers will unwind during a well-deserved break.

Valentine's Day pancakes for Malawi fundraising

MID ARGYLL Mawali Twinning Group is fundraising to help bring a group of visitors from Mawali to Argyll later this year.

The fundraising initiative is known as 'PQRST4Malawi' – and believe it or not, it's not a spelling mistake.

P is for pancakes, S is for shortbread and T is for tea, all of which will be available at the pancake tea in Lochgilphead Parish Church at 3pm on Wednesday February 14 – Valentine's Day.

Just before the afternoon tea, the R is for relay event which will see shopkeepers along Argyll Street popping their heads out of their shops to toss a pancake from shop, to butchers to cafe - and back again. Everyone is welcome to witness the event, with the toss beginning at 2.30pm.

Q is for quiz, although it's more of a treasure hunt. 'Heart of Malawi' quiz sheets will have questions, with the answers displayed on shop windows throughout Loch-

gilphead. Quiz sheets go on sale on Thursday February 1 and are available from: Willie & Pat's, the Bookshop, Danny's, the Sweetie Jar and the Salty Dog Cafe.

Complete the quiz sheet and return it to any of the shops listed by 1pm on Valentine's Day, or bring it along to the pancake tea.

There is a prize of £20 up for grabs, and three runner-up prizes of £5 vouchers for local shops. The winners will be drawn from all correct entries at the close of the pancake tea.

Organiser Ruth Carruthers said: 'The local traders I've spoken with have really embraced the idea of an entertaining and slightly crazy community event, and they've been so supportive.

'We're looking for a great turn-out on the day – it's school holidays, so hopefully families will hunt for the quiz answers together, watch the pancake tossing relay and join us for a heart warming cuppa as we show our heart for Malawi.'



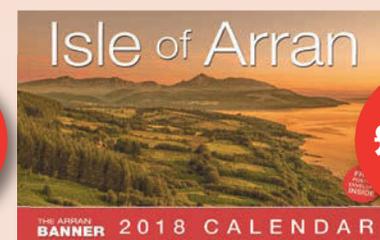
Mary's Meals manager Marina Campbell and local celebrity Mary Smeels pose with one of the quiz answers. 08_a04malawi

Scottish Calendars 2018

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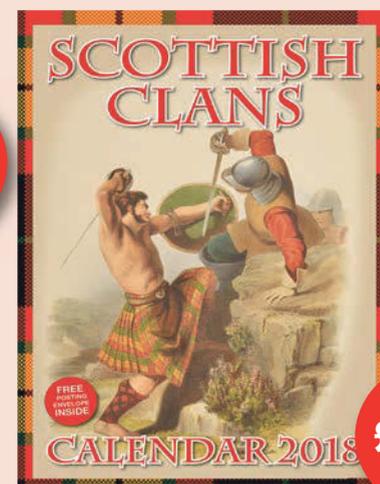
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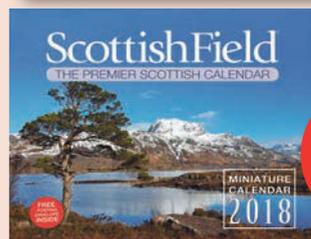
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Energy

860,000 HOUSEHOLDS IN SCOTLAND MAY HAVE MISSED OUT ON £1,500 BY NOT SWITCHING ENERGY SUPPLIER



Ofgem figures show those who haven't switched supplier in six years cost themselves £1,500

Despite possible savings, 37% of households in Scotland don't see the point in switching because 'all suppliers are the same'

More than nine million UK households haven't switched in six years

Big Energy Saving Week reveals lost savings equivalent to 27 average weekly food shopping trips

Big Energy Saving Week today reveals that failing to switch energy supplier may have cost 860,000 of households in Scotland more than £1,500 each over the past six years – the equivalent of more than half a year of the UK's average weekly shopping trips (1).

Figures from Ofgem (2) have revealed that nine million households across the UK – more than a third (35%) of all households – failed to change gas or electricity provider between 2012 and 2017, with only 16.7% (5) of people in Scotland switching in the last year alone and missing out savings of hundreds of pounds a year.

And while a YouGov survey carried out for Big Energy Saving Week reveals 36% (3) of people across Scotland will visit multiple supermarkets to ensure we get the best deal on our weekly shop, we are not being as savvy with our energy suppliers, with millions of households remaining on the more expensive Standard Variable Tariff (SVT) (4), despite better deals being available.

Starting today, Big Energy Saving Week is a nationwide campaign from the Energy Saving Trust, Citizens Advice, Citizens Advice Scotland and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) which helps households lower their annual spend on energy.

Mike Thornton, director of Energy Saving Trust Scotland said:

'The difference between the average Standard Variable Tariff and the cheapest deal on the market is significant, but millions of households still aren't accessing these savings. To put that into context, switching this year could save you up to £300 – equivalent to more than a month's worth of food shopping.'

'In other words, if you haven't switched for six years, you've missed out on more than six months of food shopping.'

'With January being a tight month for household budgets, now is the time to look at switching your energy tariff to make sure you're on the best possible deal.'

Business and Energy Secretary Greg Clark said: 'We're helping people take control of their fuel bills to reduce how much they pay for their gas and electricity.'

'Big Energy Saving Week highlights how much money people can save simply by changing their energy supplier and taking action such as installing a smart meter.'

A YouGov survey carried out as part of the campaign also revealed that:

- 64% of people in Scotland would read reviews when planning to spend £1,000, but only 16% read any reviews about their new energy supplier or tariff when they last switched, with the average dual fuel bill £1,1235
- 22% of Scottish households are unaware or don't know there are ways to switch supplier other than online
- 37% of Scottish households believe there's no point in switching because 'all suppliers are the same'

As part of the Big Energy Saving Week campaign, Citizens Advice will host events across Great Britain with its volunteers and staff offering face-to-face advice to people with concerns about their energy bills, helping to share information about switching and about how the energy switch guarantee makes the process simple and easy.

An online price comparison tool from Citizens Advice can help bill payers find a cheaper supplier. The comparison tool is completely impartial and includes quotes from all energy suppliers, offering a quick and easy way to find the best deals.

Derek Mitchell, CEO Citizens Advice Scotland, said: 'With many Scots experiencing a particularly cold winter this year, we are concerned that many consumers are paying over the odds to heat their homes.'

'Our data tells us that the people who would benefit most from lowering their fuel bills are often the least likely to seek help. The savings from switching can significantly lower the high costs of bills, and in some cases further support may be available.'

'We urge people to take part in Big Energy Saving Week and speak to their local CAB or to check our price comparison tool for support with switching.'

For free advice and support to cut your fuel bills call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282.

1. Based on average weekly shop of £56.80. Figures from Office for National Statistics Family spending in the UK report, published February 2017.

2. Ofgem 'State of the Market 2017' report, published October, 2017. 35% of people have never switched supplier.

3. Excluding respondents who said don't know or not applicable

4. Ofgem 'State of the Market 2017' report, published October, 2017.

5. Ofgem 'State of the Market 2017' report, published October, 2017.

Saving Week

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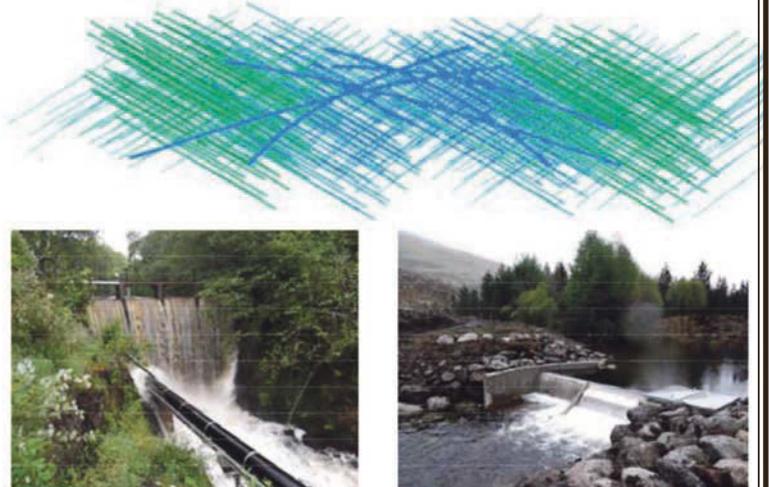
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BIG ENERGY SAVING WEEK...

Big Energy Saving Week runs from 22 to 28 January 2018. It is a national campaign to help people cut their fuel bills and get all the financial support they are entitled to.



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Advertorial

Loans from the Scottish Government help homes stay warm and cut bills

THE Scottish Government's Home Energy Scotland interest-free loan is helping homeowners make energy and money-saving improvements to their homes.

Up to £32,500 per property is currently available to owner-occupiers and some registered private sector landlords in Scotland.

The loan can be used for energy efficiency improvements like insulation and replacing single glazing with double glazing, with cashback grants of up to 25 per cent also available for a limited time.

Home renewables systems such as biomass and solar photovoltaic are covered as well as connections to an approved district heating scheme powered by renewable energy.

Loans must be used to improve existing residential buildings. New buildings under construction, where the property is already owned by the intended owner occupier, are also eligible for support for renewables systems or district heating connections but not energy efficiency improvements.

Funding is on a first-come, first-served basis and is subject to availability.

Cashback grants are not available for renewable technologies like solar PV or for district heating connections.

Only Home Energy Scotland can arrange to have an application form sent out; third parties like installers or letting agents cannot apply on a householder's behalf.

Work must not commence on any installation until a loan offer in writing is received.

All applications will undergo credit and affordability checks. Successful applicants who claim funding will need to pay an administrative fee of 1.5 per cent of the total loan value up to a maximum of £150 per application.

The complete loan terms and conditions are stated in the application form.

Get in touch now.

If anyone is interested in applying or would like more information, please call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 (free from landlines and most mobiles).

The week focuses on raising public awareness of how to switch energy supplier or tariff to get the best deal, access discounts and make homes energy efficient. This is the 7th Big Energy Saving Week and is a partnership between Citizens Advice, the Energy Saving Trust and the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy with the support of numerous organisations, charities and companies. People can use the Citizens Advice price comparison tool to compare prices from different energy suppliers. Visit and save today!

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/get-a-better-energy-deal/compare-gas-and-electricity-prices>

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Scott Walker addresses Argyll and the Islands members as Andrew McCornick looks on. 06_a03nfus01

Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

NFUS president, Andrew McCornick

IF SCOTLAND gets a fair share of cash post-Brexit, farmers 'can deliver' across a whole range of areas, from climate change to feeding the nation.

That was the message from National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) president Andrew McCornick as he rattled through the latest developments in matters such as land reform, an imminent rent review report, share farming, cattle electronic identification and LFASS regulations.

The Scottish Government is determined, he went on, to pursue the Good Food Nation initiative through Scotland Food and Drink, and 'we need to be involved with that'.

Addressing Argyll and the Islands NFUS members at the regional AGM, Mr McCornick said: 'We are food producers, and we need to be producing what the market wants.'

He then offered a mild rebuke to the assembled Argyll and Islands members for failing to generate much enthusiasm for being involved with a union environmental committee.

Expressing disappointment, the union president added: 'Climate change is a reality, and within that farming is getting pil-

loried, particularly livestock producers.

'We need to be part of the solution and put more effort and more thought into it.'

The union president then revealed that he was sitting on the 'Women in Agriculture' taskforce, for which he joked that he was 'ideally suited'.

He said: 'There is a great resource out there among women in farming. I'm seeing changes already, and let's see how it works going forward.'

On the vexed subject of Brexit, Mr McCornick spoke about Michael Gove, the UK Government secretary of state for environment, food and rural affairs, wanting things to become 'greener', adding: 'That's why I say we need to be part of the climate change and environmental agenda.'

'The population is growing and we need to feed them. Agriculture is important and he [Mr Gove] needs to recognise that.'

Mr McCornick gave his thoughts on how a new British regime might work: 'I think there will be an overarching framework we'll need to work with-in,' he said, 'covering things like crop chemicals, cattle movements, meat movements and such like - even down to food labelling.'

'We need something to bind us together, because our biggest market is still south of the border.'

'But if we have adequate funding - it's got to be ring-fenced and not under a Barnett for-



In full flow, Andrew McCornick delivers his views on Brexit and other union matters. 06_a03nfus05

mula and fairly distributed - I think we'll go a long way to getting something we can deliver.'

He concluded: 'But we need the money to be activity-based and to go to people who are actually out there doing the graft.'

'Yes, we need improvements in productivity and the environment, but this has to be underpinned by financial stability.'

NFUS chief executive, Scott Walker

Scott Walker began by thanking every union official and member.

The union chief executive said: 'The union couldn't function without them. It is they who determine union policy and which way we turn.'

'It's then up to me and other staff to make sure it happens.'

On the role of headquarters staff, he explained: 'We have to be out there making contacts, making sure that

doors are open where we need them to be.'

The union is not fixated entirely on Brexit, he continued.

'Brexit is just one of many, many things that we are doing at the moment. Every union committee is dealing with a huge number of issues. Some don't have the same traction for the press, but a lot of activities are going on in other areas.'

The union is changing its tactical focus as Brexit looms, Mr Walker explained. 'First and foremost our focus has been here in Scotland, because that is where the decisions were made. In the past we also dealt straight with the EU.'

'But we now need to focus a lot more on the UK government without taking our eye off the ball on Europe or the Scottish Government.'

He added: 'Much of our work in the future will be about securing money, which is essential before you can decide what to spend that money on.'

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inside:

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- renovate, remodel, renew
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- exterior design
- finishing touches



Your comprehensive guide to self build and renovation, from finance to furnishing

Self-build: your home, your own way

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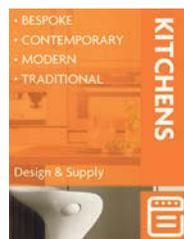
Building a future

Whether you're a joiner, builder, tradesman, or home owner, Rembrand Timber will help you find the materials you need all under one roof, at their Oban branch.

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YOUR home is the biggest and single most important purchase you will make in your life.

It is the one decision that will influence the rest of your life and vice versa to some extent.

No other item - no matter how great the cost - will have so much emotion tied up within the decision-making process; a process which must also call for sound, realistic judgement while at the same time answer those deep emotional needs.

No wonder it is said that buying a house is so stressful. This is not a decision you want to mess up.

Our home is our haven, the place where we nurture our relationships and raise our kids; from where we go forth and build our careers and family life. A house is where we celebrate the good times with family and friends and where we retreat, gather our strength and face up to whatever bad times life might throw at us; where we express ourselves and the way we live through our choices of fixtures, fittings and furniture

We have to choose wisely

So, faced with such a massive decision and one that will consume a large part of your income and have its moments of stress, why not have exactly what you want, and build your own home?

In an area like the West Highlands and islands there is not the same wide choice of housing stock as can be found in less rural or remote areas. Some sectors of the housing market have higher prices as a result. There is less speculative building by property developers; you are more likely to find a plot of land than you are a newly-built home.

The move into self-build makes a lot of sense here, that is why more and more people are taking this big step. It also explains why a large number of people, once they have made their home, make the decision to stay-put and renovate or expand their existing properties to suit their needs.

Some people, who are skilled tradesmen and construction professionals, or who have those skills within their family and close friends, will undertake some or all of the work themselves.

Others will relish the job of finding an architect, handling the planning and paperwork and hire their own contractors while other self-builders will feel more confident if they hire a building company or choose a kit home and have all the work done for them.

Whatever route you go down, one thing all self-builders agree on is they enjoy the feeling



of being able to choose and be more in control of how their future home will serve their needs.

And another thing that everyone who has gone down the self-build route will tell you is this: it is not just about location, location, location; it is also about finance, finance, finance and research, research, research.

What you want: be it materials, professional services or skilled labour, where you are going to source them and how the cost will fit into your overall budget are things that require time, patience and diligence. If you think you lack any of those three qualities make sure your self-build project has someone on board who does.

Budget is your number one priority. Get the money wrong and right from the start you will have a nightmare building your dream home. Remember: you get what you pay for and a cheap price is not always the best one; it could come back and haunt you.

Do not forget that that the scale of your project could leave you open to VAT payments. A financial advisor and a quantity surveyor could be your new best friends.

And that budget of yours should not just include money but time. Managing the project yourself will take time and if you have never embarked on a self-build project before you might not fully appreciate just how much time, especially if you are also have your day job to consider.

But do not let any of this deter you from fulfilling your dream. Just look around this wonderful part of the world: lots of people have already done this and you can too.

And one day soon you will walk through the front door of your brand new home; not someone else's old house, not some builder's idea of what makes a home but your very own home.

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Permission to build

You are not just going to build a house you are going to build an impressive amount of paperwork - but don't be daunted - the system is far more user-friendly than it used to be.

PLANNING PERMISSION and building warrants are a fact of life for the self-builder.

If you go ahead and buy a plot of land without securing permission then all you own is a very expensive place to have a picnic.

If you can find a plot with planning permission then you are one step ahead of the game but remember that if this is detailed planning permission, then you might have to reapply for some, if not all, aspects of your plans: the plot has permission for someone else's dream home.

If you see a plot without planning permission, then make sure that it can get planning permission - permission for the house that you want to build. Be realistic: if the plot has permission for a two-bedroom bungalow will you really be able to prove that it could contain a four-bedroom house with a media room and a double garage?

Planning permission is needed if you are building from

new, carrying out major renovations like adding rooms or raising the roof level; changing the use of a building, perhaps an old shop in a town or an old farm building in the countryside into a home.

Permission is also needed if the plot or property is in a conservation area or has listed building consent. National parks also have a say on planning permission.

Every Scottish

council has its own development plan, with zones for housing or industry or areas of natural beauty that it wants to protect and communities it wants to see grow or areas where it would like to encourage more tourism.

This doesn't just show you where you can and cannot build; it also shows you where and what other people can and cannot build.

Planning permission takes care of how

your self-build will look; its size, shape, how it fits in with the surrounding landscape and buildings. You will also need to apply for a building warrant. This is about how your new home will meet building standards.

No one wants to build a home which is un-safe and unsound so look on the building warrant as a way of keeping you right as the project moves towards completion. As work progresses you

can get work approved by 'approved certifiers' and this can form part of your application for the property's building warrant which you file with the local council.

An approved certifier for design can give you a certificate of design for structures along with a certificate of design for energy; an approved certifier for construction can carry out building work for you, and certify that their work meets building regulations. Their work includes the electrics, drains, heating and plumbing.

It makes sense to have people involved in your self-build project who are approved certifiers.

Applying for planning permission today is a far smoother, less stressful part of the self-build project than

it used to be. Much of the application can be done on line.

Another fantastic piece of support now offered is the pre-planning application service offered by councils.

At Argyll and Bute the planners will give you 'a clear and timely view' on the merit of the proposed development and tell you the information required to accompany a formal planning application. This service is currently free for developments of fewer than five houses but the council is in the process of setting its budget for 2018-19 so this might change.

At Highland Council expect to pay a fee of 30 per cent of the cost of your planning application, plus the planning application fee.

But as Argyll and Bute points out: 'pre application advice provided by the planning authority cannot pre-empt the democratic decision making process or a particular outcome, in the event of a formal planning application being submitted'.

Highland Council agrees: 'Any pre-application advice issued does not constitute formal consent and does not therefore guarantee that any future statutory application will be successful; nor does it provide consent for a development to commence.'

Both councils stress that their pre application decision will be based on the quantity and quality of the information you provide, so the more you can tell them the better.



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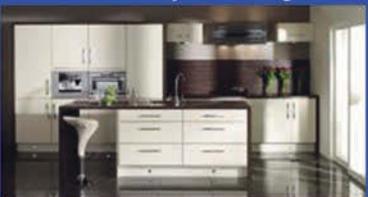
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Customised windows & repairs

WHEN it comes to both self-build and renovations, Argyll Windows and Repairs based in Tarbert is here to help and is building a loyal band of customers.

The family business custom-make windows to order along with doors, window casements, fascias, soffits, gutters and down pipes – all with competitive prices.

And for house renovations they will not only supply new, but also repair

and renovate existing fittings, giving expert advice on renewal versus renovation.

Speaking from their showroom and workshop, on Campbeltown Road, Tarbert, Kirsty said: 'We pride ourselves on being honest; if it can be repaired Gordon will tell you. Our estimates are free and the business has been built on reliability and time keeping and there is never a hard sell.'

We are going to do it again!

After a successful self-build as a couple starting out in life, and now with a young family, the Vicks are going to self-build their next home

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The Vick's first home newly completed.

AS a young couple David and Fiona Vick decided to build their own home and now that their family has grown they are going to do it all over again.

They bought a plot of land near to Fiona's parents' home at Bridge of Awe in 2005 and started in 2006, with local builder Stuart Livingstone of Taynuilt carrying out the building work.

Now, with children Hannah and Charlie, plus a cat and dog and David's classic car and Land Rover, their starter home is to be replaced with another self-build

four-bedroom family home on a site at Benderloch. This time they will be project managing the build themselves, with a kit home from Scot Frame and hiring in trades people and contractors. The main contractors will be Steven Groom and Chris Parr.

It goes without saying that the advice from the Vick family is: 'Go for it!' Their decision to go down the self-build route was a way of getting on the property ladder.

'We were looking at property in Oban, but it was at that point when everything was going for well over



Fiona, David Charlie and Hannah.

the asking price,' said Fiona, who is an electrical technician based at the Northern Lighthouse Board depot in Oban.

'We know of people who were getting 110 or 120 per cent mortgages to get their first house or flat,' said David.

The couple were helped via the Rural Home Ownership Grant with a percentage of the bills with the proviso that they stayed in

their home for 10 years or paid the grant back. The scheme was designed to help keep young families like theirs in the area and not forced out by lack of affordable property.

'Planning permission was through within six weeks because we were rounding off a housing development and this didn't cause any issues, said Fiona.

'The planning

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You need to be well organised and have all your paperwork in order and readily available”

Fiona Vick

department at Argyll and Bute have been very helpful throughout with our first home and again now, with the pre-planning service. It really gives you a good idea of where your application is going and it makes the whole process much faster.’

The grants and initial build helped the young couple achieve their first home at Bridge of Awe and, as finances allowed them, they then extended the property.

‘We are glad we took advice to have attic trusses,’ said Fiona, ‘This made it easier to convert the loft into bedrooms. They also added a garage, where David, a motor mechanic, also works on his classic car hobby. The ground works have now begun at Benderloch. The Vicks would



The start of their first self-build.



The ground work has now begun on their second home.

encourage anyone to enter the world of self-build and offer two words of advice: research and organisation. Anyone can complete a self-build project, but you need to be thorough.

‘We spent about two years before

each, looking on line and going to exhibitions and shows,’ said David, ‘research is important.’

‘You need to be well organised and have all your paperwork in order and readily available,’ said Fiona, ‘and have lots of spreadsheets.

Spreadsheets are your friend.’ And this time round, prior to starting out on the venture, the couple also sought the advice of an independent financial advisor. ‘Getting the money right is very important,’ said David.



As finances allowed the couple added bedrooms in the loft.

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In safe hands with Argyll Financial Services Ltd

Argyll Financial Services Ltd has access to the 5 mortgage providers who are available for self build mortgages in Scotland.



As each self build is unique in its circumstances we can tailor fit the mortgage you require to the companies available in the market. Whether you are using builders with Insurance guarantees, NHBC reg'd companies or architect supervision it's important to plan ahead as each company will be looking for detailed costings of the project which will enable them to assess your project and put figures to the stage payments.

Owning the land can be beneficial in the early stages with the ability to access up to 85% of the value of the land thus freeing up funds to progress forward with the project. The self build mortgage market can seem complex so let Argyll Financial use their years of experience to help you through the processes. Argyll Financial Services Ltd are qualified independent mortgage advisers based in Dunoon and Oban covering all of Argyll.

Financing the dream

Money is the most important part of the plans you are drawing up for your new home and it will be the single biggest building material you will use.



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IT IS never too soon to have your finances lined up for self-building.

In fact, once you have decided to go down the self-build route to your new home, it would be a wise idea to meet with a financial advisor, whether independent or at your bank or building society, to give your money a health check and get your funds in training ready for the big event.

[It is a good idea to give your finances a regular check-up whatever your plans in life, but that's a whole different story].

This is where you can trip up, right at the start. Even if you already own the land and don't need a mortgage to help buy the plot it is best to ensure you get a mortgage offer in place for the building work before you commit and that the plot has planning permission.

Do not expect a lump sum, as if you were buying a completed house. Just as you will be building in stages, so you will receive the money step-by-step as well. At each step

expect the building work to be inspected as the lender satisfies themselves that the building is progressing as it should.

Building your own home is a good way to get more house for your money and a great way to get yourself onto the property ladder, but self-builders do need to have a larger lump sum of cash before they begin.

Selling your existing home and living on site in a static caravan, or building your garage, large shed or having a container in place to save on storage costs can also help bring costs down.

Insuring your peace of mind

INSURANCE buys peace of mind and covers any liabilities you have as the work progresses. One you own a piece of land it pays to have site insurance.

Remember that as work progresses, the part-built structure itself will start to have value. Once complete a Structural Warranty from an insurer approved by the Council of Mortgage Lenders protects you against the

cost of complete or partial rebuilding or rectifying work to the house as a result of defective design, workmanship or materials, for 10 years.

And when you move in, do not forget to have your usual building and contents policy in place.

If you are carrying out major renovations to your home it is also best to check with your existing insurer that the work is not so big that it falls outwith the cover of your existing policy.

Self Build Loan Fund

IN November 2017 the Scottish Government announced that a new £4 million self-build loan fund, offering financial backing to people who want to build their own homes will be available later this year.

The Scottish Government has yet to announce who will be acting as agent for this new round of funding; also this latest money will be rolled out nationally but the full details have yet to be announced.

The Highland Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) ran the pilot project within the Highland Council area due to market failure in the lending market, to provide funding for self-builders, prior to mortgage facilities being available.

A spokesman said: 'The current pilot project allows HSCHT, acting as agent to the Scottish Government, to provide a revolving fund to help self-builders within the Highland Council region.'

'Individuals can apply for up to £175,000, which if successful, can be drawn down in agreed stage payments.'

'The fund is designed to help applicants reach the completion stage of their build projects, at which point they should be able to access a mortgage from the likes of a high street lender or other. The loan is then repaid by this mortgage, and the applicant goes on to pay off their mortgage as they would should they have bought a house on the open market.'

Housing Minister Kevin Stewart confirmed the fund was being set up following a successful review of the pilot in the Highlands.

In addition, a Challenge Fund to support pilot projects that will help to expand the custom and self-build sector is now open for applications.

Mr Stewart said: 'We know many people seeking to build a bespoke home, which is tailored to their family needs, can find it tough getting the right advice and securing funding. A pilot in the Highlands is proving to be really successful and now others in communities across Scotland will be able to apply for a share of this £4 million investment later next year.'

'There was considerable interest in the fund following the launch of the pilot in the Highlands, which is why we have made the decision to make an early announcement on the national roll-out. This will give potential applicants the time to investigate housing plots and obtain the necessary permissions, so they can be ready to apply to the fund when it opens.'



'In addition to this, our custom and self-build challenge fund is now open to all to support projects that will help develop ways to better respond to the needs of people undertaking a custom or self-build home.'

Croft house grant scheme

THIS scheme provides grants for crofters to improve and maintain the standards of crofter housing.

There is still time to apply for the current round of funding; closing date for applications is March 1, 2018. Dates of further funding rounds in 2018-19 are expected to be announced shortly.

The aim of the grant scheme is to attract and retain people within the crofting areas of Scotland including Argyll and Bute, Highland, Western Isles and Arran.

The scheme's website has full details of criteria and eligibility including a detailed list of postcodes for the entire crofting community across Scotland.

The funding may be used for: major repairs, internal improvements, rebuilding and new-builds.

Tenant crofters and owner-occupier crofters can apply and the scheme is split into high and standard priority areas.

In high priority areas a grant of up to £38,000 is available and £28,000 for standard priority for new homes; re building improvements are available of up to 40 per cent of costs up to £38,000 in high or £28,000 standard areas. The grants come with a series of conditions and criteria which have to be met.

The Croft House Grant team in the Tiree office (01879 220240) will advise you and explain how you apply.

Grants for renovations

A DISABLED person can apply for a grant for works to adapt their home to meet their needs, even if they are not the owner or tenant.

Repair grants may be available from Historic Scotland for the repair of buildings which are considered to be of outstanding historic or architectural interest, or are located in an outstanding conservation area.

Scottish Building Society

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A mortgage is one of the most important financial commitments you will make, and the Scottish Building Society is committed to providing an 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



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From small project to large, it is important that you feel confident that you are receiving the advice that helps you to achieve what you are looking for. Give us a call, and come for an initial meeting in our office which is free of charge.



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In the A to Z of building a home, A is for architect. They are right there at the start and will be with you until the job is done.

YOU wouldn't knit a sweater without a pattern; you wouldn't build a home without plans.

If a kit home is not for you then you will need an architect and if you are embarking on your first self-build project, relax, your architect has built many, many of them.

You may know what you want in your head; an architect will translate your dreams into plans and also into reality.

Note the word reality because it is an architect's job to design a house for you that will meet all the real-life regulations, not just what you want but all the legal requirements to satisfy planning permission and building warrants and within the constraints of your plot of land and your budget.

They will also help with applying for the necessary permissions and be involved in site inspections if you wish.

Working with an architect can be very personal. Choosing an architect might not get down to a marriage bureau or dating app levels, but it can feel as though it comes pretty close at times.

Once again, research pays off; have you seen houses in your area that you like? Have you spoken to people who have completed self-build projects? Who did they use, who

have you heard good things about?

Expect to have some long and serious conversations; after listening to you they might recommend a kit home. In helping you make decisions about your home they will ask a lot of questions about your life and what you need from a house.

Not just how many bedrooms, but will you be working from home and need an office or study; do you want a room especially for your own interests like music or crafts, a room which then can be incorporated back into the main living space easily should you ever move.

How much do you like to entertain? Will your kitchen be a living and dining area, will you have a separate dining room? Would you prefer a smaller kitchen with a utility room for laundry, or a mud room for outdoor gear, dogs and riding tack or your fishing tackle or a built-in gun cabinet?

Do you need a shower downstairs for your muddy outdoor lifestyle? Will some en-suite bathrooms save traffic jams in the morning as you get yourselves and the kids off to work and school?

Or are you looking to the future and envisage your parents coming to live with you and want the house designed and positioned

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info@bowmanstewart.co.uk www.bowmanstewart.co.uk



on site in such a way that an annexe can be added later on.
 Do you stay home for your entertainment rather than go out? Would you like to create a media room for the box set bingers and gamers, or where you can go and chill out to your favourite music?
 A good architect can see our family life and build a home around it and see where you can comprise when necessary.
 This is the glory of self-build; our homes can

be as individual as our family needs are.
 Apart from all your dreams there is also the down-to-earth practical stuff: storage space, heating with solar panels, ground source, biomass and where the septic tank is going to go if you are in a remote spot.
 A good architect looks at the grand scheme of things and the minute detail and above all they are good listeners and good communicators with you, your builders and contractors and the local authority for planning and warrants.

CP Architects supports you all the way

New-build and renovated homes come to life with the support of CP Architects 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 individual client's needs are unique.

'It is never too early to come in to talk to us,' said Iain Campbell, 'to discuss your ideas and aspirations,

present and future requirements along with budget and programme constraints.

'We can help assess your options from the start; our design and technical expertise guides projects through from concept to completion.'

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



Sustainable design across all types of projects

Extensive experience in rural, coastal and remote environments

Residential • Commercial • Community



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About Bowman Stewart

Established in 1984 by Martin Stewart, Bowman Stewart is a family run practice providing architectural, engineering and surveying services throughout Argyll, the Highlands and Islands.

Bowman Stewart provides a wide-ranging service, from initial development appraisals through to full architectural services for dwellings. We have developed lasting relationships with many of our clients and enjoy many repeat commissions as a result.

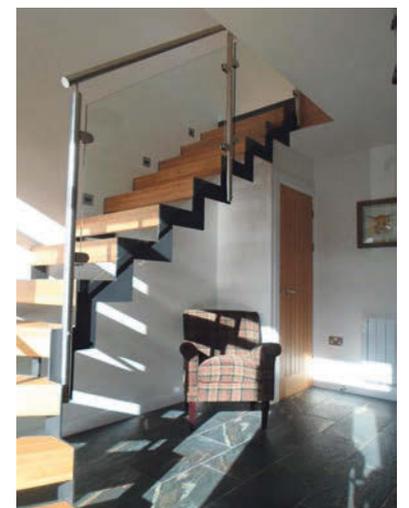
Bowman Stewart is registered with, and regulated by, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), the professional body for Chartered Surveyors and is also a Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) Chartered Practice. We are also accredited Certifiers for Design for the energy assessment of new dwellings.

Please contact Bowman Stewart on 01546 606 067 or e-mail info@bowmanstewart.co.uk to discuss your requirements.

Inspiring designs for your building project

AGL Architect strive to deliver stylish designs at competitive prices. You can see their designs on homes across the west coast of Scotland, including everything from small renovations to self-build houses. Working closely with clients from the planning stage right through to completion, they make any project as stress-free as possible.

Recent clients, Hugh and Fiona MacInnes from Tobermory, commented, "AGL Architect has a definite skill for identifying the personal and individual requirements of its clients whilst delivering a professional service at all times... We would use



them again and would definitely recommend them to friends and family."

Market leaders in self-build - Rob Roy Homes



Designed by James Denholm Partnership

Rob Roy Homes is a market leader in the manufacture and supply of high quality timber frame homes, residential developments and commercial buildings, our customers ranging from self-builders and small building contractors right through to large contractors. We specialise in one-off projects and can provide various specification options to suit our customers' individual taste and requirements.

We have been manufacturing timber frame buildings for over 25 years, and during that time we have gained vast experience

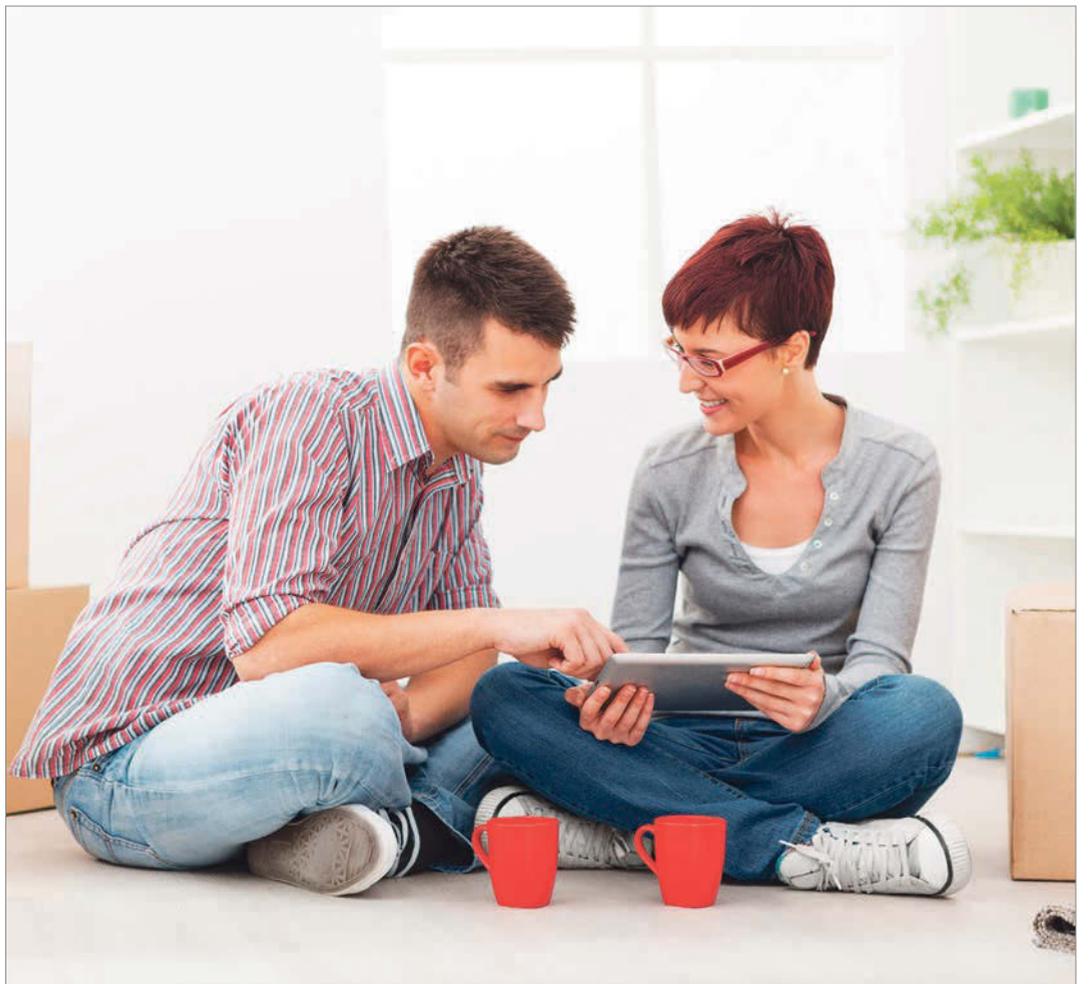
and a wealth of knowledge relating to all aspects of timber frame construction. This expertise translates into an exceptional customer experience throughout the entire process.

We offer a variety of thermally enhanced wall constructions to make our end product extremely energy efficient, and to exceed both building regulations and customer expectations.

Whatever stage you are at in planning your project, we would be delighted to hear from you to discuss how we can assist.

Decisions, decisions

Kit homes can be tailored to your needs



SO WHAT is it going to be? You have decided on a home, picked out the fittings and fixtures you want and are already dreaming of paint colours for the finished house.

But what about the actual construction job: who is going to do it.

It all boils down to the two main ingredients in a self-build project: time and money.

Under estimating how much you have of either can really be the make-or-break of any self-build.

One advantage of having a kit home supplier build your home for you is that they will have their own team of proven tradesmen and women who have worked together before and they know this product inside out – literally! You are saving on time but you are paying for expertise and experience.

You might decide to put the work in the hands of a building firm you know and trust; in the West Highlands the chances are that good building companies will have worked on the big name companies' kits.

Or you are in the building trade yourself and can put together your own team. Job done.

You might decide to project manage the build yourself and hire in the trades and skills as needed. This could save money but most people who go down this route will tell you that the demands on your time will be far greater than you anticipate.

What ever decision you make, make sure you have backed it up with some very, very serious number crunching and a realistic approach to your own availability and ability.

Rob Roy HOMES

Specialists in the supply of high quality timber frame houses to your own design and specification



Contact us to discuss your own building project
Visit our website for up to date news and
information on our 2018 Open Days



Rob Roy Homes
Dalchonzie, Comrie, Perthshire, PH6 2LB
Tel: 01764 670424 www.robroyhomes.co.uk



The whole kit and caboodle!

Today's kits are so adaptable to you and your family's tastes and style that their designers and builders can create a bespoke look for you. No wonder this is the most popular route to a new home for self-builders.

WHEN we say the whole kit and caboodle, we mean it.

The dictionary tells us caboodle is a noun, informal, and means, 'The whole number or quantity of people or things in question' and that sums up the benefits of choosing a kit home.

You can have the 'whole' answer to your self-build.

You buy the entire house and most of the companies that supply kit homes will provide you with a service to take care of planning permission, building warrants and even deliver and build your new home for you.

And if we are talking words, then 'kit home' just doesn't do these properties justice.

The word 'kit' is way too small to describe what a big choice there is. 'Kit' somehow conjures up something that comes out of a box and is put together with glue. Something where one size fits all and you will take what you are given.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Go online and check out the websites of all the leading suppliers, producers and builders of these homes. They offer you everything from a neat studio-style property through to a bungalow, right up to country mansion.

Once the choice has been made you can 'flip' the design to suit your choice and the location. Come in the door and the original plan says lounge on the right kitchen on the left? How about the other way round? No problem.

These kits are designed with customisation in mind. Want to add a sun lounge, conservatory, garage, double garage? Many of the original house plans are



designed to allow you to add these features.

Is there someone in your family with special needs? Bathrooms can become wet rooms, doorways widened to be wheelchair friendly and joists strengthened where you need to add a hoist.

A kit home, precision manufactured away from the site, can be built far more quickly and that is a bonus when the West Highland climate decides to assert itself.

Some kit home manufacturers have the ability to take your architect's drawings and use their production techniques to build your home from start to finish and give you a bespoke service.

When it comes to the interior, they can offer an incredible number of fixtures and fittings, from the doors, skirting and window frames through to the finished look of your staircase.

They create and build many different styles of home for many different people and so the choice of bathrooms and kitchens and flooring reflects that wide range; you can even source fittings from other suppliers if you have your heart set on a particular style or type and they will carry out the installation.

steel frame house on-site can be quick as much can be made in advance off site.

Brick and block

An outer brick wall and then an inner wall with an insulating material between.

Alternative

Across the West Highlands and islands you will find many interesting alternative styles of building; eco friendly and energy saving ideas; turf roofs, insulated concrete form work; water recycling and energy generating.

They are fascinating and use many pioneering techniques. Perhaps the only thing holding people back from experimenting this way is that traditional lenders will not give mortgages.

Fleming Homes

Exceptional one-off timber frame designs tailored to suit your individual requirements.



Fleming Homes has been supplying bespoke timber frame homes to the self-build market for over 30 years. With an unrivalled passion for the traditional values of self-build the Company is committed to maintaining these traditions through exceptional one-off timber frame designs, quality products and excellent service. From its free design service to erection, the Company offer expert advice

and solutions across all stages of the self-build process including planning, building regulations, full material specification, structural engineering, construction design, timber frame manufacture, erection and supply across the UK and overseas. For specialist timber frame advice tailored to your individual project contact Jason Hartley on 07712 305381 or 01361 883785.

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Contact us today and let us help you realise your dream self-build project!



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Choices, choices

YOU have decided that self-build is the way forward for you, but the big question is: what type of home are you going to build then?

Timber frame

The house has a basic wooden frame, covered in waterproof material (like stone or bricks). A number of companies sell timber frame 'kit homes', which are house styles that have already been designed and just need to be put together. This remains one of the most popular choices in the West Highlands.

Steel frame construction

Once the steel frame is built, panels are attached to it. These are coated, or made waterproof in some other way. Building a

Norscot

Self-build doesn't have to be stressful or expensive



Most would-be self-builders don't succeed because they start off thinking they need a 'grand design', which almost inevitably they can't afford.

Worse, such designs rarely offer value for money and may result in unaffordable levels of debt, with all the stress that entails. But self-build doesn't have to be like that.

Norscot offers an alternative approach with a wide range of flexible designs, which can be tailored to the way you want to live, at a price you can afford.

With Norscot, there's no need to employ an architect, you are guided through the whole process. You may add space and change the layout. And, create dramatic and light filled spaces with glazing options that make the most of the view.

At their core, Norscot kits are supplied with the acclaimed 'EcoWall' external wall construction, which provides levels of insulation almost double that required by building regulations. So, not only are Norscot homes cheaper and easier to build, they also offer superior eco credentials, making them cheaper to heat too.

Clearly, with Norscot, you get a home that perfectly fits you, your family and your budget. You don't have to compromise.



INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED • ENERGY SAVING ECO KIT HOMES

Expertly manufactured in the far north of Scotland to specifications which exceed current Building Standards



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Common mistakes to avoid

People self-building 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 plan 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. This 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 what the price includes.
- 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.



MacLeod Construction Limited

Bespoke kits for a modern home

MacLeod Construction is the largest timber frame design and manufacturing company in the area with 40 years of experience and proven track record for quality timber frame construction. Using the very latest methods and materials they design every frame and panel with the latest software before manufacturing the kit with an automated frame-maker, it's quick, easy and accurate.

Our homes are stylish, spacious and affordable and can be customised to your requirements.

Building a kit home is faster, easier and less wasteful than a traditional build. Our kits are highly insulated and come with double-glazing to help keep your heating bills down. All our kits have been designed to accommodate the latest renewable heating systems.

We are able to offer a full range of services from obtaining plan-

ning permission and building warrant right through to completion.

To help streamline your build-process you can pick and choose trades from any of our extensive services divisions:

- Plumbing & Electrical
- Window & Doors
- Conservatories
- Roofing
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Milligan Transport: *Delivery problem solved*

No matter how remote your delivery in the West Highlands and Islands, Milligan Transport can do it.

This Mallaig-based company specialises in land and sea transport. They delivered an alligator to the Isle of Rum to act in a television documentary so your kit home or building materials will be all in a day's work.

The star of the show is the landing craft *Spanish John 2*, actually the third vessel to carry the name; the original, a Navy-surplus vessel was legendary in West Highland waters. This incarnation was Clyde-built in 2003 at Alexander Noble and Sons of Girvan.

Sitting at 20m long and 6.5m wide, deck cargo can be up to 40 tons. Power comes from twin 236 hp Daewoo engines. Loading can be either via the 3.6m wide bow door ramp, or with a 23t per metre Palfinger hydraulic crane operated by radio remote control.

They deliver equipment and feed to fish farms daily. Plant and diggers are regular cargos and so are sand and aggregates, council skip lorries with refuse and recycling skips, towing fish farm cages. She has also been a platform for movie making and also featured in the new Ford Eco Sport advert that has just started airing on tv.



For all your Highlands and Islands transport logistics...



Milligan Transport is a family run company based in Mallaig, specialising in the movement of freight, by road and by sea including the famous Spanish John 2

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 Spanish John www.milligantransportltd.co.uk

An island 1

Do you want to join an island community or build yourself a home in magnificent isolation on the mainland? Don't be daunted by the logistics, when it comes to living on islands or in remote rural places, we've been doing it for centuries... we're experts.

IF YOU can comply with all the planning permissions, building warrants and regulations, and you have the money, you can build anywhere; it's a simple fact of life. That includes the remotest spot you can find on the West Highland mainland or the islands.

There are islands that would be offended if you called them remote. Do not forget that in Argyll, with its many peninsulas, and Lochaber's wild mountains there are places on the mainland that it can take longer to reach than an island with a ferry service.

Remember that people have lived here for centuries; people in this part of the world know how to get to remote places – and how to get very large loads to remote places. We've had plenty of practice.

Do not just take our word for it; take a walk along to the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry terminals at Oban or Kennacraig. You will see the skilled deck hands loading builders' merchants' lorries laden down with materials and roof trusses bound for Mull and Islay and from there onto Jura or Iona.

Many of you will have quietly cursed under your breath and reversed back to a passing place to let a lorry carrying earth moving plant go by, on its way to dig out some new foundations.

It is easier, for example, to get planning permission to build on a plot in the communities of Tobermory on Mull or Bowmore on the Isle of Islay than a remote mainland spot which is in the middle of an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) where you will find yourself having to provide reports on environmental impact to bodies like SEPA (Scottish Environmental Protection Agency). You might have to prove that there is a need for a house in this particular spot or there could be residency conditions linked to employment.

No community ever stands still; new houses or renovations and extensions are always taking place. Early contact with the council planning department will always pay dividends, especial-



ly the pre-planning guidance on offer.

Islands and remote rural communities are desperate for new families. Your children might mean the difference between a closure or an extra teacher for a primary school. The different areas have different incentives to help make this happen.

Utilities can be expensive and take time to install in a remote location; but nothing that cannot be solved with an innovative approach to waste water disposal, a good quality private water supply and system (it will need to be tested and approved) and the many alternative types of power generation available today. There are some excellent examples to be found all over this region; many of them award-winning.

Just don't be naïve when it comes to the extra expenditure of cash and time - but one of the ways you can help keep this as low as possible is to be thoroughly, thoroughly organised. You have to be right first time, or face a day-and-a-half ferry journey, or an 80-mile round trip on single-track roads, to return the wrong part for the right one or pick up extra materials, while the weather closes in or workers have to wait.

Don't even let the lack of a ferry service

Life for me!



worry you; transport companies here have boats and vehicles that can get anywhere. You will see a ferry timetable tucked on the dash board of many a builder's van along with the obligatory old copies of the *Daily Record* and a few used paper coffee cups and crisp bags. Everyone has got the CalMac app on their mobile phones. Ferries do not just take you to islands; they will also cut your journey time on the way to mainland peninsulas at Corran Ferry, in Lochaber, and Portavadie to Tarbert in Argyll.

One obvious piece of advice is make sure that the majority of the build project takes place during the summer timetable when there are more ferries running, often earlier and later in the day – a blessing for your logistics.

If you are transporting materials and people yourself, remember to book well in advance during the height of the tourist season and on days when major events like Highland games and agricultural shows are taking place. You will also have the advantage of longer daylight and (hopefully) better weather.

Land

If you already have a plot then one of the

hardest parts of the job is over.

If you are searching for a plot always check the ease and cost of connecting to utilities in this location. Make sure that you have a right of access; some roads can look public but are in private ownership and you might have to cross someone else's land to get to yours.

Also make sure that you are not in a black spot for mobile phone reception (not uncommon) and that you can pick up a satellite signal or are in range for Freeview for terrestrial broadcasting. But that said, you will be pleasantly surprised by how many islands and remote communities do have superfast broadband thanks to government investment.

Materials and design

If living on an island with a stunning sea view or in a remote rural spot is your dream remember that by your very choice you will almost certainly experience West Highland and island weather at its most enthusiastic.

Design and materials should be used accordingly and that does not just mean your home. Your garden will need hedging, shrub screens, and plants that are salt spray, deer and rabbit-proof.

Thorne Wyness Architects

Thorne Wyness Architects are an inventive and dynamic architects partnership based on the Isle of Mull and covering the West Coast of Scotland. We are interested in making the most of any situation and we listen carefully to our clients needs, drawing on the

specifics of site and location. Our aim is to create sustainable and generous architecture and we are interested in projects of any scale or complexity. Our practice designs focus on energy conservation and this ethos is inherent in all of our work.

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Backwoodsman

When designing a new house it makes good sense to consider the heating system as early on as possible since the SAP calculations can impact significantly on the overall design and cost of the building. Specifying a wood burning stove as part of your heating plan can help you achieve a very worthwhile reduction of emissions for the SAP calculations – in practice this offers useful carbon ‘credit’ which can be traded off against other design aspects of the house. A stove is an extremely efficient space heater that can be run very economically in the super-insulated modern houses of today. It also provides a valuable and comforting source of heat during a prolonged power cut in an otherwise electric reliant system.



And of course it goes without saying that a stove is a great looking visual asset which gives a ‘heart’ to the home and provides the perfect focal point to gather family and friends around! If you are building or renovating and are interested to know what benefits a stove could add as part of your heating mix then get in touch. With over 40 years’ experience we can talk you through all the options available and work out what fits your needs best. Call us on 01631 720539.



Backwoodsman



Our family run business has distributed stoves and chimneys and provided a heating consultancy service for Argyll, Lochaber and the Western Isles for over 40 years.

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Getting your new home on the grid

As far as your kids are concerned broadband and a mobile signal are essential, never mind about mains water!

OUR great-great grandparents’ memories of the Tilley lamp, the earth closet at the end of the garden and the water pump alongside the big stone sink are slowly fading from memory.

There are very few people left alive today who can recall them – though chances are many of us still have a few Tilley lamps on standby for power cuts.

The utilities we expect today were luxuries back then and some of what we consider basic utilities now were just plain unheard of, luxury or not.

Electricity, water and sewerage are just expected to be available and if we are too far away from mains water or drains or power lines then the technology exists to provide them. ‘Town gas’ in our major population centres is backed up with gas or oil tanks at our homes outwith the gas supply areas.

We also expect landline and mobile telephones and television and broadband as standard utilities laid on in our homes.

When self-building many plots will already be connected to services, or be close to them.

It is a good plan, early on, when looking for a plot to buy to ask about the ease of connecting up to services and the cost; for some budgets this could be a decisive factor in whether to go ahead with the purchase or not.

It goes without saying that getting services on site as soon as possible is an important step. Builders will need power tools and water right from the start.

Ask your kids what they would think of living in a house with no, or painfully slow, wi-fi, with no mobile network and in a shadow unable to pick up satellite television or

Freeview via terrestrial television. To kids, these services are basic utilities they cannot imagine living without.

Ask some families what they would rather have: a dining room where they can sit and eat together and talk, or a media room where they can watch Sky or Netflix or play games on a massive, wall-covering television with a sound system that rattles the triple-glazing. You know what the answer is going to be.

So it makes sense to check these services out. You might be pleasantly surprised because of the amount of investment in broadband for remote and rural locations by the government. Remember mobile signals can be boosted via broadband.

Energy and renewables

Building a new home means you can benefit from the latest energy-saving technology from the day you move in

INSTALLING green technologies in your self-build offers the chance of energy savings and might also qualify for government schemes or loans.

Organisations like Home Energy Scotland can provide free, in-depth advice custom-designed to your style of home and circumstances.

They can talk you thorough the options for energy saving and generating your own energy for heating or electricity.

Though there have been changes in recent years, renewable heat incentive schemes still exist and so do feed in tariff schemes for the use of small small-scale, renewable and low-carbon technologies to generate electricity.

Air source heat pumps provide the right energy solution for these householders

It's expected that half of Scotland's energy will come from renewable sources by 2030. Change is happening right across the country and nearly 400 householders across the Highlands and Islands are among those leading the way.

They are members of the 1,100-strong Green Homes Network in Scotland, which connects anyone thinking of installing renewables and other efficient new heating systems with people who have travelled that path already. We talked to two Green Homes Network members - Tim Johnston of Lentrán near Inverness and Mathieson Ross of Aviemore - about their experience of using air source heat pumps and their reasons for installing them in their mid-20th century properties.

Air source heat pumps extract heat from the outside air and convert it into useful energy which can be used to heat radiators, under-floor heating systems and provide hot water in your home. Why did you choose to install an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP)?

Tim: When we purchased the property the only energy source was electricity. We looked at our options and the air source heat pump seemed the best option environmentally and economically.

Mathieson: We decided to install a heat pump due to the excessively high oil prices – the kick in the wallet was the biggest incentive to change our oil fired system to a renewable one.

Is it simple to operate?

T: Yes, once you have got used to the user interface and lived with the system for a few weeks, it is straightforward.

M: Yes it's as simple as any other central heating system – you just set the temperature and time of day as required.

Is it easy to control the temperature in different parts of the house?

T: The thermostat is placed in one room, in our case the kitchen, and once that room reaches the set temperature the pump will shut down. We have smart radiators in all the rooms so they can be adjusted to control individual room temperatures.

M: An underfloor system would have different controls but we use thermostatic radiator valves on our system to control the heat in different rooms.

Is it noisy?

T: The unit is situated outside and it is much quieter than we anticipated. The smart radiators can be a little noisy when they are blowing out warm air but after a while you don't really notice.

M: It is much less noisy than an oil or gas boiler and doesn't emit any fumes.

How do the running costs compare to your previous heating system?

T: We have never had another heating system so cannot compare. When we bought the property we had our system installed before we moved in. We also installed a wood burner in the lounge.

M: Our fuel bills have halved since installing our air source heat pump.

Does it heat your hot water?

T: Yes, it has a programme for heating domestic hot water (DHW) and for disinfection to prevent Legionella.

M: Yes.

Does it work well in winter?

T: We have had two winters with it so far and it has performed well with no problems.

M: Yes - even in the very cold Aviemore winters. Our system has worked with an outside temperature of minus 23 °C. In very cold weather it will require more fuel but that would be true of any system.

What advice would you give to someone considering ASHP?

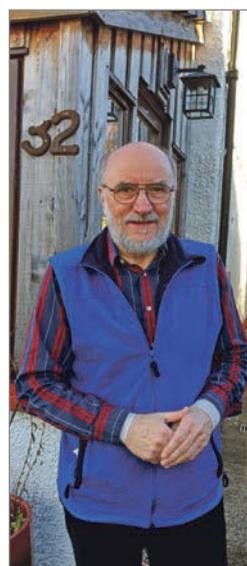
T: Look at all your options before making a decision. For a heat pump to work efficiently you need to have good all-round insulation as the less heat that's lost from your home the more efficient the system. The initial outlay can seem quite expensive but we are getting around 50% of this back over seven years with the domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) payments, plus savings on our energy use. If you think an ASHP is your best option then I would say you should seriously consider it.

M: Insulate your home first. I would also recommend installing solar panels with a power diverter which will heat your hot water in the summer and prolong the life of your heat pump.

Do you have any other advice or information?

T: If you are thinking of installing an ASHP system make sure you get at least three quotes and also make sure you choose reputable companies who know what they are doing regarding installing heat pumps. It's a good idea to ask around.

M: Against the advice that they would not work in the cold Aviemore winters, we went ahead and fitted an ASHP and we're really glad that we did. We now have less than half the fuel bill that we had before installing. Apart from the savings in fuel bills, the newly increased RHI for heat pumps should be more than enough incentive. It's a green issue too, good for you and good for the planet – definitely a win-win.



Ross Mathieson at his home in Aviemore



Tim's partner Fiona outside Lentrán

Tim lives in a detached property with insulated cavity walls and Mathieson's is a semi-detached home with insulated cavity walls.

Home Energy Scotland is a Scottish Government programme managed by

the Energy Saving Trust. Its network of local advice centres covers all of Scotland and expert advisors offer free, impartial advice on energy saving, renewable energy, sustainable transport, waste prevention and more.

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THINKING ABOUT A HEAT PUMP IN YOUR HOME?

Beneath the surface Scotland is a warm place. However, is a heat pump the right option for you and your home?

We can give you free, impartial and in-depth advice on the best renewables options. We can also provide information on financial support available, including an interest free loan of up to £10,000 from the Scottish Government.

Speak to a renewables advisor at Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282.

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Air source heat pumps: Costs, savings and financial support

A typical ASHP installation costs around £6,000 to £8,000 and the Scottish Government is currently funding an interest-free loan of up to £10,000 to help with the installation cost. In addition, under the UK Government's domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme, you could receive quarterly cash payments over seven years if you install or have already installed an eligible renewable heating technology.

Running costs will vary depending on a number of factors like the size of your home, how well insulated it is and what room temperatures suit you.

How much you can save will depend on what system you use now, as well as what you are replacing it with.

Existing system	Annual fuel bill saving*	Potential annual RHI payments (installations between 20 September and 31 December 2017)
Old electric storage heaters	£735 - £820	£1,140 - £1,235
New electric storage heaters	£410 - £445	£1,140 - £1,235
Old (G-rated) oil boiler	£290 - £315	£1,140 - £1,235
New (A-rated) oil boiler	An increase of £155 - £165	£1,140 - £1,235
Old (G-rated) LPG boiler	£1,000 - £1,090	£1,140 - £1,235
New (A-rated) LPG boiler	£290 - £315	£1,140 - £1,235
Old (G-rated) gas boiler	£455 - £485	£1,140 - £1,235
New (A-rated) gas boiler	An increase of £10 - £15	£1,140 - £1,235
Coal	£415 - £465	£1,140 - £1,235

*The figures above are based on average fuel prices, which vary across the UK. We can help you work out savings based on energy costs in your area.

Take action

Call Home Energy Scotland free on 0808 808 2282 to arrange a visit to a Green Homes Network member, or to book a free home visit from one of our home energy specialists to discuss if an ASHP or other renewable system would suit your home.

Why build to Passivhaus standard?



Photo credit: Andrew Michler

The international Passivhaus standard is the world's leading standard in energy-efficient building design. In this article, Passivhaus designer Es Tresidder of HighlandPassive.com explains why you should consider going for Passivhaus certification for your new-build or retrofit project, and how you should go about it.

The Passivhaus standard is well known as an energy-efficiency standard, and it certainly does that well – Passivhaus-certified buildings typically require 90% less heating than existing buildings, or 70% less than typical new-builds (think annual heating bills of around £100 for a 2-3 bedroom house, for the house being warm 24 hours a day). They achieve this through high levels of continuous insulation, high-quality triple glazing, airtight construction and careful design and attention to detail.

But Passivhaus buildings offer more than just energy efficiency, they are also more comfortable, more robust and healthier to live in. Here's how.

More comfortable in winter (and summer)

Passivhaus-standard buildings feel warmer. Walls, roofs and ground floors are better insulated, and the insulation in each element meets the insulation in the other elements with no gaps (thermal bridges). This, coupled with high-quality triple glazed windows, means that the temperatures of the surfaces surrounding you are higher. Warm surfaces mean you lose less heat via radiation and feel warmer. Airtight construction and well-designed ventilation systems eliminate draughts. Well-designed Passivhaus buildings also perform better in summer, staying cooler when the weather gets hot.

More robust

Because Passivhaus buildings are extremely airtight and well ventilated, warm, moisture-laden

air does not leak through the building fabric. This eliminates the risk of hidden, long-term moisture problems within the structure of a building.

Healthier to live in

Plentiful fresh air is provided via mechanical ventilation with heat recovery. This means better indoor air quality than naturally ventilated buildings. Better ventilation and warmer surface temperatures mean that mould, which increases the risk of asthma, respiratory infections and allergies, is eliminated. Occupants often remark on an improvement in respiratory health problems, and an improvement in sleep quality.

How do I build myself a Passivhaus?

The easiest way is to work with a certified Passivhaus designer. This could be your architect (some architects are Passivhaus certified), or a designer who helps your architect design to the standards required. The earlier you get the Passivhaus designer involved, the simpler and cheaper it will be – ideally right at the very start of the project, before any of the design work starts.

The Highlands and Islands are the coldest, windiest places to build a house in the UK, and we spend a lot of our time indoors escaping the weather. On top of that we have some of the highest fuel and electricity prices in the UK. Here, more than anywhere, Passivhaus makes sense; for your comfort, your wallet, your health and the health of the planet.

Recommended resources

UK Passivhaus trust: <http://passivhaustrust.org.uk/>

Excellent magazine focussing on Passivhaus: <https://passivehouseplus.ie/>

Passivhaus blog: <https://elrondburrell.com/>

Passivhaus-focussed podcast: <http://www.houseplanninghelp.com/>

Highland Passive website and blog: www.highlandpassive.com



Passivhaus design for new-build and retrofit projects throughout the Highlands and Islands.

Why Passivhaus?

- More comfortable: Warmer in the winter, cooler in the summer
 - Healthier: Better indoor air quality
- More robust: Airtightness eliminates risk of moisture damage to structure
- Quieter: Twice as quiet as typical new build - great for sites near busy roads
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A one stop shop for air source heat pumps and Solar PV all our client advice, consultations and recommendations are free and without obligation.

If you are building or renovating and are thinking about installing a renewable technology to heat your home or generate electricity then contact us today and speak to one of our experienced, qualified and friendly Domestic Energy Advisers.

Testimonial

We were very impressed by the advice given on system practicalities, costs and government help by the Smart Group surveyor Norman Paterson. The friendly and efficient team of carpet fitter, joiners, plumbers and electricians completed the installation in only two days, incredible since the old storage heaters had to be removed and complete piping had to be installed for the new radiator system, with changes to hot and cold water systems - all in temperatures below freezing.

Laurie Thompson, Carluke

Mitsubishi Ecodan Coastal Unit with Robot Underfloor Heating System.

Renovation on Isle of Arran



Underfloor system in place prior to screeding.



System after screed has been laid. Inset: The external heat pump



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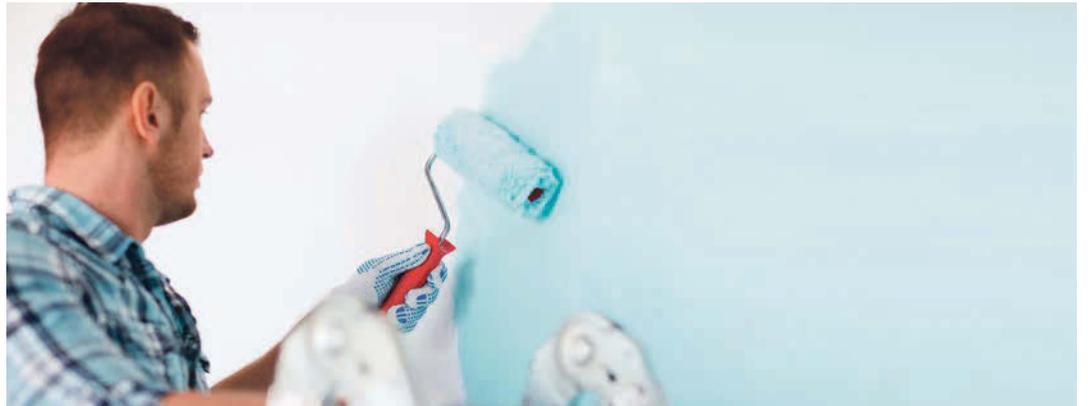
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Is your renovation your great innovation?

Which renovator are you? The one who has bought an uninhabitable shell to turn into a home or the one who wants to breathe new life and space into the home they have loved for so long.



THERE you were, searching for the perfect plot of land upon which to self-build your dream home and suddenly there it was: the wreck you knew you had to rescue.

The roof is all but gone, you can see the rafters; one wall has buckled in, the others are only standing out of force of habit but you can see what it can be once again.

Friends think you are crazy and that it would be cheaper just to bulldoze the entire site and start again, but you know differently.

It is all down to the 'three Rs' of renovation, restoration or remodelling. What needs to be done?

Renovation is renewing what you already have in place and adding new parts where necessary, whether it is floor boards or an entire wall. Restoration returns a room or home back to its former glory, respecting the original, or period, features. Remodelling changes the actual structure or use; like ripping out a wall, moving the kitchen to the other side of the house, or adding an extra bathroom, sunroom or annexe.

The chances are that you will probably be doing a mixture of all three.

If the property is a listed building, or in a conservation area, you must apply for the necessary permissions.

A house that is run down and in need of repair can be a potential bargain and be the best way to put your finances to work and get more

home for your money.

For a start they will almost always have road access, water, electricity, sewerage and mains gas, where available making it easier, quicker and cheaper to get connected to the services.

Take into account that in more rural spots when there is a septic tank this might need renewing or repair and if there is a private water supply it might not comply with the latest standards or pass the newer health tests without some major work being carried out.

You will need a surveyor's report. Remember that if it is a major endeavour, comparable to building a new home, an architect will prove just as valuable on this project.

If it is a very old and decaying property the first jobs will be to stabilise it and stop any further decay.

Planning permission and building warrants will be needed for a major rebuild or remodelling, but if you can keep within permitted development rights this will save more money. These rights can vary and what might have been fine where you lived before in the UK might not be the same in your new location.

Once again this is where planning officers can advise you.

Though they are becoming more rare there can be grants or VAT concessions available for certain costs. It is worth checking to see if you qualify.



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Don't move – improve



YOU love your home it is in a great place, with a good primary school nearby and you have all made some valued friends in the area, so you want stay put and renovate.

It might be that essential structural work needs to be done or a complete re-wire; that major fixtures like the heating, bathroom or kitchen are so tired they have to be changed.

A central heating system is a major investment and not something you make very often so you will be amazed at how more efficient and well-designed your new investment is.

This work is going to cause some upheaval, so while you are at it why not do it all in one go and remodel to include a utility room, a new bigger porch or knock the dining room and kitchen into a big, bright and modern family living space.

Think of your house as a blank canvas, and paint a new masterpiece for your family. A

brand new home would have an en-suite bathroom, or an extra shower room and additional lavatory downstairs, so why not add these to yours?

Not only will they make your home more enjoyable but also these kind of improvements will put your house back at the top of the list of attractive properties if you should ever change your mind and sell. Suddenly your older house would be well able to compete with far newer properties with more extras.

If it makes emotional sense to stay put and renovate, it also makes sound economical sense as well if you sit down and really plan out what you needs to be done and what you would like to do as well. Consulting an architect and a financial advisor might give you a pleasant surprise and you can afford to do more than you think because of the value the work will add to your property, a real win-win situation.



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The finishing touches that bring the look together



When it comes to interior design don't leave it all to the end; some of the last needs to be thought of first.

INTERIOR design is often left until last or towards the end of the project in a self-build, which is a shame as this can be the cause of some costly mistakes or regrets.

To avoid ever having to say 'Oh, if only we had...' or 'With hindsight we should have...' try and put some of the major aspects of your interior design right at the start of the project.

It might seem obvious but when the electrician is doing the work he or she needs to know how you plan to light the room and where the plug sockets for all those table and reading lamps should be.

Interior design isn't just about colours it is about textures and that includes walls, fitted kitchen cabinet finishes, wall and floor tiles and the glass in the shower panels and the spindles in the stair case. Everything coarsely textured and rustic looks plain wrong and everything nice and smooth and shining looks downright clinical. A blend to suit

your tastes looks just right.

And then there is the added stress of picking the wrong colour and detracting from the marvellous features you have build into the design. No wonder many people play it safe with a neutral colour.

But help is at hand because the internet is near to bursting with interior design with pictures of incredible interiors and website after website of advice.

You might not feel the urge to go the whole hog and create your own 'mood board' but collating a number of photographs is a seriously good idea. As the military always say: 'time spent in recognisance is never wasted', even if it is for scatter cushions.

And the other good news is that one-to-one help has never been more readily available in the shape of interior designers. Hiring an interior designer no longer looks like an extravagance if you are building anything less than a mansion; it looks like common sense.

A trained eye will look at the space you are creating and help you achieve the right balance of colours, textures and proportions to balance the lighting, your furniture and the types of fabrics you prefer. You can bounce ideas of them and listen as they suggest things you would have never thought of in a million years.

Often an interior designer will help you with major aspects and once a scheme is in place leave you to fill in the gaps and source those unique and personal finishing touches.

Like your architect they will listen to what you want to achieve and ask how your family will use the space; what your interests and tastes are along with your lifestyle and together help produce your dream home.

And to achieve the best possible result for those major aspects it really pays to contact an interior designer sooner rather than later. You will be amazed how much money – and indecision – they will save you.

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ently high levels of repeat business and referrals as a result of gaining a real understanding of the client's needs.

McKinven & 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.

If you are planning a self-build project give McKinven & Colville a call to discuss how they can work with you.

The crowning glory

Doesn't your new home deserve the perfect setting?

PHEW, that's it! The job is done, the builders have gone, all you can smell is new paint and new carpet.

The house looks great; everyone who walks in goes 'Wow!'

But what about outside?

The chances are that right now your pride and glory, the home that you have saved for, worried over and about which you have had some sleepless nights, is standing in a sea of mud and stones, with the occasional lump of concrete here and there.

It is time for the finishing, finishing touch: the landscaping.

The backbone of the exterior design was decided long ago: the render, finish, stain, paint, roof tiles; the driveway and path materials were chosen, more or less, right at the start.

Now comes the part where you take a builder's site and work some magic, to bring the whole exterior together.

A little bit of early planning goes a long way: the location of exterior power points and water taps should be agreed upon and sited early on, on the site and during the building work. Now is the time to put them to work.

Once upon a time outdoor lighting was a light over the front and back doors and garage and if you had a couple of free standing lights you were being a bit posh. Those days are gone because the range of outdoor lighting is unbelievable today; downlights, lights to go under the eaves; what ever you can imagine it can be provided.

Lighting, just like the colour of your front door handle and letter box, helps to create

the first impression of your home,

Despite what the gloom-mongers might say about the weather there is plenty of opportunity to entertain outdoors when living in the West Highlands and you can extend your evenings and the number of days if you are well equipped with outdoor lighting and heating. Yes, fire pits look great but how about some electric heaters on the wall above your decking or patio.

That's another great way to either extend your home outdoors or bring the outside inside: decking and patio areas are great additions to your home. These should be planned early on.

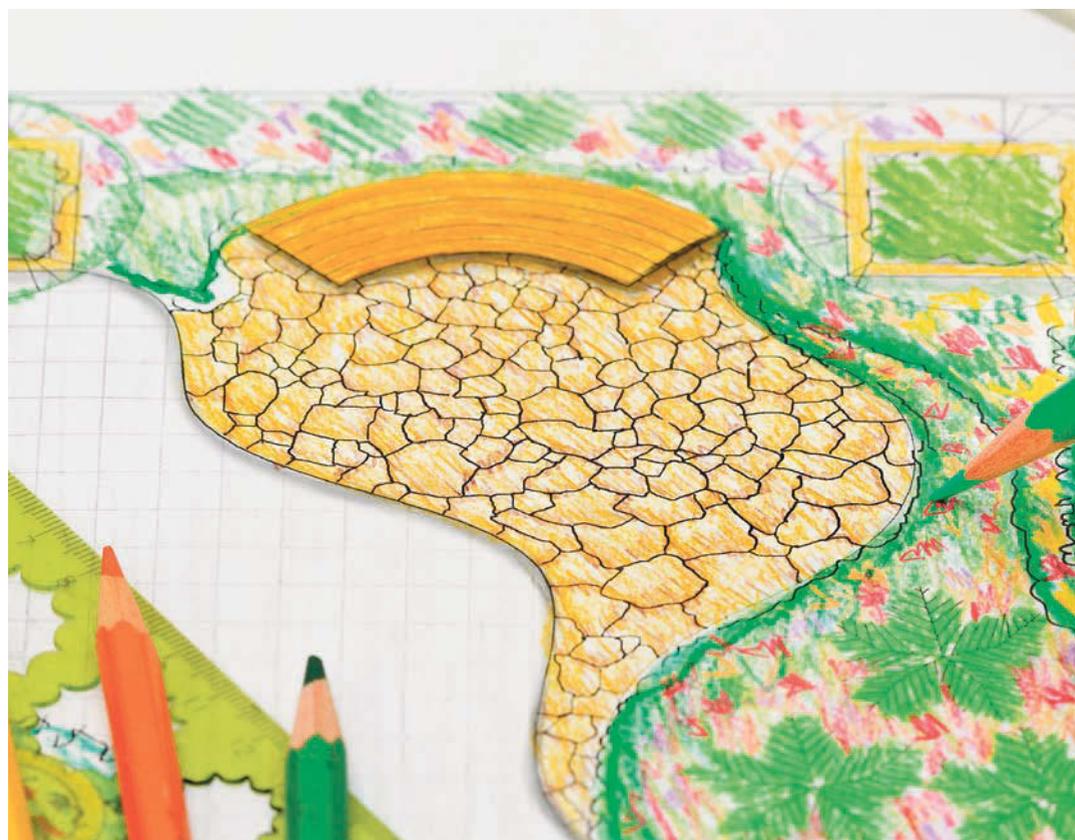
A good idea is that once your house is up and the interior is being worked on, go outside and take photographs of the house from all sides, plus from the road.

Take photographs looking out of the windows and once the stairs are in from all the upstairs windows.

Print out plenty of A4 copies and set to work doodling! Forget about those colouring-in books for grown-ups this is far more therapeutic. Draw your dream garden. If you plan to have raised beds your builder will probably install these as the work comes to a close.

What type of soil do you have? Will you need topsoil? A quick look at neighbouring established gardens will tell you what plants will thrive.

Ask family and friends to start dividing plants or taking cuttings for you and if you have a friend who is self-building a big bag of bulbs makes a great gift; every spring as their lawn fills with snowdrops they will think of you!




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Union award for Mull's Ronnie

MULL crofter Ronnie Campbell is this year's recipient of the stalwart award, presented annually by National Farmers Union Scotland's (NFUS) Argyll and the Islands region at its AGM.

The AGM, which took place in Tarbert on Friday January 12, saw NFUS President Andrew McCornick present the award to Mull's regional board member Jim Corbett,

who received it on behalf of Mr Campbell, who was unable to travel to the event.

The trophy will be presented formally to Mr Campbell at the next union branch meeting on Mull.

The award was created in 2016 in recognition and memory of the dedication shown by Mull's Bert Leitch and Lachlan MacLean.

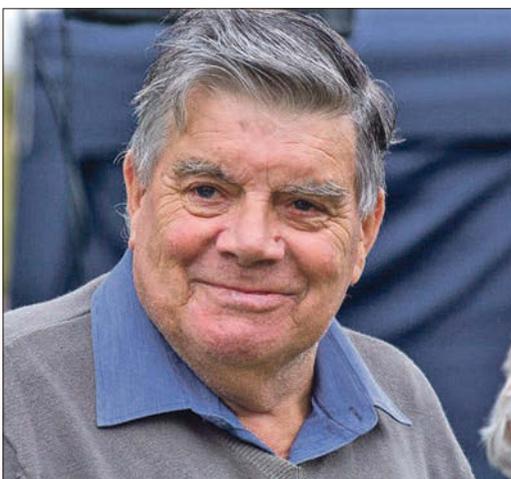
Both Bert and Lachlan, who represented

NFU Scotland's farmers and crofters both regionally and nationally, sadly passed away in 2015.

The award is presented annually to either a NFUS member who has followed in their footsteps and given their time and effort to the work of the union in Argyll and the Islands region or someone who has made a significant contribution to agriculture in the area.

The inaugural winner in 2017 was well known Dalmailly hill farmer Sybil MacPherson. Mr Campbell, who runs a croft at Uisken with his wife Sheila, is a popular winner for 2018.

For more than 25 years he represented Mull and crofters on the union's Crofting Highlands and Islands committee and is a past vice chairman of the



Ronnie Campbell. Photo: Gordon Bruce.

group. He also represented NFU Scotland on the industry's liaison group with Caledonian MacBrayne ferries as well as being a Crofting Commission assessor, a special constable and a forestry commission ranger and stalker.

Collecting the award on his behalf, Mr Corbett said: 'Ronnie's service to fellow members, which stretches

to more than quarter of a century, has us looking through the books to see if it is a record.

'Ronnie is delighted and honoured to receive this award and very sorry that he couldn't be here today to collect it himself. He has always enjoyed his time serving the union and wanted to thank the many wonderful people he has met over many years.'

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Andrew McCornick presents the award to Jim Corbett on Ronnie's behalf. 06_a03nfus07

Lively meeting with plenty to talk about

MORE than 50 delegates attended this year's regional NFU

Scotland AGM in Tarbert. Bute farmer John Dickson contin-

ued as regional chairman, with Peter Kennedy from Glendaruel

and Duncan Macalister from Glenbarr remaining vice chairmen.

At the meeting on January 12, union president Andrew McCornick and chief executive Scott Walker offered their thoughts as farming faces up to the unknown quantity that is Brexit.

This was followed by an afternoon panel session featuring retail

market consultant and agricultural champion, Marion MacCormick; co-chair of the National Council of Rural Advisors, Alison Milne; John Sleigh, editor of Farmers Journal Scotland; and president Andrew McCornick.

The panel was challenged from the floor to identify the opportunities for Argyll and the Islands in the future; the support that should be given to hill farming; how to create opportunities for new entrants and the loss of agricultural land to forestry.



The panel, left to right, Andrew McCornick, Marion MacCormick, John Dickson, John Sleigh and Alison Milne. 06_a03nfus08

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Entries open for Mid Argyll Music Festival

ENTRIES are open for the 2018 Mid Argyll Music Festival, which takes place from Saturday March 17 until Friday March 24.

Entries must be in by Wednesday January 31, and should be sent to the festival administrator.

New classes for this year's festival include harp and clarsach classes, which organisers hope will prove popular.

Entry forms and more information can be found on the festival website www.midargyllmusicfestival.webeden.co.uk or by contacting Fiona MacDonald on 07788 251038.



Holly Renton, Abbie Williams, centre, and Niamh Adams-McGill, right taking part in the 2016 festival.
06_a13mamf0406_a13mamf06

Mid Argyll Arts Association to screen film classic

MID ARGYLL Arts Association (MAAA) will be hosting a showing of *Local Hero* at the MAYDS Hall on Saturday January 27 at 7.30pm.

The film centres on Mac (Peter Riegert), a Houston hot-shot oil executive, whose life changes after a simple business trip to Scotland.

Sent to the small village of Ferness, on the west coast of Scotland, Mac hopes to buy the village and the surrounding properties so his company can build a new oil refinery.

But after a taste of Scottish rural life, Mac begins to question



The award-winning film whether he is in the right profession.

Tickets are £7.50 for adults, £6 for child and concessions and free for members.

Bill Forsyth won the 1984 BAFTA Award for directing the film.

Scottish Field FEBRUARY 2018 £4.25

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www.scottishfield.co.uk

Blooming start for Lochgilphead WRI



Members pose with the flower arrangements they created with the help of Isabella Soudan.

FLOWER arranging was on the agenda for the first meeting of the season for Lochgilphead Women's Institute recently.

Isabella Soudan

showed the group what could be achieved with a bit of imagination and a simple bunch of supermarket flowers.

As the snow fell, members were kept

cosy with a hot cuppa as they listened to Isabella's tips for making the most out of a small posy of flowers, and how important the right greenery was to

complement the arrangement. The ladies proved to be excellent students on the day, transforming the community centre into a floral masterpiece.

Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on

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Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society



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69%
of the business community read the regional press

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society



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MoineMhor Consultation Event

MoineMhor National Nature Reserve (NNR) is an internationally important raised bog located in Mid-Argyll. We aim to look after the Reserve so that it is well managed for nature and people. Our Argyll NNR team are in the process of producing a new management plan for the Reserve and will be holding a Consultation Event on Wednesday the 31st of January to hear your views. Reserve Walk & Demonstration – 31st January – 13:30 to 15:00
Please meet at the MoineMhorTileworks trail at 13:30 with suitable footwear.
Drop-in event – 31st January – drop-in between 16:00 and 18:00 at Kilmartin Museum Café.
Come and meet the staff and find out why the reserve is so special.
For more information or to request a consultation leaflet please email nnr@snh.gov.uk or call the reserve officer on 0131 316 2658.



Image ©Lorne Gill/SNH is available from SNH image library titled 'Moine.jpg'

Mid Argyll Musical Society AGM
Thursday 22nd February 2018
7.30pm
Ardrihaig Public Hall
All welcome

Kintyre Juvenile Pipe Band Association AGM
Tuesday 6th February
at 7.00pm
Guide Hall, Kinloch Road
All welcome.

Argyll and Bute Council

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
17/02747/PP	Erection of canopy on industrial unit to cover existing yard	Unit 3 Snipefield Industrial Estate Campbeltown PA28 6SY	Burnet Building St John St Campbeltown
17/03270/LIB	Demolition of workshop	Rhudle Mill Kilmichael Glassary Lochgilphead Argyll And Bute PA31 8QE	Mid Argyll Area Office
17/03286/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage and formation of vehicular access	Garden Ground Of Whitecraigs The Avenue Inveraray Argyll And Bute PA32 8XT	Sub Post Office Inveraray
17/03299/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and workshop	Land North West Of Lochview Ardfern Lochgilphead Argyll And Bute PA31 8QN	Sub Post Office Ardfern
18/00005/MFF	Enlargement of marine fin fish (Atlantic salmon) farm from 10 x 120 metre circumference cages to 12 x 120 metre circumference cages and replacement of feed barge, including increase in biomass to 3500 tonnes	BDNC Fish Farm Loch Shuna Ardfern Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Ardfern
17/02687/PP	Erection of 2 stables (retrospective).	Stables Next To 54 MACC Business Park Machrihanish Campbeltown Argyll And Bute PA28 6NU	Burnet Building St John St Campbeltown

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.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Argyll and Bute Council

CAMPBELTOWN FLOOD RISK ALLEVIATION PROJECT

Argyll and Bute Council, in partnership with flood protection experts AECOM, are continuing to investigate the flood risk to Campbeltown and are working towards identifying potential solutions for flood risk mitigation (including surface water run-off) that will be best suited for the town and its residents.

The second in a series of Public Consultation drop-in events is being held in **Campbeltown Town Hall (Conference Room) on Thursday the 1st February 2018 between 4pm and 9pm.**

This second drop-in event will include a presentation of a short-list of potential sustainable flood defence solutions at 7pm followed by an opportunity for informal discussion of these proposed options.

We would welcome your participation and your input at this event as we progress towards the identification of a preferred scheme solution to improve the resilience of Campbeltown to flooding.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



OFFERS & competitions

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at www.scottishfield.co.uk. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 28 February 2018. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve whisky.**

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Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. Information will be shared with promoters and sponsors.

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FULL TIME HOUSING SERVICES OFFICER
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Lochaber Housing Association is a registered charitable housing association, with a stock of over 700 properties across Lochaber with a significant new build development programme. Our aim is to help sustain and develop thriving communities through the provision of good quality, affordable housing opportunities and services across Lochaber.

Due to the retirement of the current post-holder, we now have a vacancy for a Housing Officer. As part of a small team you will be responsible for delivering high quality housing management services. Key duties will include delivering tenancy and estate management services, rent arrears management, and housing allocations, as well as working with our tenants to improve our services and sustain tenancies.

You should be enthusiastic, confident, flexible and highly motivated. A working knowledge of current housing legislation and regulation is essential.

For an informal discussion of the post's requirements, please contact Margaret Moynihan, Head of Housing & Corporate Services on 01397 702530.

To request an application pack please contact Nicola Gilbert, Corporate Services Administrator, Lochaber Housing Association, 101 High Street, Fort William, PH33 6DG, telephone: 01397 709240.

Or alternatively, email recruitment@lochaberhousing.org.uk

Please note CV'S will not be accepted.

In line with its Equal Opportunities policy, Lochaber Housing Association welcomes applicants from all sections of the community.

Closing date for applications is noon Friday 02nd February 2018.

Interviews will be held on Wednesday 14th February 2018.

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Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland and Ireland. We are looking to recruit for the following positions at Loch Etive, Taynuilt:

Net washing Technician

This is a full time position is based on our net washing team, working a 40 hour week, Monday to Friday including weekend cover on a rota basis.

Fish Farm Technician

This is a full time position is based on our harvest team, working a 40 hour week, Monday to Friday including weekend cover on a rota basis.

Working outdoors as part of a small team, it is focused upon all aspects of successful trout production including fish health, feeding, grading, harvesting, net changing and other general farm maintenance tasks, including boat handling.

Previous aquaculture experience is desirable but not essential as full training and support will be provided. A full driving licence is essential.

You would be expected to undertake additional hours as required in order to accommodate the needs of the business. We offer attractive salaries dependent on experience along with pension scheme.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, to:-

HR Department, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office - 01698 810008, E-mail: hr@dawnfresh.co.uk

Closing date for applications is: **9 February 2018**



Fusion Marine Ltd is well established as one of the leading manufacturers of high quality equipment for marine and freshwater environments all over the world, particularly in the fish farming industries. The company is expanding sales in current and new markets and we have the following vacancies

Internal Sales Administrator

This full time position is within our Sales Department. We are looking for a forward thinking, enthusiastic person who is quick to learn. This is an important role and the successful applicant will be responsible for the administration of all sales and be of vital support to our Sales team.

Applications are invited from candidates who have experience in a busy sales and purchasing office and have the ability to support the technical sales team. A working knowledge of SAGE accounting system would be advantageous. Full training will be given. A full driving licence is essential for this position.

This position is predominantly based within our new Administration offices at Malin House, Dunbeg

Office Assistant

Based at our Administrative Offices, this is a full time position.

Applicants should have a at least 1 Scottish Higher at grade C or above or a HNC in Administration, Business or Finance, be highly motivated and able to work within a small team.

No previous experience is required as full training will be given.

There is the possibility that, in time, the successful candidate may be offered the opportunity of an AAT apprenticeship.

A list of duties for each position will be supplied on application.

Salaries for both positions are dependent on experience and will be discussed at the interview stage.

Hours of work: Mon – Fri 8.30am to 5.00pm

Please apply by sending a covering letter and enclose a current C.V.

Closing date for applications is Monday 5th February 2018.

All applications to
 Mrs E Divers

Fusion Marine Ltd, European Marine Science Park, Malin House -Suite 5, Dunbeg, PA37 1SZ email:edivers@fusionmarine.com

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North Argyll Carers Centre seeks to recruit a Manager

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.

We are recruiting a Manager to build on our success and to sustain and grow our organisation. This is a highly demanding role and the successful applicant will have significant leadership experience, demonstrate strategic awareness, a sound understanding of working with carers and be an effective and visible ambassador for carers.

The successful candidate will work closely with the Board of Trustees to deliver our organisation's strategy. This will involve developing and implementing our business plan, maintaining and seeking partnerships, increasing income and continuing to raise the profile of North Argyll Carers Centre.

37 hours per week - £28,000-36,500 depending on experience

Closing date: Monday 5th February 2018

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

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

Registered Charity No: SC040902

The West Highland Community Rail Partnership is seeking the services of a development consultant to manage the partnership's projects & promote and develop rail services on the line through a community based approach.

Initially for a 12-month period, the work input will be approx. 8 hours per week, capped at £6,000 p.a.

Job Description, please contact Hege Hernæs, West Highland Community Rail Partnership – glenfinnanstn@btconnect.com.

Closing date: **12 February 2018.**

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Within the Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling, an excellent opportunity has arisen at our Marine Environment Research Laboratory (MERL) and field station based in Machrihanish. This key role is responsible for the implementation of the strategic plan and overall management of MERL, delivering technical and scientific support, fish care and welfare in compliance with all relevant legislation. With a clear focus on proactive attraction of new business and support of commercial and research activities.

Key components within the facility include both generation and delivery of commercial contract research, planning and support for academic research and the maintenance of fish and sea lice delivering the highest standards of animal care, study support and stock and breeding colony management.

Educated to degree level or equivalent in aquatic animal husbandry, you will have significant experience of leading within a marine research facility preferably with salmonids.

For further information, including essential criteria and details on how to apply, please see stir.ac.uk/about/jobs/list

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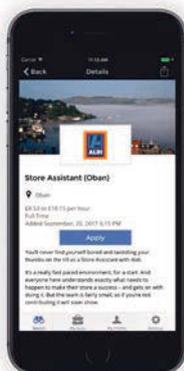
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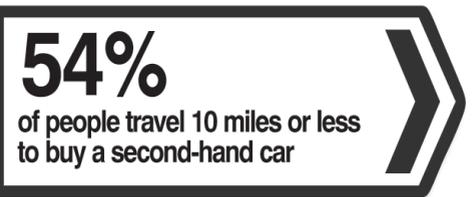
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YOUNG DRIVER CELEBRATES A RECORD YEAR AS INCREASING NUMBERS OF UNDER 17S START THEIR LEARNING-TO-DRIVE EXPERIENCE

- 2017 saw UK's largest pre-17 driving scheme increase lesson sales by more than 30 per cent
- 150,000 Young Driver lessons sold last year, with 14 new sites opened to cope with demand

THE COUNTRY'S largest pre-17 driving school is celebrating an increase in sales of more than 30 per cent over the last year.

Almost 150,000 Young Driver lessons were sold in 2017, as a growing number of parents signed children as young as 10 up to start learning to drive. More than 550,000 lessons have been sold since the scheme launched in 2009.

To cope with the increase in demand, Young Driver opened 14 new sites last year, including its first in Northern Ireland. Other sites launched in 2017 included Rotherham, Cambridge, Leicester and Croydon. The scheme now employs the equivalent of 54 full time staff, when the number of driving instructor hours involved are calculated.

Vauxhall became a sponsor of Young Driver in July 2017, and with the introduction of new Corsas for the youngsters to drive, the fleet size increased by 20 per cent. A fleet of 165 dedicated cars are now used to carry out events across the country.

Young Driver offers those aged between 10 and 17 years the opportunity to get behind the wheel of a dual control Vauxhall Corsa, with a fully qualified driving instructor, at more than 50 venues. Realistic road systems are created, with everything from roundabouts to junctions, allowing young people to start learning the skills required behind the wheel, giving them the opportunity to gain much of the necessary experience without the additional pressures of being on a real road. Specific areas to enable

them to practise manoeuvres and control are also created, included steering, reversing and parking.

The scheme plans to continue its growth in 2018, with the launch of 13 Super-Sites. New and existing sites will be grown to offer additional facilities for youngsters, including the introduction of traffic lights, as well as the chance to reach

have a full driving licence – which could have huge consequences for the car industry. By getting youngsters enthused about driving, hopefully we'll be creating a new generation of motoring fans – however, with the added benefit of having that extra experience before they take to the road, making them a safer and more responsible driver.'

Quentin Willson, motoring journalist and transport campaigner, added: 'Young Driver's 30 per cent increase in lessons shows that the decline in kids wanting to learn to drive and own cars isn't as widespread as some say. Early pre-teen training gives confidence for on-road lessons and takes

some of the fear out of battling to pass a test. Having a licence helps with college, university and jobs and early driving training will help give the next generation of drivers vital safety skills and future job opportunities.'

As well as offering lessons for 10-17s in the Vauxhall Corsas, Young Driver also provides lessons for five-to-10-year-olds in the specially created Firefly electric car. Lessons take place at selected venues. Driving lessons can also be offered to people of all ages with a wide range of disabilities.

For more information or to book lessons go to www.youngdriver.com or call 0844 371 9010



higher speeds, and practise moving up into the top gears.

Research shows that learning to drive at a younger age can halve the accident risk of a newly qualified driver. One in five typically has an accident in the first six months after passing their test and every year 400 people are killed in the UK in accidents involving young drivers.

Laura White, head of marketing at Young Driver, said: 'Parents seem to be recognising that getting their children that extra experience can really make a difference when it comes to keeping them safe. It's reported that the number of 17-24 year olds learning to drive has dropped by 20 per cent in just a decade, and less than half of that age group

NEW CAR INDEX



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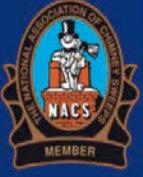
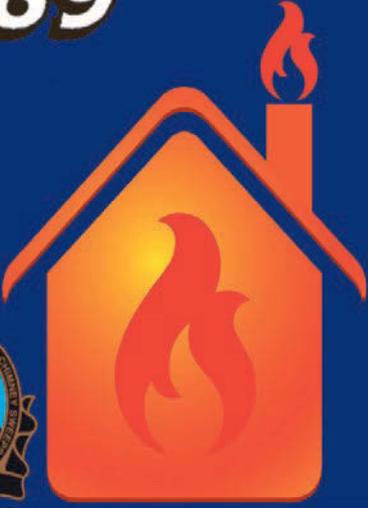
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ROTHESAY

Talk on suffragette movement to be held in Bute Museum

A TALK on the suffragette movement will take place at the Bute Museum in Rothesay on Tuesday February 6 - 100 years since the act was passed allowing women to vote.

Bernadette Cahill, an MA Honours graduate of History from Glasgow University, will be speaking at the event about the campaign.

The event is being organised by LiveArgyll Libraries Service and hosted by Bute Museum at the same location used by leading suffragette and women's rights organisations.

The event will focus on the history of the work of the Women's Freedom League at Clydeside between 1908 and 1933.

TARBERT

Tide Lines to play in Tarbert

POPULAR Scottish band Tide Lines will be rocking out in Tarbert on Friday February 3.

All profits from the gig will go to the Clachan Village Hall Development Fund.

The band will be supported by Campbeltown funk band Deep Joy.

Tickets are currently sold out, however, there is a small chance some may be available on the door on the night.

ARDRISHAIG

Young man shows true grit

A YOUNG man in Ardrishaig has helped to keep the village moving during the cold snap.

A post on Ardrishaig Community Facebook page commended the anonymous teenager for assisting the gritters by shovelling snow off the road at Glengilp at 7am every morning during the wintry weather.

Do you know who the youngster is helping to keep the village moving? If so, email editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk.

ACHNAMARA

Burns night

ACHNAMARA Village Hall held its annual Burns Night on Saturday January 20.

The village hall would like to thank all who helped organise the successful night.



Locals enjoy a meal and drinks while a Burns poem is read out.

ISLAY

MSP learns of Islay islanders' concerns

POORLY maintained roads, reliability of ferries and inconsistent broadband were issues raised by the public following a visit to Islay by Donald Cameron, MSP for the Highlands and Islands.

Mr Cameron visited Caol Ila distillery and held surgeries in Port Ellen and Bowmore. Mr Cameron said:

'I am concerned that many of the issues I have heard during my visit are the same problems that I encountered when I first ran for election in the region some eight years ago.

Intermittent

'It is baffling that in 2018, Islay, and many other important island communities, still face intermittent power cuts

and have roads that are crumbling due to lack of local investment.

'When I was elected, I made it my mission to ensure that our island communities are treated as equally as mainland Scotland as possible, and I will continue to make sure that the voices of our island communities are heard.'

LOCHGILPHEAD

£950 raised for End Polio Now campaign

MID ARGYLL Rotary has raised more than £950 for End Polio Now along with Ford company Murray Smoked Products.

Murray Smoked Products offered packs of smoked salmon, trout and kippers in time for Christmas, donating a small amount from every pack sold.

Clubs across the UK took part in the initiative, meaning the company packaged hundreds of products in a short space of time.

The Mid Argyll Rotary would like to thank all the districts, clubs and individuals who took part and provided help and encouragement with the fundraising.

Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Shedden



When grief is raw and platitudes offend,
When hope has fallen into the darkness,
And all our world is empty,
Where do we go in the numbness?
When dreams are shattered and faith is fragile,
When our future is ripped from the promise of today,
Where do we go in this pain?
Where do we take our anger?
Where do we take our doubts in our fear?
Where do we go when grief is raw?
How do we hope in the midst of grief?
How do we heal this open wound?
How do we trust when grief has shattered trust?
Why can't anyone answer that taunting question - 'Why?'
I do not know for I am not the one grieving in Tarbert.
I do not know for I am not the one left at home bereft.
I do not know, and I dare not imagine.
I only know that God can cope with our anger.
I only know that God's tears blend with ours.
I only know that God would hold us like a mother as we shout and scream and cry.
I only know that God would carry us like a father when we ache so much there are no tears left.
What words can we use to console and comfort when there are none that even come close?
What can we do to let you know how much we care?
As the candles flicker on the quay and in our homes, we think of you.
As the tide ebbs and turns, we ache for you.
May you find even a glimmer of hope when grief is raw.
May you find even a fleeting second of peace.

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TEXT FOR THE WEEK

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

BIRTHS

ANDERSON - FRIER - Aaron and Jilly are delighted to announce the early, but safe, arrival of Hollie Elizabeth, on December 17, 2017. All grandparents are thrilled. Special thanks to the midwives at Mid Argyll Community Hospital and Integrated Care Centre.



BAIN

Christopher and Helen (née Macdougall) are delighted to announce the arrival of their son, Adam John, on November 30, 2017. A little brother for Erika, and a first grandson for Jim and Lorna, Oban; and John and Jessie, Muasdale. Many thanks to Helen and the team at Campbeltown Maternity Unit and the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley.

CAMERON - Rafe Johnny, a beautiful son for Craig and Emma (née MacNair) and wee brother for Edith and Maggie, born January 18, 2018. Huge thanks to the midwives in Mid Argyll and Royal Alexandra Hospital.

DEATHS

BRISTOW - Peacefully at home, Cnoc Ban, Southend, on January 22, 2018, Rev William Henry Greenway Bristow (Bill), in his 92nd year, dearly beloved husband of Margaret, much loved father of Wendy and Mairi, stepfather of Craig, former husband of Betty, loving grandfather of David and Alistair, and great grandfather of Emily. Service will be held in Southend Church, on Monday, January 29 at 1.00pm, funeral thereafter to Keil Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. Family flowers only please. A retiral collection will be held in aid of the Parkinson Society UK.

MACDONALD - Peacefully at home, on January 20, 2018, Ina MacDonald, née Park, beloved wife of the late Ian MacDonald, and much loved mother of Malcolm, Anne and John, a dear mother-in-law of Janice and adored granny and great granny. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends. Funeral service will be held in Kilcalmonell Parish

Church, Clachan, today Friday, January 26, 2018, at 12.00 noon, thereafter to Clachan Cemetery. Flowers welcome. Retiral collection for Kilcalmonell Parish Church and Marie Curie Care. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

MACNEILL - Peacefully, at Murrayfield House, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, January 17, 2018, Christina, aged 89 years, daughter of the late Alexander (Sandy) and Catherine MacNeill of Glenbarr, sister of John, sister-in-law of Isobel, and devoted aunt of Gordon and Fiona. Funeral service at Warriston Crematorium, Cloister Chapel, Edinburgh, on Thursday, February 1 at 12.30pm.

MCCALLUM - Peacefully at home, 30 Wallace Cottages, Southend, on January 21, 2018, Margaret McKay Alexander (Peggy), in her 80th year, dearly beloved wife of the late Archibald McCallum, much loved mum of Christine, Sandy, Archie, David, James and Margaret, loving granny of Philip, Bruce, Adam, Steven and Murray and a loving sister and aunt. Service will be held in Southend Church, on Saturday, January 27 at 11.00am, funeral thereafter to Keil Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. A retiral collection will be held in aid of the Scottish Air Ambulance and the Marie Semple Fund.

RONALD - On January 22, 2018, peacefully at home. Margaret Anne Ronald, née McGilp, in her 95th year, beloved wife of the late David Ronald, much loved mother of Anne, David and Valerie, and a dearly loved gran and great gran. Funeral service at Cardross Crematorium, on Tuesday, January 30 at 12.15pm, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Tarbert Nursing Aid.

WILLIS - Margaret Janet (née McKellar), Edinburgh, formerly of Drumbin, Campbeltown, suddenly on January 8, 2018, at Edinburgh, aged 65 years, beloved wife of Richard, mother to David, James and Samantha, sister of the late Neil McKellar and grandmother of three. Service at Warriston Crematorium, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 2.30pm. Family flowers only.

ACKNOWLEDGE-MENTS

CAMPBELL - Catherine (Katie). Cathy Tavendale and family would like to thank everyone for their many kind expressions of sympathy, cards, telephone calls and flowers. Special thanks to John Glenn, Anne, Leona, Ronnie and Campbeltown fire service, the air ambulance and Dr Lazarus. Thanks to all who paid their respects at Craigton Crematorium.

DUNLOP - The Dunlop family wishes to acknowledge with grateful thanks, all the support and love from friends during Margaret's short illness, and the flowers, letters and messages of condolence. They would like to especially thank the district nurses, Marie Curie Care, Tarbert and Lochgilphead medical practices.; also thanks to the Rev Catriona Hood for her support and guidance, creating a moving service. With thanks to the people of Skipness for all things, including arranging the lunch in the Village Hall and for all who came to the service. Thank you to organist Marjorie Kelly, whose music was a tribute to Margaret's memory. Thanks also to Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for sympathetic handling of all arrangements and to those who came and paid their last respects and donated £350, to Tarbert Nursing Aid and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

JOHNSTONE - The family of the late Sarah Johnstone (Morag) would like to thank everyone most sincerely for the many kind expressions of sympathy and support received in their sad loss. Thank you to Doctor Kornfeld, staff, ambulance staff; to Rev Catriona Hood for her support and comforting service; to T A Blair Funeral Directors for their professionalism, and to the Bellochantuy Hotel for purvey. Also thanks to all staff at hospital, £320 was raised for the Sunshine Room. Thanks to family, friends and neighbours who attended church and graveside.

MCLEAN - Carolin's family would like to acknowledge and thank those who sympathized, supported and prayed for them in their loss. Thank you also for the kind donations to ICU Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, to the Salvation Army Campbeltown for the service and tea, and to T A Blair Funeral Directors for the professional and personal funeral arrangements.

WILSON - The family of the late Flora Wilson would like to thank all relatives, friends and

neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy, cards, phone calls and visits received following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to the staff of Mid Argyll Hospital for their care and attention. Our thanks to Rev David Carruthers for a comforting service; to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their thoughtful and efficient services; to the Grey Gull Inn for purvey and to Morna for beautiful flowers. Finally, thank you to all who attended at church and graveside to pay their respects. Your kindness and support was greatly appreciated.

IN MEMORIAM

MACKINLAY - In loving memory of Alexander MacKinlay, who passed away on January 25, 2016. Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us every day, Unseen, unheard, but always near, Still loved, still missed and very dear. - Mum, Jock, Peter and Aly.

MACKINLAY - In loving memory of Alexander MacKinlay, who passed away on January 25, 2016. We who loved you sadly miss you, As it dawns another year, In our lonely hours of thinking, Thoughts of you are always near. - Heather, Iain and the boys.

MACKINLAY - In loving memory of our beloved daddy and brother, Alexander MacKinlay, passed away on January 25, 2016. Loved and missed every day. - Love yours girls, Caitlyn and Chloe, and brother, Jason xxx.

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. - Daughter Courtney.

MCLELLAN - Loving memories of a much loved mum and nana, Agnes, who died on January 23, 2000. Mum, it's eighteen years since you were taken away, But you're loved and remembered every day. - Loving daughters Margaret, Sandra and families.

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



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CHURCH NOTICES



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Sunday 4th February
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Check our Facebook page for details
Pastor Chris Holden
We meet at the Guide Hall, Kinloch Road
www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk

SC043322

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

01586 552160
Rev Tony Wood
Vigil Mass 6 pm (except 1st Saturday of month)
Sunday 10 am
All Welcome (SCO02876)

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

Charity Number SC001002
Sunday 28 January
'Let the little children come to me'
Tayvallich Church 11.30 am
Sacrament of Baptism followed by refreshments
Rev C Acklam
Saturday 27 January
Achnamara Hall
10.30am Café Connect
12.30pm Alpha
Monday 29 January
Tayvallich Church 10:30am
Prayer Time
All welcome
Enquiries 01546 606926
www.northknapdale.org

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)

Highland Parish Church



SC002493
Sunday 28 January 2018
The service will be conducted by Rev William Crossan and will be held in the Church at 11.15am.
All welcome.

LORNE AND LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity Number SC011686
Sunday 28th January
11.15am Morning Worship
Creche, Triple C, Gen 1
Rev P Wallace
Tuesday 30th January
9.45am Tiny Tots
New Hall
Anchor Boys 6.00pm
Junior Section 7.00pm
Church Hall
Company Section 7.15pm
New Hall
Thursday 1st February
Choir
Friday 2nd February
Lunch Club 12.00 noon



Campbeltown Corps
Church and Community Centre
Registered Charity No. 214779 and in Scotland SC009359
Burnside Street, Campbeltown
01586 552046

Sunday Services
10.30am Morning Service (Army Kidz)
6.30pm Evening Worship
Wednesday
12.15pm Lunch Club
1.30pm C.A.M.E.O.
7.00 pm Make & Munch Craft Group
Thursday
7.30pm Bible Study
Majors Ben & Ruth Russell
All welcome

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



75 Longrow, Campbeltown
Sunday 28th January
Family Communion Service
11.00am
Pastor Steve Davies
Wednesday 31st January
Bible study and prayer
7.30pm at the manse
All welcome
Enquiries 01586 551200
www.springbankchurch.co.uk
SC014646



Argyll Street, Campbeltown
St Kieran Episcopal Church:
Campbeltown
Scottish Charity No SC023277
Sunday 28th January
PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD
Holy Communion 10.45am
Enquiries Tel: 01586 551141
The Scottish Episcopal Church is a Province of the Worldwide Anglican Communion



Youngsters rock at MAYDS

Emily Jamison
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

MID ARGYLL'S aspiring musicians had the chance to learn from some of the best in the business at Lochgilphead's Mid Argyll Youth Development Services (MAYDS) Hall on Saturday January 20.

The youngsters joined Glasgow-based band James Edwyn and the Borrowed Band during a full day's workshop where they learned the ins and outs of producing music in today's industry.

Joined by band members James Edwyn, Emma Joyce, Neil McDonald and Ronnie

Gilmour, the students tried their hand at writing lyrics and performing and recording an original song.

They were also taught how to effectively post on social media to promote the workshop and the music recording.

Ronnie Gilmour, James Edwyn and the Borrowed Band guitarist, said: 'We got the song finished and recorded, and we're mixing it at the moment to hopefully send back to all the kids by the weekend.'

'The feedback has been great, and they told us they had a real good time.'



Photographs clockwise from top left: Kieran Stanton plays a beat, giving the song its backbone. 08_a04maydssong06; Anthony Flower, Thorkil Osbourn and Robert Potter-Irwin work on their parts for the recording.

08_a04maydssong04; Ailsa Wilson, Lochgilphead vocalist and guitarist, strums an acoustic guitar during the song-writing process. 08_a04maydssong03; Band members Ronnie Gilmour, Neil McDonald, Dillon Walford and Emma Joyce show how to record a song. 08_a04maydssong07; Anthony Flower records his bass part. 08_a04maydssong01.





Shinty kids do well in Oban



The Kilmory primary five team.



Dunadd's primary three team.

TEAMS from Mid Argyll recently took part in the latest round of the primary schools indoor shinty league at Atlantis Leisure in Oban.

The junior six-a-side shinty league, which involves indoor competitions once every month between teams from the Oban area, will see the next round held on February 4, again in Oban.

Primary school shinty training takes place on Thursday evenings at Lochgilphead Joint Campus, starting with P1/2 from 5.30pm, P3/4 training starts at 6pm, while P5/6/7 begins at 6.45pm.

Boys and girls from all primary schools are welcome to come along.

Results:

Dunadd P3: won 1, drew 3.

Kilmory P5: won 2, drew 1, lost 1.

Combined team P6/7 Dunadd: won 2, lost 4.

Combined team P6/7 Kilmory: won 4 lost 2.



The combined primary six and seven Kilmory/Dunadd squad.

SPOT THE BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1700

LAST WEEK'S BALL WAS HERE...



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

J Muir
Burnbank Terrace
Ardrrishaig
&
D Mitchell
Muasdale Cottages
By Tarbert

All you have to do

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

To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball.

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

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

Easy to enter

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

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The company's decision will be final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

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



Name

Address

Tel No

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

Please tape your £1 coin here (if posting)

SPORT



INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Shinty kids do well in Oban

Strong turnout for Mid Argyll athletics event

YOUNG athletes were not deterred by the wintry conditions outside, with 66 entries for the annual Mid Argyll Athletic's annual indoor competition at the Joint Campus on Sunday January 21.

The event was the first of a series of local area competitions being held across Argyll this winter, with the top three from each event qualifying for the Argyll final in Oban on March 25.

The competition was intense across all age categories during the four hours of action.

An entry of 14 competitors in the under nine girls competition saw some stiff competition, with twins Jemma and Jorja MacDonald battling it out for the top two places.

Jorja was pipped to the post by six points, winning six events including the three-lap

race and the long and triple jumps.

She also cleared 4.96m in the triple jump only 5cm short of the Argyll age record.

Sister Jorja won the javelin throwing 12.5m.

Emma Innes from Lochgilphead was crowned the under seven champion winning four of the six events.

Despite this, she finished only two points ahead of Neve Bowden, who was consistent across the board and won the three-lap race in under 30 seconds.

The girls under 11 age group was very close with only half a point between champion Beth Johnstone from Tarbert and Glassary School's Ruby-Jo Philips.

Beth won the three-lap, triple jump and javelin, with Ruby-Jo triumphing in the high

jump, clearing 1.16m.

In the same age category Ruby Dunlop won the six-lap race in 56.1 seconds, and Eleanor Dale won the long jump.

Kirstin Blair from Crinan won a very competitive under 13 age group ahead of Amy Anderson from Kilmichael Glassary, with Izzy Crawford from Furnace third overall.

Kirstin won the three-lap race, triple jump and speed bounce with Amy winning four events including an excellent 1.38m in the high jump.

Karis Kidd from Ardrishaig won the under 15 age group ahead of Hazel Selfridge, also from Ardrishaig.

Jodie Robertson was the under 17 champion, and arguably the top athlete on the day thanks to her performance in the high jump.

Jodie cleared 1.52 metres exceeding the old Argyll age record by 1cm.

The under 15 champion Jake Gillespie from Lochgilphead impressed in the running events, and recorded 21 seconds in the three-lap and 44.7 seconds for the six-lap events.

Jake's throw of 10.78m in the shot putt was also of a high standard.

Shaun Doy from Kilmichael won the under 17s and excelled in the high jump clearing 1.6m.

The three youngest age categories were



Left to right: Under 9s champion Jemma MacDonald, with second-placed twin sister Jorja and Jodie Allan, who was third. 08_a04indoorathletics02

well supported, with the entry of four young lads all the way from Tighnabruaich.

The mothers of the Tighnabruaich boys, then Nicola and Melanie Irvine, competed in the Argyll indoor events in the late 1990s with much success.

Following in his mother's footsteps, Melanie's son Ethan Kerr was crowned the under seven champion, dominating the competition with success in four of the events.

In second place was Ruairidh Charnock from Lochgilphead and Blair Houston from Ardrishaig.

Cameron Gilmour from Ardrishaig was the under nine champion winning four of the seven events, and dominated in the two running events recording 25.9 seconds in the three-lap and 55.7 seconds in the six-lap races.

Runner-up Luke MacVicar from

Tighnabruaich won the triple jump and third overall Ollie van Well from Ardrishaig won both the high jump and javelin.

Callum Green of Ardrishaig won the under 11 age group ahead of Joe Anderson from Glassary School and Roan MacVicar from Tighnabruaich.

Callum won the high jump and triple jump and tied with Joe in the speed bounce.

Joe succeeded in the six-lap race and javelin in which he threw 14.50m.

In the same section Keiran Blair from Tarbert won the three-lap race and Sam Gillespie of Lochgilphead won the long jump.

Lochgilphead's Murray MacDonald was the overall winner in the under 13s with success in four out of the seven events.

Murray won the six-lap, long and triple jumps and also the shot putt where he threw

7.77m.

Runner-up Logan Allan from Ardrishaig won the three-lap and speed bounce and third placed Ewen Ferguson of Lochgilphead won the high jump clearing 1.32m.

Results: Under 7 Girls - 1 Emma Innes, Lochgilphead; 2 Neve Bowden, Lochgilphead; 3 Jessica MacRae Ardrishaig.

Under 9 Girls - 1 Jemma MacDonald, Lochgilphead; 2 Jorja MacDonald, Lochgilphead; 3 Jodie Allan, Ardrishaig.

Under 11 Girls - 1 Beth Johnstone, Tar-

bert; 2 Ruby-Jo Philips, Glassary; 3 Eleanor Dale, Ardrishaig.

Under 13 Girls - 1 Kirstin Blair, Lochgilphead; 2 Amy Anderson, Lochgilphead; 3 Izzy Crawford, Lochgilphead 13.5.

Under 15 Girls - 1 Karis Kidd, Lochgilphead; 2 Hazel Selfridge, Lochgilphead.

Under 17 Girls - 1 Jodie Robertson, Lochgilphead.

Under 7 Boys - 1st Ethan Kerr, Tighnabruaich; 2 Ruairidh Charnock, Lochgilphead; 3 Blair Houston, Ardrishaig.

Under 9 Boys - 1 Cameron Gilmour, Ardrishaig; 2 Luke MacVicar, Tighnabruaich; 3 Ollie van Well, Ardrishaig.

Under 11 Boys - 1 Callum Green, Ardrishaig; 2 Joe Anderson, Glassary; 3 Roan MacVicar, Tighnabruaich.

Under 13 Boys - 1 Murray MacDonald, Lochgilphead; 2 Logan Allan, Lochgilphead; 3 Ewan Ferguson, Lochgilphead.

Under 15 Boys - 1 Jake Gillespie, Lochgilphead.

Under 17 Boys - 1 Shaun Doy, Kilmichael.



Murray MacDonald, who triumphed in the Under 13s, with Logan Allan who came in second place.

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