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Canal boss tells Ardrishaig: set sail on a more positive course



Service with a smile as coffee morning boosts church funds

A coffee morning held in Lochgilphead parish church brought together fundraisers, from left to right, Agnes McLarty, Kirstin Thompson and organiser Pat McGuire with Irene Doran, back, to raise cash for church projects Photograph: Niamh Adams McGilp

THE BOSS OF Scottish Canals has launched a scathing attack on what he called the 'negative attitude' and 'closed mindset' of Ardrishaig community council.

The blistering remarks were made in a bracing face-to-face exchange between the community council and Scottish Canals chairman Andrew Thin.

Mr Thin was defending Scottish Canals record over a planned £1 million development of Ardrishaig and Crinan as the 'sailor's gateway to Scotland'.

At the meeting on Tuesday night, community councillors heard that Scottish Canals was no longer in a position to undertake the development.

However, Andrew Thin went on to issue a stinging rebuke to the community council, saying it would need to change its attitude or nothing would ever be achieved in the village.

Mr Thin said he want-



Andrew Thin told Ardrishaig community council it needs to change its mindset

ed Ardrishaig to become a hub for investment similar to the investment made in Falkirk at the wheel and its towering Kelpies.

He said he would only be able to attract investment to the area if the community council entered into the discussions with an 'open mind'.

He stated on numerous occasions that Scottish Canals would be happy to consider any development as long as it also came with a 'pot of money'.

He described the canal company as cash-strapped and if villagers wanted anything

done, 'cash will have to be found from other sources'. Mr Thin, said: 'I want this community council to stop thinking in a narrow tactical way and to start thinking big in collective action.'

'You will not get into a collaborative relationship if you go into it with a closed mindset. You will need to change your tone.'

Mr Thin explained that he wanted the community council to work closely with both Scottish Canals and Argyll and Bute council to make the improvements to the canal.

During the heated and often candid debate, the community defended its

position saying the local authority had never engaged with the group, and that Scottish Canals had left the Crinan Canal entrance from Loch Gilp looking like a 'war zone' with no improvements undertaken for many years.

Community council secretary, Janette Loughton said: 'For the last seven years we have been given an almighty runaround.'

'We have invited the council chief executive to come and see us year's ago. All we get are promises, promises - nothing has ever materialised.'

Councillor Dougie Philland said it was clear that Argyll and Bute council needed to working more closely with both the community council and Scottish Canals. 'Otherwise,' he said, 'we may as well shut up shop. We want more people to come to Ardrishaig. And we can do that by showing the Crinan canal at its best.'

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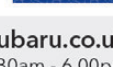
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Mid Argyll football teams folds

LOCHFYNESIDE Football Club hang up their boots last week following a series of cancelled games.

The club's chairman Jim Divers took to social media to break the news to players - barely two years after the team was reformed.

He announced on the team's Facebook group page: 'Have just informed league that the club will wind up with

immediate effect. We can't fulfil fixtures, so there is no point flogging a dead horse.'

'Thanks for the effort everyone has put in over the last two seasons.'

A number of players had struggled to commit to games and training leading to the closure of the club.

One Facebook user replied: 'Thanks to you (Jim) and Linda for keeping it going for so long.'



Lochfyneside Football Club has folded.



Employees want 'warm working lifestyles' after heating system fails. a06co-op01

New heating pledged at store after staff and customers left in the cold

STAFF at the Co-operative food store in Lochgilhead have been working in freezing conditions this winter.

The shop has been using temporary heaters while it awaits a new heating system.

The company made a statement after a number of complaints came in to the Argyllshire Advertiser from members of the shop's staff and the public over the its 'non-existent' heating system.

A spokeswoman for The

Co-operative Food said: 'We apologise for any inconvenience caused. We've invested in a major new heating system, which will be in operation shortly. In the meantime, we have temporary heaters in place.'

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Tarbert councillor wants festival road fee to be scrapped

A TARBERT councillor is calling for a road closure charge to be scrapped during one of the villages most prominent festivals.

Councillor Anne Horn has said that the £500 fee could go towards activities that would encourage more families to the area during the annual seafood festival.

She hopes to get backing from the public push Argyll and Bute council to pay for the road closure.

The council already pays for the closure of roads in other communities, including Dunoon which hosts the Cowal games.

But the council will not cover the cost as it is the main A83 trunk road in Tarbert. The council's



Anne Horne.

own policy excludes it from contributing towards the cost of trunk roads closures.

Councillor Horn said: 'The committee has to pay the road closure order. I have had meetings with the leader of the council, Dick Walsh, but he won't do anything for us.'

'The council gives the festival committee

£3,000 to support the seafood festival, so it seems ironic that it would then ask for £500 back to cover the cost that it makes available to other communities, particularly those that host the Cowal Games.'

She added: 'The festival has been built up to make the most of our communities and its sustainability.'

'The festivals in the village are organised by local people who work hard on a voluntary basis.'

'It only seems fair that the council does what it can to support the people behind these events.'

The council was asked to comment but had not responded at the time of going to press.

Police files

Teenager reported

A TEENAGER was reported to the procurator fiscal for suspected possession of herbal cannabis.

The 18-year-old was stopped at 11.25pm on Friday January 30 in Lochnell Street, Lochgilhead.

Road traffic offences

FOLLOWING a road safety check last Tuesday a woman was found without valid car insurance.

The 22-year-old woman is has been reported to the procurator fiscal following the check at 10.40pm on the A83 near Furnace.

A 40-year-old man was a passenger in the vehicle and he has also been reported for alleged road traffic offences.

Careless driving charge

A ROAD crash in the early hours of Wednesday January 28 resulted in a 24-year-old man being reported for suspected careless driving.

The accident, involving one vehicle, happened on the A816 at Kilmartin at 6.40am.

The man suffered slight injuries.

Drink driver

ON SATURDAY a man was stopped on Bishopton Road, Lochgilhead, at 11.55pm after he was suspected of drinking and driving.

The 40-year-old was reported to the procurator fiscal. He was also reported for various other road traffic offences.

Biker not wearing helmet

A MOTORCYCLIST was reported to police on Sunday for driving without a helmet.

He was seen at Cairnbaan at 2.30pm. Police traced him and he was reported to the procurator fiscal for several suspected road traffic offences.

Undervalued bus drivers get recognition

BUS DRIVERS from West Coast Motors have been commended for their sterling efforts to maintain a good bus service while driving on some of Scotland's most treacherous roads.

Lawrence Macduff, from Kilmarnock, is a bus driver in the south west of the country and contacted the Argyllshire Advertiser to express his admiration and gratitude to bus drivers and West Coast Motors for their skills throughout the recent period of bad weather across Argyll and Bute. Mr Macduff said: 'The

Citylink services that serve the area have to use the main A82 and A83 routes, along with those serving Fort William and Skye. The job facing drivers should never be underestimated. They have to skilfully handle these large vehicles and safely negotiating the most difficult of routes.

'This is a major responsibility undertaken by a profession which is often undervalued and not particularly well paid. I simply wish to express my admiration and thanks to all concerned.'

Come back Mr Green

All will be forgiven - if you find a replacement

A MUCH-loved council officer who was 'too good at his job' was praised at a community council meeting on Tuesday night.

Stuart Green, a council regeneration worker, had been working with Ardrishaig community council and Ardrishaig Community Trust to take forward ambitious plans to revitalise the village.

Community council secretary Jannette

Laughton said: 'He was too good at his job and he was promoted.'

'We have since not seen anyone for year.'

Mid Argyll Councillor Douglas Philland said Mr Green had done an outstanding job.

He said: 'I now have a mandate from the community council to ask the council to take the plans for this community seriously. I will be raising it at our next area committee.'



Stuart Green - missed by Ardrishaig community council.

Crash driver fined £600

A DRIVER who 'gave the finger' before flipping his car was found guilty of careless driving on Tuesday.

Sheriff Iain Anderson fined John Frier, 30, of Kirklena, Ardrishaig, £600 and endorsed his licence with six penalty points, following a trial.

The Lochgilphead annex of Dunoon sheriff court heard that Frier was filmed by a taxi driver's dashboard camera as he overtook her a mile from Lochgilphead on the A816. Seconds later his car left the road and landed in a ditch.

Sheriff Anderson said: 'You really have only yourself to blame for being here. It is your offensive gesture that has brought you to the court.'

Bailout keeps ops on the table

A £2.5 MILLION bailout from the Scottish government stopped the cancellation of operations and cutting vital services, health bosses admitted at a public hearing on Wednesday.

Grilling NHS Highland directors, Holyrood's public audit committee claimed health board chairman

Gary Coult, chief executive Elaine Mead, finance director Nick Kenton and internal auditor Chris Brown gave 'fudgy' answers when responding to questions.

The NHS Highland team members said they were not complacent in managing the £750 million budget

and that the government bail-out was an exception.

The committee heard there was no 'plan B' if the government had refused additional funds.

Chief executive Elaine Mead admitted that the £2.5 million shortfall would have led to the cancellation of operations.



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Build your own business website - 2 March - An introduction to the basic essentials of website design, how to make your site attractive, usable and easy to find and what tools are available and which one is best suited for your purpose.

Improve your business website performance - 3 March - A workshop for businesses who feel their website isn't producing the results they expect. The session covers layout, navigation, design, online sales process, search engine optimisation and browser compatibility.

Marketing your Business - 11 March - aimed at existing small businesses with ambitions of growth. The session will help evaluate current marketing activity and create a realistic marketing plan to meet the business' needs.

To find out more or book a place please email Business Gateway at business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk or call 01546 604555

Argyll & Bute Council logo, European Union logo, business gateway logo.
Business Gateway - Argyll and Bute

Concern over complaints to NHS Highland

AN INCREASE in the number of complaints to NHS Highland caused board members, who met on Tuesday, concern.

The highest number of complaints was in relation to waiting times and cancelled appointments.

Board members agreed to 'monitor' the situation and would take the action necessary. The number of complaints was not given to members.

Work going on to improve waiting times

ONE in five people referred to NHS Highland for psychological therapies such as counselling are waiting longer than 18 weeks for an appointment.

NHS Highland board members heard that work was on-going to improve access to these services to make sure people are seen within the Scottish government's target of four months.

Food for thought funding available

TO celebrate Scotland's Year of Food and Drink schools across Argyll and Bute can apply for up to £3,000 to improve food education.

On Monday the Scottish government announced the latest round of the Food for Thought Education Fund with an extra £300,000 available.

The fund, managed by Education Scotland and supported by Business in the Community has already distributed £1 million to 185 projects.

The fund's aim is to support schools to use food and health as a context for learning across the curriculum.

Suzanne Hargreaves, senior education officer for health and wellbeing at Education Scotland, said: 'Since the fund started we have helped support 9,143 learners get involved in new and exciting food education projects.'

The latest round of funding was announced by cabinet secretary for rural affairs, food and environment, Richard Lochhead.

Financial health for Argyll and Bute

ARGYLL and Bute community health partnership, an arm of NHS Highland, is heading for an underspend at the end of 2015.

The news of the healthy financial position was in stark contrast to the overall NHS Highland budget - which overspent by £2.5 million last year.

However, one area that was causing the authority concern in Argyll and Bute was that of staff.

A note to NHS Highland board members said: 'There are a number of cost pressures to be managed, the most significant of which relates to medical locums.'

Medical locums cost upwards of £100 an hour.

Ferries have the best tastes

PASSENGERS bound for Islay can be assured of top nosh at the ferries' on board restaurants.

Caledonian MacBrayne has become the first ferry company to take Visit Scotland's 'Taste Our Best' seal of approval to the high seas in its on-board Mariners' restaurants.

MVs Finlaggan and Hebridean Isles, the ferries which usually ply the Kennacraig to Islay routes, have been awarded this accolade.

Supplier spending across the network is worth some £5.188 million, with £2.369 million of that spent in Argyll and Bute alone.

Retail operations manager Kurt Hart said: 'We have worked hard to put together a menu which not only satisfies our hungry customers, but which is value for money and promotes good Scottish produce.'

CalMac's retail development manager Donald McKillop proudly displays MV Finlaggan's accreditation certificate.



Learning by experience

A NEW mental health course will be introduced to Argyll College UHI this spring.

Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership will run The Scottish Recovery Network's 'experts by experience' module using peer support workers to offer an insight and understanding mental health issues, from those who have first hand experience.

Rena MacDonald, curriculum manager for Argyll College, said: 'The new Professional Development Award (PDA) in mental health peer support is an exciting addition to the portfolio of PDAs available to healthcare workers.'

Innovative

'The qualification is an innovative way of allowing people with personal experience of mental health to train to use their 'lived experience' to assist in the recovery of others.'

The network is a nationally recognised education programme that leads to employment opportunities.

Gillian Davies, a mental health nurse in Lochgilphead who will help to deliver the course, said: 'I look forward to working closely with Argyll College and the applicants in the coming months.'

Applications can be made to Denise Stacey by email denise.stacey@uhi.ac.uk or telephone 01631 559500.

Lochgilphead to get superfast broadband in six months' time.

THE DIGITAL Scotland Superfast Broadband project, which will deliver fibre optics to rural areas of Scotland, has announced that Campbeltown, Rothesay, Craignure and Lochgilphead will receive superfast broadband services this summer - ahead of the scheduled roll-out in 2016.

Heart of Argyll flies the flag at Dutch Holiday Fair

HEART of Argyll Tourism Alliance's chairman Jonathan Sheldrick flew the flag for tourism as he, together with Alec Howie and Hans Kok, attended the Dutch Holiday Fair in Utrecht.

Largest markets

The Netherlands is one of the largest markets for tourists visiting Argyll and the Isles, and with the fair, from January 13-18, attracting more than 117,500 visitors last year, this was an excellent opportunity to showcase what Heart of Argyll has to offer.

The team has a strong tourism background but all have their own strengths.

Jonathan has ties to Holland and attended this fair, promoting Argyll, last year.

Hans is a native of the Netherlands now living in Tarbert. He is one of the forces behind the Loch Fyne Viking Festival and Alec, who is the harbour master in Ardrishaig, was the go-to person on marine tourism.

Joined

Jonathan, Alec and Hans were joined during the four days by Paul Freeman, business development and partners manager of CalMac and Maggie Anderson, marketing executive Northern Europe, VisitScotland.

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Former Furnace driving instructor found guilty of a 'catalogue' of abuse

Accused claimed victims and some parents conspired to fabricate allegations

A FORMER Furnace driving instructor was found guilty by majority jury at his trial at Dunoon Sheriff Court last Thursday on seven charges of child indecency.

Trevor Malcolm Cole was found not guilty on one charge, with another not proven.

Cole, 57, now living in Cambridgeshire, originally faced 12 charges relating to offences against boys aged between seven and 13 years.

Three of the charges were dropped during the trial.

One offence took place in 2004, the rest between 2011 and 2013.

One of the young victims was from Tarbert, where Cole used to live - the others were from the Loch Fyne-side village of Furnace.

Cole denied all charges, claiming none of the events took place and that the boys and some of their parents had conspired to fabricate allegations.

The court heard that three of the boys, all from Furnace, were sexually assaulted on an isolated forest track opposite the nearby Auchindrain Township Museum while being taught to drive.

One boy said that Cole had invited him to watch porn videos with

him while Cole exposed himself and others said Cole had tried to expose or touch their private parts.

The youngsters gave evidence via a video link.

Defending, Lorraine Glancy QC insisted that Cole was innocent of all charges and that the boys were all telling lies.

Procurator fiscal David Glancy (no relation) said that Cole's behaviour was 'a catalogue of inappropriate conduct' towards these boys for his own sexual 'gratification'.

Jurors heard evidence over seven days at Dunoon Sheriff Court,



Trevor Cole, 57, was found guilty of seven charges of child indecency.

taking a full day to consider their verdict.

Addressing Cole, Sheriff Thomas Ward

said: 'You have been found guilty of a vast catalogue of offences against young boys

against a background of compelling evidence.' Sentencing will be on March 8 after criminal

justice and social work and psychiatric reports are compiled. Cole was remanded in custody.

Hospital grounds cigarette free

NHS Highland will have smoke-free grounds across all its sites from next week.

As part of the Scotland-wide initiative, the smoke-free policy aims to guarantee that everyone who enters NHS Highland premises, vehicles and grounds has the right to breathe air that is free of tobacco smoke.

Challenging

NHS Highland consultant breast surgeon Nick Abbot said: 'Although this may prove a challenging policy for some to abide by, the long term health benefits for staff, patients and visitors justify this approach.'

'Support will be available for anyone who finds this difficult, particularly people who smoke heavily admitted as an emergency.'

'As an organisation we should always look at health promotion and disease prevention as

important areas to support in addition to treating illness.'

'I am delighted to see the board moving even further to reduce the negative impact of smoking on health.'

The smoke-free grounds forms part of wider work set out in the Scottish government's 'Creating a tobacco-free generation' strategy.

Local efforts to raise awareness will be supported by a national media campaign in March.

Sheila Duffy, chief executive for ASH Scotland - an organisation aimed at bringing about a healthier nation - said: 'The policy of smoke-free hospital grounds sends a message that tobacco is an enemy of good health.'

'Hospitals see so much misery caused by smoking and are rightly keen to discourage the use of tobacco.'

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WHEN the big boss comes from the city to talk to a community described as 'bursting' to get involved it is not the best tact to enter into battle.

But that's what happened at Ardrishaig this week when the head of Scottish Canals met members of the village community council.

Bluntness can often be misconstrued as rudeness and it jars against the progress being made in empowering local communities.

Local communities can change things – look at the long list of various projects and ideas that exist in Mid Argyll. Projects such as the community gathering, MAMA Festival, football teams, chamber of commerce, Lochgilphead Phoenix Project and the Dochas centre. All initiated by the community - interested individuals who have taken on ideas and delivered.

Why on earth would anyone want to stop or limit willing volunteers working on a major project? Berating a group of volunteers to change their tone and mindset in order to move on in their work was probably not the best piece of community empowerment seen in the west. When this comes from someone, a leading figure from a national organisation, on a first meeting, when he has no prior communication with the group, it is, quite simply, bizarre.

People who live in this area should be allowed to take responsibility. The Crinan canal has been in the area for 200 years and the people who live around it and see it every day will be the ones who can make it work.

Community council members want to engage. For the past six years they have been trying to do something about the state of their village.

A series of meetings and consultations has led to nothing. How many times do people complain that folks just don't want to get involved or be part of a community? It seems counter intuitive to antagonise the very people who want to work with any organisation, especially when trying to get the best from them.

who's who at your advertiser

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Beat bowel cancer

Sir,
Everyone at Beating Bowel Cancer would like to thank all those who took part in or supported our Decembeard fundraising campaign last month.

We are delighted to announce that we have reached our target of £250,000, which will help us to support people with bowel cancer and their families and to raise awareness of the disease, its symptoms and the need for early diagnosis.

The aim of the campaign, which asks men to ditch their razors and grow a beard throughout December, is to break down the stigma of talking about bowel cancer, which is the UK's second biggest cancer killer.

Over a hundred people are diagnosed with bowel cancer every day, yet over 90% of cases can be treated successfully if caught early. So it's vital that people become more aware of the symptoms so they can act quickly.

Decembeard is a fun way for individuals or teams to raise funds and help to increase awareness of the disease.

It's easy to do and thousands signed up for it this year.

We'd like to thank every one of them for their support.

If anyone has any queries or concerns about bowel cancer, there's lots of information and advice on our website or they can call our Nurse Helpline on 020 8973 0011.

Mark Flanagan,
CEO,
Beating Bowel Cancer.

White flag at front green

Sir,
The white flag now flying on Lochgilphead front green is a puzzle to most local people.

If it is, as I suspect, the coat of arms of our imperious Argyll and Bute Council, then local citizens will be very displeased. Particularly those who've signed the petition to fly the Scottish Saltire there, following the council's infamous decision to fly it only on St Andrew's Day.

Prior to this current council's administration the Saltire flew on the front green every day to the pleasure of both local people and visitors for many years.

As I write on Robert Burns' birthday I suspect his spectre might redirect his lines with some venom at this action by our representatives at Kilmory - sleekit, cow'rin, tim'rous beastie(s), / O what a panic's in thy breastie!

Such action is symbolic of the councils more serious underhand decision to quash the long-overdue development plan for Mid-Argyll in favour of an Argyll Wide Sustainable Economic Forum.

As our bard's ghost might also say, 'What a parcel o' rogues in a council'.

Robert Millar, by email.

Barnett formula is generous

Sir,
Thanks to the generous Barnett formula for funding the Scottish Parliament, the spending on public services in Scotland is more than £1,500 extra per head than in Eng-

land. This funding is a risk from the SNP which wants to replace the Barnett Formula with disappearing oil revenues.

If the SNP succeed in this aim, then to avoid massive spending cuts the Scottish Government would have to increase taxes. This would amount to Scottish taxpayers paying 14 pence more in the pound in income tax.

With policies like that, only the very rich can afford to vote SNP.

Alan Reid MP,
Argyll and Bute.

GDP shows growth

Sir,
It's gratifying to see latest Scottish GDP figures showing further growth in the construction sector during the third quarter of 2014.

However, those buoyant headline figures don't necessarily tell the full story. We have yet to see corresponding improvements in industry employment, which actually fell by 7,000 over the 12 months to September of last year.

The industry has traditionally played a crucially important role within the Scottish economy in providing high quality employment opportunities in large numbers.

At the current time, whilst generating impressive levels of output, employment within the industry remains historically low.

That is not a sustainable situation and points to major challenges for the industry's recovery in the months ahead.

As an absolute priority, industry and government must work together to encourage many more young people to

enter the industry. Construction can offer excellent training and development opportunities and genuinely fulfilling long-term career prospects.

Vaughan Hart,
managing director,
Scottish Building
Federation.

Shocked and horrified

Sir,
I am utterly shocked and horrified that NHS Highland has told the Kintyre Dialysis Campaign that they must raise another £61,000 to pay for a kidney dialysis unit at Campbeltown Hospital.

The Kintyre Dialysis Campaign has worked incredibly hard and has already raised £50,000. To be told by the health board that it must raise another £61,000 before the badly-needed unit can be prepared is disgusting.

During the referendum campaign, the SNP told us, wrongly, that the only way to stop the NHS being privatised in Scotland was to vote for independence.

Now an agency of the SNP Government is demanding that kidney patients have to raise money to pay for their treatment.

This is the worst form of privatisation.

The SNP government should be ashamed of itself and should pay this money now for the new unit.

Otherwise kidney dialysis patients will be faced with the long and exhausting trip to the Vale of Leven Hospital three times a week.

Alan Reid MP,
Argyll and Bute.

Letters to the Editor, Argyllshire Advertiser,
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Argyll PA31 8NB

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PRESS POLICY

WE AT The Argyllshire Advertiser do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing a weekly local newspaper.

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

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E-mailed letters can only be considered if they have a name, full address and telephone number.

Castle Toward closing date not set

'Since the community buy-out was first proposed the council has looked hard for ways to say yes'

A FINAL date to sell Castle Toward in Cowal to the community or remarket it has not been set, says Argyll and Bute council.

Despite negotiations between the local authority and South Cowal Community Development Company (SCCDC) agreement cannot be reached on a price for the building.

Campaigners claim the council is not listening to them but the council said at its full council meeting last week the group could have as long as it wants 'within reason' to come up with a bid.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell has met with Alex Neil MSP cabinet secretary for communities, who has since written to the council asking it

to extend the right-to-buy deadline of January 31 for the community group to purchase the former outdoor education building - which was closed in 2010 - and estate.

Mr Russell said: 'I met with Alex Neil to discuss the Castle Toward buyout after having a detailed conversation last week about the same issue with the deputy first minister John Swinney.'

'In addition Mr Neil is contacting Highlands and Islands Enterprise to ask if there is any more that it can do to help.'

Mr Russell said he was to work with local government Minister Marco Biagi to devise amendments to the Community Empowerment Bill which would specifically assist community or-



Castle Toward.

ganisations, like SCCDC, faced with local authorities that were reluctant to transfer assets where it was clearly in the community's interests to do so.

Council leader Dick Walsh said: 'I look forward to hearing from Mr Neil and will be happy to reiterate to him the terms of the offer of support to SCCDC, originally made on December 18 and subsequently

endorsed by the full council on January 22.'

'This clearly states that there is the option to extend the right to buy deadline beyond January 31, should that be required.'

No need

'There is no need for any special request to do this because the council has already made sure that the option is there.'

'Anyone who reads the decision in detail

will see this. The continued perpetuation of misleading information - whether for political gain or as a result of genuine misunderstanding of the facts - helps no-one.'

'I will be happy to clarify the situation with Mr Neil or, indeed, anyone who has questions and who wants to know the true facts about this.'

'Since the community buy-out was first pro-

posed the council has looked hard for ways to say 'yes'.

'We have made it very clear to SCCDC that we remain willing to continue our positive engagement with them and have further discussions - especially around an enhanced business plan which makes the most of the significant potential offered by the Castle Toward property. That offer remains.'

BBC apologises for 'backwater' comments

A POPULATION of Mid Argyll beavers have been 'insulted' by a BBC Devon news reporter.

John Maguire was reporting on beavers in the wild near the Devon town of Ottery St Mary, when he compared them with Argyll's own beaver population.

The reporter said: 'There is a population [of beavers] up in Scotland.'

'The difference there, though, is that they are out in the middle of nowhere but here on the River Otter [they are] quite close to civilisation, the town of Ottery St Mary.'

Hearing the report, Alan Reid MP said: 'A throw-away remark like that on prime time BBC News can have an adverse impact on people's perceptions of a location.'

Apologising for any upset caused, the BBC said: 'We accept the phrase 'in the middle of nowhere' may have sounded dismissive, which was not the reporter's intention.'



Beavers were introduced to Knapdale for a five-year trial.

Clear and unequivocal management plans are needed if beavers are to be reintroduced

A REPORT looking at how salmon and trout populations might be affected, if beavers are reintroduced to Scotland, was published last week.

The Scottish government will decide later this year whether to reintroduce beavers to Scotland, after receiving the results of a number of studies, including the five-year Scottish Beaver trial in Knapdale, Argyll.

The report was produced by the Beaver Salmonid Working Group (BSWG), which is made up of fish biology specialists, fishery, wildlife and river management representatives. The report was prepared for the National Species Reintroduction Forum (NSRF).

The report found there would be a range of impacts on salmon and trout as a result of beavers, and although further research was required, any successful reintroduction would depend on a management plan.

It said beavers may affect salmon and trout positively by, for example, increasing the number of invertebrates available for fish to feed on, as well as increasing the variety of habitat for fish, including areas for rearing, over wintering and avoiding fast flows.

However, negative impacts may include beaver dams sometimes limiting salmon and trout moving along waterways and the loss of valuable spawning habitat.

Ron Macdonald, NSRF chairman and Scottish Natural Heritage's (SNH) director of policy and advice, said: 'We're grateful to the BSWG for this comprehensive and useful report, and we'll examine their recommendations carefully.'

BSWG chair, Roger Wheeler, added: 'Our report has indicated that if beavers are to be reintroduced, clear and unequivocal management plans are needed.'

'Without such plans, any possible benefits to salmonids from beavers may not be realised. Further research and monitoring of wild beavers will be essential as an aid to further planned releases and their management.'

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* Retail businesses ineligible due to restrictions applied to European funding

Musical memories at Chalmers Court

A MUSICAL duo brought toe tapping sounds of past and present to Inveraray on Monday afternoon.

As part of Music in Hospitals Heather Innes and Ciaran Dorris entertained 16 residents at Argyll Community Housing Association's sheltered housing complex in Chalmers Court.

The day centre reverberated to tunes ranging from Scottish traditional to Elvis and Johnny Cash led by Ciaran on the guitar and Heather playing the bodhran.

Occasionally two residents gave additional support, Maggie

McGhee, who is registered blind, played the tambourine and Niall



Ciaran Dorris in full song. 08_a06shelter02

Iain MacLean backed her up on a wood block drum.

Most of the residents

taking part were aged in their 70s to 80s with the eldest being Morag MacLachlan aged 94.

Community support assistant Shona Stewart said: 'We have 25 tenants in 19 houses but this afternoon's entertainment is also open to friends of residents. We have had Heather and Ciaran come before and this time their show is sponsored by Glaxo Smith Kline.

'It is just part of the events we have in the centre, there's a whist drive on Tuesday evenings, a coffee morning every two weeks and a monthly lunch club.'



All the residents with Heather and Ciaran. 08_a06shelter06



Heather Innes and Ciaran Dorris lead a song. 08_a06shelter01



Heather Innes on the bodhran with Ciaran Dorris playing guitar. 08_a06shelter04



Maggie McGhee playing the tambourine. 08_a06shelter03



Niall Iain MacLean plays the wooden block. 08_a06shelter05

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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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Red Cross Hall
Kirk Street, Campbeltown
Saturday 7th February
10am - 12 noon
Drama Festival Tickets on sale
(Tues 17th - Wed 18th Feb in CGS)

Mid Argyll Cancer Support Group
Monday 9th February, 7.00pm
Red Cross Hall, Lochgilphead
Basic Emergency First Aid
by Murdina Clark
Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served
All welcome

Kintyre Piping Society BURNS NIGHT CEILIDH
in the **Campbeltown Bowling Club**
on **Saturday 14th February at 7.30pm for 8pm**
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Kintyre Schools Mini Pipe Band
James McCorkindale Dancers
Singers, Fiddle group, Accordion
Haggis piped in, addressed by Alistair Cousin.
Admission £5, includes a small supper.

Wednesday Social Club Time Dragging?
Fed up with TV? Fancy a change, then come along and join us for an afternoon of some old fashioned games and socialising at the Kintyre Community Centre, Stewarts Green, Campbeltown.
Everyone made welcome.
Wednesday 11th February
from 2pm - 4pm
Convenient for local bus or ring and ride
Refreshments available

SCDA Kintyre District DRAMA FESTIVAL
in **Campbeltown Grammar School**
on **Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th February at 7.00 pm, Tuesday**
Lochgilphead Drama Club: "The Play-Reading" by Joan Honey
Tarbert Academy B: "Dust of the Street" by Harry Glass
Peninver Players: "Last Tango Roon the Leaside" by David Tristram

Wednesday Mid-Argyll Drama Club:
"Darlings, You Were Wonderful" by Derek Lomax
Tarbert Academy A: "Fireflies" by Harry Glass
Accent Players: "That Old Black Magic" by Andrea MacPhail
Tickets: Adults £7 per night; Primary School Children £4 per night
Priority Booking: Saturday 7th February in Red Cross Hall 10am - 12noon
Thereafter at Yorkshire Building Society, Longrow South

INVERARAY & DISTRICT ACCORDION & FIDDLE CLUB
Argyll Hotel, Inveraray
Wednesday 11th February at 8.00pm
Guest Artistes
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Cabin Fever with Ray Mac and The Southerners
Saturday 14th February
Drill Hall, Lochgilphead
Doors open 8.30pm
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Kenny leaps 10,000ft for charity

'I was a bit worried about jumping but after I did it I thought I could have done it again'

TARBERT daredevil Kenny MacNab leapt 10,000ft from a plane recently and has raised £1,500 so far for charity as a result.

The Tarbert Harbour Authority chairman decided to do a sponsored skydive for chari-

ties Parkinson's UK and Mayaware.

Kenny, 59, also chairman of the Clyde Fishermen's Association, always wanted to do a skydive and on the back of a fundraising campaign by Corner House pub managers Marga-

ret and Dougie MacNeill before Christmas, he decided to do it for charity.

He said: 'The pub held a race night for the those charities and they are both important to me, because one of my good pals was diagnosed with

Parkinson's and I felt that it was right to do the jump for them.'

Last year Kenny did a sponsored walk on the Great Wall of China for the Fishermen's Mission, but after the skydive at Glenrothes Airport in Fife two weeks

ago he reckons it is time to take a break

Kenny laughed: 'I think it is time to draw the line, but it was some experience. I was a bit worried about jumping out of the plane but after I did it I thought I could have done it again.'

Castle maintenance group to meet

TARBERT castle maintenance work will take place on Saturday (tomorrow).

The group will meet at 10am for the voluntary session and is weather permitting.

Work required this week includes gravel retrieval on the Kintyre Way section of path where rain has washed it away, trimming vegetation at the village steps and minor fence repairs.

This is YOUR paper...
Send your photos and stories to editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk

School stars wanted

TIME is running out to submit nominations for this year's Scottish education awards.

People in Argyll and Bute have just 10 days until Monday, February 16 to add to the hundreds of suggestions already recognising schools and individuals worthy of acknowledgment.

Last year Lochdonhead Primary in Mull and Port Ellen Primary in Islay were named as

finalists, alongside Alison Currie from Dunoon Grammar School and Ailsa Cassidy from Rothesay Joint Campus, at the Scottish Education Awards 2014.

Information

Nominations can only be accepted online.

To nominate a school, teacher, head-teacher or support staff member, or for more information on the award categories, go to www.scottisheducationawards.org.uk.

The Big Screen is Back!

Campbeltown Picture House at the Victoria Hall



Saturday 14 Feb

- 12:00pm **Paddington** (PG) 95mins
- 2:00pm **The Hobbit: Battle of the Five Armies** (12A) 144mins
- 5:30pm **Into The Woods** (PG) 125mins
Based on Stephen Sondheim's award winning comedy musical fantasy. Starring Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, James Cordon, Johnny Depp. **3 OSCAR Nominations!**
- 8:00pm **Mr Turner** (12A) 150mins Timothy Spall as great British painter J.M.W. Turner

Sunday 15 Feb

- 12:30pm **Into The Woods** (PG) 125mins 'a whirl of pure pleasure' The Telegraph
- 3:00pm **Paddington** (PG) 95mins
- 5:30pm **The Theory of Everything** (12A) 123mins
Eddie Redmayne and Felicity Jones in the award winning extraordinary story of renowned astrophysicist Stephen Hawking. **5 OSCAR Nominations!**

Tickets on sale at Victoria Hall 30 mins before screenings.

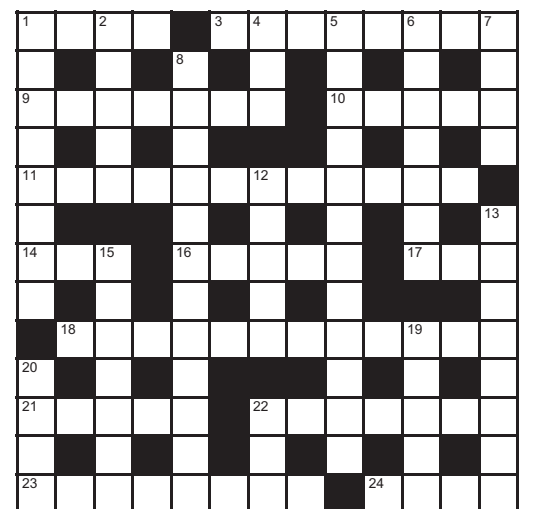
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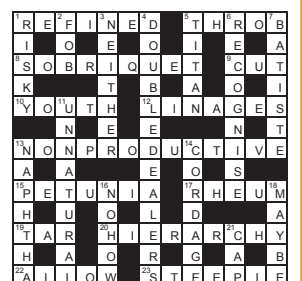
Across

- 1 Birdbrain! (4)
- 3 Island in the Indian ocean (3,5)
- 9 Friendly (7)
- 10 Corner (5)
- 11 Male girl Friday! (5-4,3)
- 14 Public transport (3)
- 16 Equestrian controls (5)
- 17 Snow transport (3)
- 18 Alteration (12)
- 21 Alter time? (5)
- 22 Pen (7)
- 23 Face coverings (8)
- 24 Sort (4)

Down

- 1 Bitter criticism (8)
- 2 Passing (5)
- 4 Cereal (3)
- 5 Commute far away (4-8)
- 6 Plant secretions (7)
- 7 Cough to attract attention (4)
- 8 Passing remark (6,6)
- 12 One who covers (5)
- 13 From an Austrian city (8)
- 15 Stews in Liverpool (7)
- 19 Key material (5)
- 20 Hunted (4)
- 22 Large deer (3)

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Post office on the move in Inveraray

INVERARAY will have a new-style post office this spring.

The changeover is planned to be seamless - on March 11 the new branch at the Londis Store at the Arch Filling Station will open, as the other closes.

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid has welcomed the news that the town will keep this vital service with increased opening hours - a move which received no objections from customers.

Mr Reid said: 'I'm pleased that, although the existing post office is to close, Inveraray will still have a post office.'

'Post Office Ltd told me that during the required consultation period into the proposed move there were no objections to the move.'

Alterations

The Londis store will undergo alterations to provide the new post office service, which takes place in its own dedicat-

ed section at the same counter as the rest of the business.

The Post Office says that before the new branch opens, work will be carried out at the entrance to the store to provide level access for customers.

Inside, the new branch will be in line with Post Office specifications, making sure there is sufficient space for the post office to operate alongside the shop and petrol station.



Alastair Redman is pictured with young James Holmes, who helped put the parcels together.

Troops will get tablet through the post

PARCELS are being sent to troops abroad thanks to Argyll residents.

Alastair Redman, a postmaster on Islay said: 'Thanks to everyone who contributed to our

latest batch of parcels destined for our forward operating bases in Afghanistan.

'A particular thanks to An Gleann tablet for their very generous donation that will be

much appreciated by the guys and gals of our UK armed forces and another thanks to wee James Holmes for his enthusiastic help putting the parcels together.'

Scottish Field MARCH ISSUE OUT NOW

Danny MacAskill ON RIDING THE CUILLIN RIDGE

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Better broadband demanded for the Highlands and islands

HIGHLANDS and Islands Labour MSP, and long term campaigner for better broadband services, Rhoda Grant, has written to the cabinet secretary for Infrastructure, Keith Brown, calling on him to allocate more funding to the Highlands and islands for improved broadband services.

Mrs Grant understands the Scottish government has further monies available for this and is currently making de-

isions on spending priorities.

Mrs Grant said: 'Scottish Labour in the Highlands and Islands has led the way on bringing about much needed improvement, and indeed, the introduction of broadband services to some parts of the Highlands and islands.'

Delighted

'My former colleagues, Peter Peacock and Maureen Macmillan, worked relentlessly on this issue for years

and, like everyone in the area, we were delighted when the funding was finally awarded to improve the infrastructure of the broadband network in the area.

'This work is ongoing and while it will eventually bring faster broadband to a great many people in the area, some will, unfortunately, still miss out due to the geographical challenges in bringing services to the remotest parts of our area.'

Donations on the rise

CHARITABLE donations made to NHS Highland totalled £767,000 in 2014 - £5,000 more than in the previous year.

Donations from patients and relatives go towards extras for patients including memory boxes to help dementia patients, large clocks, iPads, medical and IT equipment, newspaper and magazine subscriptions for patients, and toys.

Donations go to the Health Board Endowment Fund, a registered charity.

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Producers urged to promote dairy

UK dairy producers have been urged by NFU Scotland's milk committee to pull together and take the positive story behind Scottish and British dairy produce directly to the consumer.

The union believes that a farmer-led campaign built around positive, promotional activity at retailers - developed in conjunction with stakeholders such as DairyCo, Dairy UK and fellow farming unions - will highlight the quality, variety and value of the nation's dairy produce.

During this period of low farmgate prices, milk committee members agreed that a collaborative promotion effort will help reinforce the support already apparent from British consumers to buy British dairy produce.

A NFU spokeswoman said: 'That message can be enhanced by dairy farmers meeting face-to-face with consumers and giving them a taste of the delicious, high

quality, highly nutritious farm-assured produce originating from our dairy farms.

'The members of the milk committee are all working dairy farmers producing milk in every region of Scotland, and they all support a positive campaign involving the nation's highly professional and dedicated farmers and the many quality products produced in Scotland and the UK.

Volatile

Gary Mitchell, NFU Scotland's milk committee chairman, said: 'The current volatile price swings are hugely challenging for farmers but some self-promotion of our products, ensuring that they are increasing sought out by our loyal consumers could help strengthen returns to the sector, particularly at this difficult time.

'We appreciate our levy body DairyCo may not have a big marketing budget to specifi-



The public can be encouraged to use more dairy products, from cheese to cream.

ly promote dairy, but it does have the potential to co-ordinate a farmer-led promotional campaign over a weekend.

'That would then allow our dairy processors and their umbrella organisation Dairy UK to get on board and help us to promote our produce in all of our regional areas.

'We will be discussing the potential of a nationwide campaign with other farming un-

ions. For Scottish producers who are keen to be involved in the promotion at their local supermarket, please contact your NFUS milk committee representative, your DairyCo extension officer, or myself on 07885 581 580.

'DairyCo can assist the farming unions to coordinate our efforts and Dairy UK can encourage its processors' members to donate dairy products, and we can

work to mobilise farmers and their families to promote all things dairy, at some point soon.

'Support from producers across the UK could make this work.

Lamb

'In Scotland, last August's promotional campaign of Scotch lamb, where samples of tasty Scotch lamb were given out at supermarkets across the country over one weekend, led to sales of the meat rising by 11 per cent.

'If we could raise milk sales by just five per cent our spring flush would all but vanish.'

Milk committee member James Rankin, a

fourth generation farmer from Cumbernauld, said: 'We need to move on from all the moaning and groaning, and start to think positively and look to what we can do ourselves.

'We need to promote rather than protest.

'I saw what had been done by Quality Meat

Scotland and there's no reason that can't work for dairy produce.

'It is clear the public is behind us.

'We need to get out to supermarkets and encourage more people not just to drink more milk but to use more dairy products, from cheese to cream.'

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The MAMAFest committee will be hosting a Valentine's Day gig where singles can go along to meet their 'dream' partners.

MAMALove to raise money for town's biggest music festival

MAMALove will be in the air this Valentine's day as the organisers of MAMAFest launch their first date of the year.

The Valentine's gig is on the back of the Mid Argyll Music and Arts Festival which became the most successful event in Lochgilphead of 2014.

Live music will be performed by two of the most popular acts from last year's MAMAFest, Cabin Fever and Ray Mac and The Southerners.

Liz Perkins, chairwoman of the MAMAFest committee, said: 'We are very excited about hosting this event.'

'The bands that are playing are perfect for the occasion and we're really hoping for a great turnout.'

'We are holding this night not only to bring another live music event to the local community but also as a way of raising money to help pay for the MAMAFest weekend in September.'

The MAMALove will take place in the

Lochgilphead's Drill Hall on Saturday, February 14. Cupid's MAMA will also be out in force and anyone looking for love could find themselves matched with their dream partner on the night.

Committee members will man the licensed bar on the night and guests who get there before 9pm will receive a free glass of champagne.

For ticket information go to Argyll Book Centre on Lorne Street or Riverside Garage on Oban Road.



Lunch group puts the spotlight on a day in the life of a police officer

KILBERRY Meet and Munch members will get an insight into police life at the group's next meeting. Speaker Karen Watson will talk about 'A day in the life of a police

officer' at the gathering on Tuesday February 10. Everyone is welcome and asked to take a plate of finger food to share. The meeting is from 12noon, with the talk at 12.30pm.

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- 2012 (62) Peugeot 308 1.6 HDI 92 Active. Silver, 16400 miles, bluetooth, alloys. Was £9295. Now £8995. Save £300
- 2012 (62) Peugeot 208 1.4 HDI 70 Active. Morello Black, 20000 miles, touch screen. Was £8895. Now £8695. Save £200
- 2007 (57) Peugeot 4007 2.2 HDI 156 GT. Blue, 77000 miles, 4 wheel drive, leather, alloys, heated seats. Now £7995
- 2012 (12) Peugeot 207 1.4 HDI 70 Sportium. Grey, 26000 miles, sat nav, alloys, touch screen, CD player. Now £7495
- 2011 (11) Peugeot 207 1.6 HDI 92 Allure. Silver, 28000 miles, half leather, glass roof, alloys, CD player. Now £7295
- 2012 (62) Peugeot 107 1.0 Allure. Choice of 2, 18400 miles, alloys, MP3, bluetooth, air conditioning. Now £5995
- 2010 (59) Peugeot 207 1.6 HDI 90 Sport. Grey, 32000 miles, alloys, leather steering wheel, front fog lights. Now £5995
- 2010 (10) Peugeot 207 1.4 VTI 95 Sport. Blue, 21000 miles, alloys, sports front grille. Was £5495. Now £4995. Save £500

Quality Used Cars

- 2011 (61) Volkswagen Polo 1.4 DSG Match Auto. Blue, 14000 miles, alloys, CD/MP3, air conditioning. Now £8995
- 2012 (12) Renault Clio 1.5 dCi 88 Dynamique Tom Tom. Black, 13500 miles, sat nav, cruise control. Now £7995
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New 'lease' of life for Tighnabruaich art gallery

'As well as selling my own paintings, I'll be moving the gallery in a slightly different direction while staying true to the core principles'

WHILE most young British artists gravitate to creative hotspots such as London, Glasgow and Manchester to further their careers, Robbie Baird from Tighnabruaich is taking a different path.

The 25-year-old has set up as an art gallery proprietor in rural Argyll, thanks to Tighnabruaich Gallery owners Penny and Andrew Graham-Weall.

The couple, who have enjoyed success running the business since 2008, took Robbie on as an apprentice last year and showed him the ropes of running a gallery.

Vacant

Over the summer, Robbie also set up his own 'pop-up' gallery, Briars and Thorns, in a vacant premise next door to the gallery in the heart of Tighnabruaich.

Penny and Andrew

have now moved to Herford. But rather than selling one of the foremost galleries in the west coast of Scotland on the open market they have leased it to Robbie, who plans to continue bringing in new artists, selling his own work as well as putting his fresh stamp on this exciting venture. Robbie hopes that in a few years he will be in a position to buy the gallery.



Robbie, Penny and Andrew at the Tighnabruaich Gallery.

'It's a unique arrangement but it's one that suits both parties,' said Penny. 'We have been so impressed with Robbie's commitment, creativity and enthusiasm for running the gallery and we feel that as well as leaving it in good hands, we'll be helping a young artist to stay close to home in Argyll and forge a dynamic career.'

Robbie formerly worked at Portavadie Marina as the sales and events co-ordinator but sees his future in the art world, both as a painter with his own following and as someone who recognises, promotes and sells the work of other established and emerging talents in the UK.

'This feels like a natural progression for me,' said Robbie. 'I've known the gallery most of my life – meeting John Lowrie Morrison [John Lowrie Morrison] here when I was eight years old, taking classes with Jean Marshall in the back room, buying art supplies from Shona and Ian Dobbie, and then going on to sell my own work here aged 16 with Penny and Andrew.'

'It's great to be able to step up, showcase up-and-coming talent and take the gallery on its next adventure. Not many young artists get an opportunity like this, to learn the business side of art while having time, space and freedom to develop themselves artistically,' said

Robbie.

'As well as selling my own paintings, I'll be moving the gallery in a slightly different direction while staying true to the core principles established by Penny and Andrew. That's to say keeping a focus on high quality while ensuring the art on display appeals to loyal and new customers alike.'

New work

Robbie will continue to show new work by some of the gallery's favourite artists, including Jan Nelson, Tommy Fitchett, Brian Bartlett and Ernie Upton. But he will be introducing new talent as well, including Eleanor Carlingford and Sara Bor, in a series of exhibitions throughout the year.

Penny and Andrew, meanwhile, are not quitting the art world altogether. 'From now on we'll be based in England but will be taking the gallery on the road as 'Tig on Tour,' both as a 'pop-up' venue and also visiting the affordable art fairs that are an established part of the UK art scene,' explained Andrew.

Robbie will start this season with MMXV, an exhibition featuring all the artists showcased in the 2015 calendar.

It opens on February 14 and runs until February 28.

There is an open invitation to the preview night and the official 're-launch' of Tighnabruaich Gallery on Friday February 13 at 6.30pm.

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Trips to Argyll inspired Lorna's imaginative illustrations in Wild Child

'I had been visiting the Argyll area a lot over the years. Wild Child's house is actually a retouched version of the beehive cell at the Kilmartin Museum'

AN ILLUSTRATOR who was inspired to create a book about an adventurous Highland girl during visits to Argyll is giving *Argyllshire Advertiser* readers the chance to win a signed copy.

Lorna Freytag moved to Oban last October with her husband Daniel, who grew up in the town, and their two children.

But it was previous visits to Argyll - and a case of homesickness while living in London - that inspired the book *Wild Child*.

Lorna creates her imaginative illustrations by separately photographing scenic landscapes and a model, combining the two to dramatic effect.

Landscapes in Easdale, Kilmartin and Barcaldine help make up the illustrations for *Wild Child*.

'Many of the images in *Wild Child* feature landscapes from around the west coast,' said Lorna. 'Wild Child's house is actually a retouched version of the beehive cell at the Kilmartin Museum.

'Daniel, the children and I had been visiting the Argyll area a lot over the last few years and decided to make the move permanent.

'The landscapes are amazing and being a bit of a city girl - I'm originally from Edinburgh - Oban has the perfect mix of cafés, shops and people along with the forests, beaches and countryside. A perfect balance for me.'

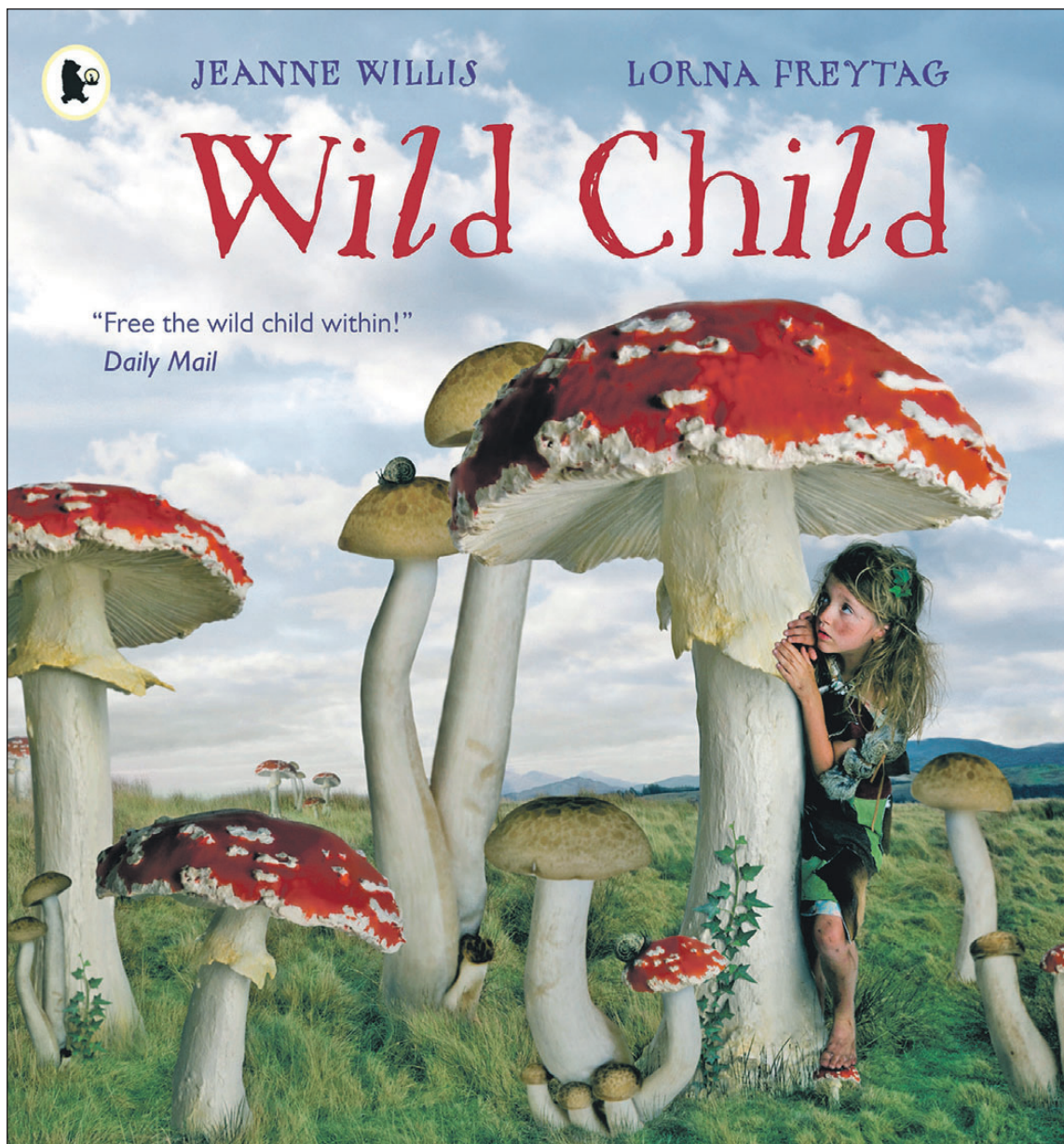
Wild Child, written by children's author Jeann Willis, was released on paperback on January 1 and follows on from

Lorna's previous work on a *Wizard of Oz* adaptation and the *My Humongous Hamster* books.

For a chance to win a signed copy of the book, draw your own *Wild Child* and send your entry, with your name, age, address and school, to: *Wild Child* competition, Wyvex Media Ltd, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. The two best entries, judged by Lorna, will win a signed copy of the book. Deadline for entries is Friday, February 20.



Wild Child was inspired by Lorna's trips to Argyll.



Wild Child was inspired by Lorna's trips to Argyll.

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ACHA houses are first in nearly 30 years

THE FIRST homes to be built in Tarbert for almost 30 years were opened at Oakhill, to the relief of the new tenants to be allocated them.

Four members of the community have already been allocated three of

the eight Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) flats, which are the first to be completed in the village since 1987. There have been issues over land and safe areas on which to build new homes,

hence the 27 year delay before before the latest homes could be built.

Last Friday afternoon saw guest speakers from the housing association, a piper and around 100 locals attend the opening, where ACHA invit-

ed visitors into the one and two-bedroom flats.

Tenant Frances MacFarlane was thrilled with the development and eagerly anticipated her move to a one-bedroom flat on the block.

As well as receiving her keys on the day, she also had the honour of cutting the ribbon alongside Sandra McKenzie, a voluntary ACHA board member and former housing warden.

Frances said: 'I have been transferred from a flat on Church Terrace where I was on my own in a close and there was a lot of dampness in the flat I was in, so I am thrilled to be here.'

'I had been on my own in an empty close and now I will have my own front door, a lovely living room, bedroom and lovely views,' said Frances.

Other residents who picked up their keys at the opening presentation were Scott McNicol, 28,



Frances MacFarlane opened the front door to her home after being given the honour to cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the Oakhill flats. a06oakhill01

of Tarbert and Samantha Hay, 26, Dundee, who are engaged to be married later in the year, and Kim Mackay.

Alastair MacGregor,

ACHA's chief executive, said: 'To those who have been or are yet to be allocated to the houses, I hope that they will be happy in

their new homes.'

The flats were built by Mid Argyll's MacLeod Construction Limited for just more than £1million.



Four two-bedroom flats and four one bedroom flats will be available for let. a06oakhill02

ARGYLL & BUTE ALCOHOL & DRUG PARTNERSHIP

If you or a member of your family need support with drug or alcohol use there is help available...

we can help, please contact us

ABAT

The Argyll and Bute Addiction Team (ABAT) service is available

Monday - Friday 9 - 5

(appointments out with these hours can be arranged)

Please ask your GP, health or social work professional to refer you to your nearest service. To informally discuss your own or someone else's use of alcohol or drugs or learn more about our service please contact the main office on

01546 605602

When referred a trained nurse or social worker will meet with you and discuss your problems and what support you think would be helpful for you to make the changes you feel are needed to improve your life.

addaction

Addaction has been commissioned to provide a new recovery service across Argyll and Bute. The service is for people and families who need support around their own or someone else's drug or alcohol use.

It's a really simple process to access our services. Call us between the hours of **8am and 8pm Monday to Friday** on

0800 206 1460 or
01369 704406

One of our experienced staff will be on hand to speak with you and provide support. They will also arrange to meet you in person in a location that is convenient for you.

We can also be contacted by email on argyllandbute@addaction.org.uk

Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) works in partnership to prevent and support recovery from the harmful use of alcohol and drugs

The ADP commissions community addiction services throughout Argyll and Bute

addaction

www.argyllandbuteadp.info



More jobs on Crinan canal as applications open

NEARLY twice as many seasonal jobs are available this year compared to 2014 on the Crinan canal.

Scottish Canals has created more jobs to assist yachtsmen over the summer season because it found a greater need for support on boats coming into the area.

The Crinan canal team manager Joe Murphy supports the decision to create 22 jobs, up from just 14 opportunities made available last year.

Joe said: 'We are offering to take on young people in the area and to train them up here. Get-

ting fresh people on to the canals is an issue, but with this opportunity we have experienced staff who are willing to train young staff and that creates opportunity for young people to come and take up full time roles later on.

'Although the positions currently available are seasonal we, at Crinan canal, are open minded about taking on someone on a permanent placement.'

People who apply for a seasonal role now could find themselves being offered a permanent position as the Crinan ca-

nal office has two modern apprenticeship spaces to fill. Skills that a person new to Scottish Canals can expect to gain include ground-work and maintenance.

Joe added: 'People do tend to enjoy the work and training and it often leads to them coming back again. Taking on seasonal work with us gives them a head start and experience.'

The closing date for applications has been extended to Friday, February 20. To apply go to Scottish Canal website www.scottishcanals.co.uk.

Homelessness falls by three per cent

HOMELESSNESS in Mid Argyll is keeping up with the rest of the country as figures fall, says Argyll and Bute councillor Robin Currie.

Figures released last month by the Scottish government showed that homelessness in Scotland had decreased by three per cent.

Pro-active

Argyll and Bute council's housing service is said to have improved and is more pro-active in preventing of homelessness.

Councillor Currie said: 'The main reason people become homeless is because they are subject to relationship breakdown or asked to leave their accommodation. We have a mediation contract in place and refer people to mediation to try to resolve disputes and associated potential homelessness.'

'The local staff have good links developed with a wide range of landlords both public and private sector and support agencies.'

The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A83 TRUNK ROAD (ARDRISHAIG TO TARBERT) (50MPH AND 30MPH VARIATION SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2015

The Scottish Ministers hereby give notice that they propose to make the above Order under sections 84(1)(a) and 124(1)(d) of, and paragraph 27 of Schedule 9 to, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which will have the effect of imposing a 50 mph speed limit on that length of the A83 Tarbert - Lochgilphead - Campbeltown Trunk Road from a point (at Ordnance Map coordinates 184977, 684752) at Ardrishaig, 339 metres or thereby south of its junction with the extended centre line of Oakfield Road, to a point (at Ordnance Map coordinates 186658, 669338) at Tarbert, 60 metres or thereby north east of its junction with the extended centre line of the road leading to the properties forming number 1-6, The Ridge, a distance of 16.785 kilometres or thereby.

The A83 Trunk Road (Tarbert) (30mph Speed Limit) Order 2007 is being varied to provide a more accurate description of the extent of the 30mph length of road.

Full details of the proposal are contained in the Order which, together with a plan showing the length of road involved, a copy of the Order to be varied and a statement of the Scottish Ministers' reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined free of charge during normal business hours from 5th February 2015 until 5th March 2015 at the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF; Ardrishaig Post Office, 49 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, Lochgilphead, PA30 8EY and Tarbert Post Office, Woods Newsagents, Tarbert, Argyll, PA29 6UD.

Any person wishing to object to the proposed Order should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Director of Trunk Road and Bus Operations, c/o Liam McDaid, Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF quoting reference NNW/A83(2)/LMC by 5th March 2015.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/road-and-traffic-orders/traffic-orders.

G EDMOND

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



Creggan Wind Farm Limited
ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000

Notice is hereby given that Creggan Wind Farm Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of Burcote Wind Limited), company registration number 06850758, 15 Pitreavie Court, Queensberry Road, Dunfermline, Fife, KY11 8UU has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent to construct and operate a wind farm to north-east of Glenbarr on the Kintyre Peninsula within the Argyll and Bute Council area (central grid reference NR 693 381) and for a direction under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted. The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be around 54 MW, comprising 18 wind turbines with a ground to blade tip height of up to a maximum of 110 metres.

Creggan Wind Farm Limited has now submitted to Scottish Ministers further information in the form of an addendum including the updated Environmental Impact Assessment relative to the revised layout and reduced and amended scheme, to the Creggan Wind Farm Environmental Statement.

Copies of the addendum supplementing the Environmental Statement have been provided explaining the Company's proposals in more detail and are available for inspection during normal office hours at:

Argyll and Bute Planning and Building Standards Office, 1a Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD	Campbeltown Library, Kinloch Road, Campbeltown, Argyll and Bute PA28 6EG
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The Addendum can also be viewed at the Scottish Government Library at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ. A copy of the further information has been made available to Argyll and Bute Council for public inspection.

Copies of the addendum may be obtained from Creggan Wind Farm Limited (tel: 01383 749645) at a charge of £255 hard copy and £10 on CD. Copies of a short non-technical summary are available free of charge.

Any representations should be made in writing to The Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow G2 8LU or emailed to representations@scotland.gsi.gov.uk identifying the proposal and specifying grounds for objection or support, not later than 17 March 2015. Representations should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals), full return email and postal address of those making representations. Only representations sent by email to the address stipulated will receive acknowledgement.

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government Energy Consents and Deployment Unit process applications under the Electricity Act 1989. During the consultation process letters of representation can be sent to Scottish Ministers in support of or objecting to these applications.

Should Scottish Ministers call a Public Local Inquiry (PLI), copies of these representations will be sent to the Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals for the Reporter to consider during the inquiry. These representations will be posted on their website with all personal data redacted, including the full name, address, email address, signature and home telephone number redacted (blacked out).

Copies of representations will also be issued to the developer on request, again with all personal data redacted as previously indicated.

You can choose to mark your representation as confidential, in which case it will only be considered by Scottish Ministers and will not be shared with the Planning Authority, the developer, the Reporter (should a PLI be called) or any other third party.

If you have any queries or concerns about how your personal data will be handled, please email the Energy Consents and Deployment Unit at: energyconsents@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or in writing to Energy Consents and Deployment, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU.

All previous representations received in relation to this development remain valid.

The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (TARBET TO INVERARNAN) (50MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2015

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that they propose to make the above Order under section 84(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which will have the effect of imposing a 50 mph speed limit on that length of the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road from a point (at Ordnance Map coordinates 232367, 704828) at Tarbet, 397 metres or thereby east of the extended centreline of its junction with Still Brae, northerly, to a point (at Ordnance Map coordinates 231920, 719432) 250 metres or thereby south of the extended centreline of the access to Glen Falloch farm, near Inverarnan, a distance of 17.067 kilometres or thereby.

Full details of the proposal are contained in the Order which, together with a plan showing the length of road involved and a statement of the Scottish Ministers' reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined free of charge during normal business hours from 5th February 2015 until 5th March 2015 at the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF; Crianlarich Post Office, Station Road, Crianlarich, FK20 8QN and Tarbet Post Office, Arrochar, G83 7DD.

Any person wishing to object to the proposed Order should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Director of Trunk Road and Bus Operations, c/o Liam McDaid, Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF quoting reference NNW/A82/LMC by 5th March 2015. A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/road-and-traffic-orders/traffic-orders.

G EDMOND

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



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PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-17:00hrs 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. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/03022/PP	Installation of 94.8 metre long pontoon with associated on-shore works and seabed moorings	Furnace Hatchery Furnace Argyll and Bute	Furnace Post Office

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/00142/PP	Formation of carpark (part retrospective).	Land Adjacent to Craignish Parish Church Ardfern Lochgilphead Argyll and Bute PA31 8QN	Sub Post Office Ardfern

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

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.

COUNCILLOR'S SURGERIES

Councillor Sandy Taylor (Ward 3 Mid Argyll)

Councillor Taylor can be contacted by e mail - sandy.taylor@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone - 01546 604184. Councillor Taylor will also be happy to arrange meetings to suit constituents.

Councillor Anne Horn (Ward 2 Kintyre and the Islands)

Councillor Horn can be contacted by Tel: 01880 820496 and by email - anne.horn@argyll-bute.gov.uk. Councillor Horn will be happy to arrange meetings to suit constituents.

Councillor Donald Kelly (Ward 1 South Kintyre)

Councillor Kelly can be contacted on Tel: 01586 810193/07977327751 or by email donald.kelly2@argyll-bute.gov.uk. Councillor Kelly will be happy to arrange meetings to suit constituents.

Councillor Rory Colville (Ward 1 South Kintyre)

Councillor Colville can be contacted on Tel: 01586 820209 and by e mail - rory.colville@argyll-bute.gov.uk. Councillor Colville will be happy to arrange meetings to suit constituents.

Councillor Robin Currie (Ward 2 Kintyre and the Islands)

Councillor Currie can be contacted by e mail - robin.currie@argyll-bute.gov.uk or by telephone - 01496 301 369, mobile 077952 22849 or at home on 01496 850 517.

Councillor Currie will be happy to arrange meetings to suit constituents.

Councillor Dougie Philand (Ward 3 Mid Argyll)

Councillor Dougie Philand can be contacted on Tel: 01546 604114 or by email - dougie.philand@argyll-bute.gov.uk. Councillor Philand will be happy to arrange meetings to suit constituents.

Councillor John Armour (Ward 1 South Kintyre)

Councillor John Armour can be contacted on Tel: 01586 555970 or by email - john.armour@argyll-bute.gov.uk. Councillor Armour will be happy to arrange meetings to suit constituents.

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New and Pre-Reg Renaults ready for immediate delivery

These are just a small selection of cars currently in our showrooms

USED CARS

14 Renault Captur Dyn Medianav, DCi 1.5 Ivor, Delivery Mileage.....	£15,950
14 Skoda Fabia Elegance, 1.6TDI CR, Estate, Silver, 14,000 Miles,	£10,650
63 Skoda Octavia S, TDI Estate Silver 14,000 miles.....	£14,750
63 Skoda Octavia Elegance, 1.6TDI CR, Grey, 11,250 Miles,	£14,500
13 Skoda Octavia SE TSI, Blue 16,600 miles,	£11,500
13 Peugeot 107 Allure, 5dr, blue, 12,000 miles.....	£7,250
61 Renault Pzaz 1.2 SDR Red, 8,500miles	£6,250
11 Renault Kangoo Exp, 1.6 Auto, Grey, 16,000 miles	£6,750
60 Renault Clio Dyn 1.5dci, 5Dr, Silver, 59,000 miles	£5,550
59 Citroen C4 Cool, HDi, 5dr, silver, 28,000 miles.....	£3,500
58 Honda CRV 2.0 SE Auto, Blue, 55,000 miles	£8,500
58 Renault Scenic Conquest, DCI, Orange, 62,000 miles.....	£5,500
57 Citroen Berlingo Desire 1.6 Deisel Grey, 90,000	£3,500
57 Suzuki SX4 DDIS, 5 Dr Hatchback, 1.9 Diesel, Blue, 54,000 miles	£4,495
57 Honda Jazz se 1.4, 5dr, Grey, 79,500 miles.....	£3,500
54 Honda CRV Sport Vtec 2.0 ltr Blue, 91,000 miles	£3,950

COMMERCIALS

61 Kangoo Sport, 1.5DCi, 65K Miles.....	£5,750 plus VAT
60 Renault Traffic SL27 DCI, Yellow, 63,000 miles, two side loading doors..	£7,500 inc. VAT
60 Vauxhall Vivaro DCI Van	£8,000 plus VAT
60 Renault Kangoo ML19, DCi, White, 54,000 miles	£5,500 plus VAT
06 Ford Transit Connect Diesel, 31,000 miles	£4,850 inc. VAT

SELECTION OF LOW PRICE CARS UNDER £2000 TO CLEAR

- Renault Scenic 1.5 DCi
- Citroen Picasso 1.6
- Toyota Corolla 1.4
- Renault Modus 1.4

New Dacia range available for test drive today!

CAR AND VAN HIRE FROM BOTH BRANCHES



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NEW DACIA DUSTER AND SANDERO NOW IN STOCK

DACIA NOW AVAILABLE
The New Dacia Range from **£5,995***



Sandero shown is a Laureate 1.2 16V 75 from £7,995. Sandero Stepway shown is a Laureate TCe 90 from £9,795. Duster shown is a Laureate dCi 110 4X2 from £12,995. Metallic paint optional on Sandero/Duster at £470.

Corsa 1.4 SRi

Reg 2004, MOT Nov. Good condition.
£1200
Tel: 07748 723983

Ford Fusion Plus 2004, 1.6

MOT June, Full Service History, CD Player, Rear DVD Entertainment System, Electric Windows and Mirrors, Excellent Condition.
£1,550
Tel: 07775 665503

Peugeot 307 53 reg. 2.0 HDi Estate

Alloys, 2 new tyres, long MOT, Central locking, power steering, very good on fuel, very good mechanically.
£700 o.n.o.
Tel: 07788 505224

NISSAN ALMERA SX

2005, 60,000 miles, alloys, rear parking sensors, MOT October 2015.
£1,100 o.n.o.
Tel: 07960 504683

WANTED

All types of 4 x 4 vehicles
Landrovers, any 4x4, Toyotas, Nissan, considered. Also non-runner and accident damaged, MOT failure, single or double cab. Genuine people to deal with.
**Telephone 01250 884306
Mobile 07885 203020**

Volkswagen Polo 1.4 Diesel

55 Plate
Immaculate Condition
MOT Sept 2015
79500 miles.
£3100 o.n.o.
Tel: 07765 183512

WANTED

All 4 X 4 Vehicles
any make or model, from 1990 to new, also high mileage, non runners, MOT failures etc considered.
Finance settled, top cash prices paid, instant payment and collection.
Tel: 07546 788945

WANTED ALL 4 X 4'S

Toyota, Mitsubishi, Landrovers etc, mileage no problem. Distance no object. Specialise in Vauxhall Brava and Isuzu pick-ups.
Telephone 07789 138028

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4X4s
TOP PRICE PAID
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ANY AGE AND CONDITION
CALL: 07711 573308 OR 01250 872424

WANTED

Motorhomes and caravans, any makes, model or condition from 1992 to 2014. Instant decision and payment.
Please telephone 07783638067

WANTED

4 x 4's, all makes and models, Toyota, Landrover, Mitsubishi, high miles no problem, MOT or not, instant decision, same day payment. Also light commercials, vans and pick-ups bought.
Contact William 07730 130284 or 07716 200394 or email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com

WANTED

Wanted all 4 x 4s, old or new Toyota Hilux, land cruiser, all pickups single or double cabs, any condition, runner or not, high miles no problem.
Telephone: 07703490572 ask for Robert

Hyundai i30



2009 petrol
Low mileage - 33k
MOT'd until April
Interior and exterior -
Immaculate condition - very
well looked after. A must see!

£4,600 o.n.o.

Call 07909113287 \ 01631 567093

WANTED ALL 4 X 4'S

Any year or condition, would consider any kind of pick-up or jeep, will collect and pay cash.

Telephone 07925 715321

Volvo V70 SE 2.5 Turbo estate auto



1998 115,500 miles.
MOT to 30/11/15.
Excellent runner but
needs some T.L.C
hence £650.

£650

Tel: 01770 302168 (Arran)

Fairline 23 Sports Cruiser



Fairline 23 for sale at a bargain price. New Ford 145hp diesel professionally fitted 2004. New cooker/sea toilet. See full details on Ardoran Marine website.

£7,950

07595 878776

Mercedes Vito Combi van 108 CDI.



2001 2.1 L diesel.
Short Mot , with some
body rust. 6 door tow
ball etc. 4 near new
Michelin tyres. spares
or repair.

Drive away £550.

Tel: 01770 850516 (Arran)

WANTED

All types of motor homes & caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

Telephone: 01250 884306
or mobile 07885 203020

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MOT failures or accident damaged
Top prices paid for the right cars
Cars, vans, 4x4, light commercials
Distance no object
Also household white goods

Tel: 07887 868325 or 07845 462755

WANTED

Motor homes, caravanettes and camper vans, all makes or models considered. Also touring caravans and statics, instant decision, same day payment.

Contact William 07730 130284 or 07716 200394
or email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com



REXEL GROUP

Branch Manager: Oban

The opportunity: We are looking for an individual who is ready to take their career to new level
The person: An existing manager or sales person ready to take on this exciting challenge
The responsibilities: Branch P&L reporting, budget and cost control – as well as stock management & branch staff
The benefits: Excellent salary package, including bonus scheme, car, pension, private medical care & other benefits
The location: Covering Argyll and the islands

A 'can do' attitude is essential, as well as an enthusiasm to lead sales strategies, motivate a team and ensure the branch meet & exceed targets.

Ideal for someone with a dynamic attitude – with a great opportunity to manage their own business, with the freedom to make strategic decisions on a daily basis.

If this sounds like the right role for you – then please apply in writing to:

Craig Thompson Regional Director
Ross Electrical, 17-25 Devon Place,
St Andrews Ind Estate
Glasgow G41 1RB
craig.thompson@rosselec.co.uk
Closing date 13th February 2015



We have the following vacancies:
LGV driver – Oban depot
LGV driver – Fort William depot
Waste Transfer Operative – Oban

Please apply stating which job you are interested in to:
Argyll Resources Group, Torran Gorm Industrial Estate,
Oban PA34 4PL

Tel 01631 566370, email susan@argyllresources.co.uk
An application form can be downloaded from
www.argyllresources.co.uk under
the people and vacancies section

Argyll & Bute Care & Repair is an organisation that is committed to caring for the elderly and disabled community and we are looking to recruit a Manager and an Administration Assistant.



Care & Repair Manager, covering Argyll & Bute Area
Salary £40,000 per annum (pro rata)/ £28571 per annum
25 hours per week

This permanent Manager post will involve investigating & delivering new opportunities for business expansion, and securing ongoing funding.

- This post is to ensure an effective service to clients, through delivery and operation of the Care and Repair service. To provide practical, financial & technical services, information and advice to elderly and disabled householders throughout Argyll & Bute.

- To ensure the activities of Argyll & Bute Care & Repair accord with company policy, comply with regulatory and legislative requirements, are carried out within budget, and achieve value for money.

- Staff management and development

- To promote Argyll & Bute Care & Repair positively, through all activities

Knowledge and understanding of housing, presentation & IT skills, and good customer service skills are all essential. A full driving license and access to a car is also essential.

Administration Assistant, Oban

Salary £14,390 per annum (pro rata)/ £6167 per annum 15 hours per week

We are looking to recruit a part time Administration Assistant to work alongside our Administrator, this is a **fixed term contract to 31st March 2016**.

This post will involve providing an administration service for the general office, including reception and telephone management. The postholder will assist in delivering professional front line services to customers and provide personal and confidential administration assistance to the staff.

Fundraising experience would be desirable.

For an informal chat or to find out more about these posts please contact Helen Kessell, Chairperson on 01546 602091

An Application form, Full Role Profile and Person Specification are available by emailing; estewart@abcarerepair.co.uk

Closing Date for both posts: 12 noon on Friday 13th February 2015

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Please apply by email with full C.V
and covering letter to: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

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 This is an exciting opportunity with excellent salary and benefits package.
 To apply, please send a covering letter of application with CV by email to: ali@obantimes.co.uk

Network Maintenance Operative x2

Argyll South & Argyll North

£14,835 - £23,380 (Band E)

Ref: 4558 (North) & 4559 (South)

Two exciting opportunities have arisen for a Network Maintenance Operative's. One will cover the South Argyll area and one will cover the North Argyll area. You will be expected to ensure the effective and efficient repair and maintenance of the network infrastructure (water network, drainage network and pumping stations) with minimal disruption to the customer. Some of the key accountabilities will include - carrying out planned & emergency repairs, work planning and dealing with customers. You will be required to participate in a standby rota and out of hours working. Previous Network experience is desirable for this role.

For further information about this post please see visit www.scottishwater.co.uk/careers

Only online applications can be accepted at www.scottishwater.co.uk/careers

Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 27 February 2015.



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WANTED
 Help with general house work and ironing
 Two or three hours a fortnight (Dunbeg area)
 Phone 01631 566362 late afternoon

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Scottish Natural Heritage is the leading public body responsible for advising Ministers on matters relating to the natural heritage. The natural environment is a key asset that underpins Scotland's wealth, health and quality of life. Our job is to conserve this resource, to promote its sustainable management and to encourage people to access and enjoy it responsibly.



Reserve Support

Grade B

Rum, South Highland

We're looking for 2 people to support the operational delivery of the Rum reserve management plan. Here, you'll undertake practical estate management with practical deer management, therefore you'll need a Deer Management Qualification. Working with a small team, you'll contribute to biological monitoring of NNR and the management of other South Highland NNRs.

For further information regarding the post, please contact Lesley Watt, Vacancy Manager, SNH, 01687 462026 or email lesley.watt@snh.gov.uk

For further information regarding the application process, please contact **Nikki Hossack, HR Services, Scottish Natural Heritage, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, tel: 01463 725182, email: recruitment@snh.gov.uk**

Closing date for applications is midnight, 16 February 2015.



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Come out to Crinan and enjoy working with an enthusiastic team.

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reservations@crinanhotel.com or phone 01546 830261

Phlebotomist/Healthcare Assistant

Lochgilphed Medical Centre has a part time vacancy for a phlebotomist/healthcare assistant. This post would be for 8 hours weekly. Starting salary is dependent on experience.

SVQ qualification and a knowledge of computer data entry would be an advantage but not essential.

Please contact **Muriel Miller, Practice Manager** or **Sheila Clarke, Practice Nurse** on 01546 462002 for further information, job description and application forms.

Closing date for applications is 28.2.2015



Seasonal staff required. Full/Part Time

BOATMASTER

We have vacancies for the above in Oban and Fort William from May to August 2015.

Candidates must be enthusiastic, self motivated, flexible, and be in possession of Tier1 Level 2/Tier 2 BML or equivalent and provide high levels of customer service.

If holder of CoC assistance may be provided to obtain a BML.

To apply, please forward your CV and certificates by post or email to: **Clyde Marine Services Ltd, Victoria Harbour, Greenock, PA15 1HW. admin@clyde-marine.co.uk**



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30 hours over 4 days per week, temporary maternity cover post £13,854 pro rata

Here at **Auchinlee in Campbeltown**, we provide the highest levels of care for older people. Our goal is to ensure that every one of our residents enjoys the best possible quality of life. Of course, making sure that they also enjoy tasty and nutritious food is right at the heart of that, which is why this rewarding role is so important.

As well as cooking everything from scratch, you'll order and check deliveries, update menus and generally keep paperwork up-to-date. So you will need to be well organised and able to manage your own time. We're also looking for experience of CookSafe and ideally an Intermediate Food Hygiene Certificate.

You can look forward to an excellent benefits package that includes an employer contributory pension and generous holiday allowance. What's more, you will be part of one of Scotland's largest voluntary social work organisations. At CrossReach, we offer quality care and counselling. But the real story of CrossReach is the work that our staff do: reaching out and making a real difference to the lives of others.

As we do our work in Christ's name, applicants must be in sympathy with and supportive of our Christian Ethos. This post is subject to PVG Membership.

For more information and to apply please go to www.crossreach.org.uk or call 01586 552568. Closing date: 19th February 2015.

The Church of Scotland
 Social Care Council

Operating as CrossReach, Scottish Charity No: SC011353



Leading the way in Learning Disability

ENABLE Scotland is a dynamic, vibrant and expanding organisation dedicated to improving the lives of people across Scotland.



Team Leader/ Team Facilitator

Location: Oban. Salary: £24K - £26K DOE. 39 hours per week.

We require a Team Leader to join our established team to help our users achieve the lives they want to live. You will be experienced in working with adults with learning disabilities.

You will also have an SVQ 3 in Health & Social Care or equivalent. You will be experienced in using a person centred approach and have the leadership skills to successfully manage your teams.

Personal Assistants in Care

Location: Oban. Salary: £7.80 per hour (Sessional hours).

Are you looking for an opportunity to make a difference? Would you like a job that is rewarding?

If that involves wanting to support people with learning disabilities then we would love to hear from you.

Please contact the local office for further details or information on **01631 565062**, email kirsty.mackenzie@enable.org.uk or visit www.enablescotlandjobs.org.uk

Closing date: **20 February 2015.**

ENABLE Scotland is an equal opportunities employer. Scottish charity number SC009024.

Oban based Civil engineering and marine contractor requires Experienced Labourer Experienced Charge Hand/ Working Foreman

Please send cv to jobs@alchemycontracting.co.uk

Workboat Crew

Experience an advantage but not essential Please send cv to jobs@seawork-scotland.co.uk



Couple Counselling Argyll

have a

VOLUNTEER RELATIONSHIP COUNSELLOR OPPORTUNITY

We are seeking a qualified counsellor, based in North Argyll to train for Relationships Scotland's Certificate in Couple Counselling starting in April 2015 To find out more, contact Carol Collis, Manager

e-mail: info@argyllcouplecounselling.org or **01852 300514**

SC023995

Full Time and Part Time Administrator / Receptionist – Ice Factor Kinlochleven

Ice Factor Kinlochleven is seeking to recruit experienced administration and reception staff.

Ideally you will have a passion for the outdoors and a strong track record in reception duties (from hotel or similar environment). Core tasks include bookings (online, telephone and face to face), processing of member records on the database, invoices, daily cash handling and preparation of reconciliation files for the company finance team. Accuracy and a keen eye for detail are critical.

Ice Factor has a fantastic track record in customer service, and you will be expected to demonstrate the utmost professionalism when dealing with clients at the busy reception.

Training will be provided between Snow Factor in Glasgow and Ice Factor Kinlochleven which may require off site training.

Please apply in writing, with accompanying CV to : Jean.MacDonald@snowfactor.com

Closing date for applicants is 10th February 2015



We are currently recruiting a Charge Nurse, Nurses, Care Assistants and Housekeeping Staff to complement our existing skilled team

You must have a flexible approach to shift pattern and be able to work nights and weekends.

Advanced skill training can be given to successful candidates.

Knowledge and experience of working in care desirable.

Variety of hours and competitive rates of pay.

Professional qualifications on offer to successful candidates

Please contact the Manager Louise Glasgow on 01631 720278 for application form or further information

Janitor/Cleaner (Permanent)

£13,697 - £14,970 pro rata Southend Primary School Ref: CME35244 10 hours per week, Term Time

Technician (Permanent)

£24,198 - £26,443 Lochgilphead Ref: DVR00691

Clerical Assistant (Temporary)

£14,599 - £15,457 pro rata Witchburn Road, Campbeltown Ref: CTC00240 17.5 hours per week

☎ **01546 604334**

Closing date unless otherwise stated: **20 February 2015.**

To apply visit our website



www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Am Birlinn Restaurant

We are recruiting for the 2015 season:

1. Head Chef
2. Experienced reliable committed manager to organise day to day running.
3. Sous chef, some experience desirable but could suit a willing enthusiastic trainee.

Excellent pay rates and free accommodation for the right applicants.

C.V.s to Pat & Iain Morrison, Penmore Mill, Dervaig, Mull PA75 6QS Tel. 01688 400242/297 E mail info@turusmara.com

Scottish autism

West of Scotland Area Services – Oban Saturday Club

Support Workers (SA/140) – Permanent 6 hours per week £14,718 - £15,392 (pro rata) Casual opportunities also available £7.65 per hour

Autism Practitioner (SA/141) 6 hours per week £16,510 - £18,687 (pro rata)

Scottish autism seeks to promote and provide care, education, support and opportunities for individuals with autism of all ages throughout Scotland.

We have exciting opportunities within our Saturday Club and Evening Outreach Services for Casual Support Workers and an Autism Practitioner with an interest in developing a career working with people on the Autism Spectrum within West of Scotland services.

For more information on the above jobs, please visit our website: www.scottishautism.org

Closing Date: **16 February 2015**

Registered charity number is SC009068



Contract Administrator (Maternity Leave Cover) Oban

Salary £12,934, 22.5 hours per week

(7.5 hours per day Monday, Tuesday & Thursday)

We require a highly motivated individual to cover a period of maternity leave within our team in Oban. The successful candidate needs to have higher grade education or secretarial / administrative qualification along with relevant work experience and aptitude. The successful candidate must be capable of working on their own initiative with minimal supervision.

The post-holder will have regular contact with customers, staff and contractors by telephone therefore a degree of organisational, administrative and communication skills are necessary.

We welcome applications from all sections of the community and we are committed to promoting equal opportunities. This post will be subject to a Disclosure Scotland check.

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 20th February 2015

Interviews will be held in Oban late February 2015.

For full details and to apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk/recruitment

If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:

Tel 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

We are a market leading UK company within the timber industry, employing over 800 people and with a Group turnover in excess of £200m. With seven profit centres in the UK and one in Latvia, **We are BSW.**

Management Accountant

- Competitive Salary + Benefits & Bonus Scheme
- Based Fort William • Relocation Assistance available

With 5 direct reports across our Fort William and Boat of Garten sites – which together form a combined £60m turnover operation – your role will focus on helping the management teams to understand the financial implications of their strategic and tactical decisions, with a strong emphasis on driving improved profitability. Ideally we're looking for a fully qualified management accountant, with a good level of technical expertise, who can demonstrate a relevant background and successful track record in a similar role, gained within a related fast moving production/manufacturing environment.

For more information and to apply, visit www.bsw.co.uk/vacancies

Closing Date: **Tuesday 17th February 2015.**



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PERSONALS

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Happy Birthday Grandpa John




Love
Evan &
Calum
XX

THANK YOU

Helen Wardrop would like to thank everybody for the enormous amount of cards, flowers and presents received on her 90th birthday. Donations towards the M S Society raised £300.

Happy 21st Birthday Rhiann!



Love from Mum, Christie, Gaga, Willie and all the family. X

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2 CHILD'S CAR SEATS Meggy Combi Universal, size 0kgs - 36kgs, very good condition, £12 each Telephone 01631 565142.
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BICYCLE HELMET new, unused, £8 Telephone 01631 565142.
RALEIGH GIRL'S BIKE Extreme Raleigh Mission pink/purple mountain bike. 6 gears, double suspension, 20inch, suitable for +7yr old. Good condition, £40 Telephone 01631 562796.

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WARDROBE, £5 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

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WOODEN COMPUTER DESK, £5 Telephone 01631 564848 Office Hours.

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HAMLEYS LASER AIR ZOOKS £20 in shop. Buyer to collect or pay postage, selling for, £10 Telephone 07827 224856.

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LOCHGILPHEAD : Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8NB

Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Shedden



AS we slip gently towards spring, our friends are looking forward to returning to Kintyre.

We are blessed that so many of our friends from Glasgow and beyond still want to come to see us.

As we look back over the past 10 years since we moved here we are aware that we have lost several good friends.

We miss their visits greatly and often reminisce about the good times we shared.

Friendship is a precious gift and friendship gives life colour and meaning.

It is said that a true friend knows you and loves you just the same.

When I look back at the people who have been my friends I see a great mixture and variety.

Some friends are a part of our lives for a while and then in the course of events, we drift apart.

Some friends are ones we rarely see yet when we do, the friendship is renewed immediately and catch-up time delights us.

Other friends have been lifelong ones who have shared the big events in our lives and are growing older along with us.

They have been the rocks when life has been tough.

Some friends may have joined our path more recently but have shared so much that we feel they have always been part of us, and always will be.

Friendship is a precious gift and one to be treasured.

When friends visit they often bring a little gift or memento, and we are pleased to receive these.

But the best gifts they bring are the gifts of their love, their concern, their fun, their companionship.

The best friends are the ones who share our tears as well as our laughter and stand beside us in the storms.

'We'll be friends forever, won't we Pooh?' asked Piglet.

'Even longer,' Pooh answered.

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ACHAHOISH



L to R Catherine Turner, Nora McArthur, Jenny Campbell (centre) presented the awards, Esther Agnew and Myra Neil.

British Red Cross volunteers recognised

ESTHER Agnew from Achahois, who received an award for spending more than half a century volunteering with the British Red Cross.

She was awarded a service badge, alongside other dedicated members, at the chari-

ty's shop on Lochnell Street in Lochgilphead.

Esther has committed 55 years to the British Red Cross, joining the Voluntary Aid Detachment at the Anchor Mills in Paisley in 1958. There she learned first aid and nursing be-

fore going on to study industrial nursing and beauty treatment for people in hospital. Esther later did a course in therapeutic care, which she continued when she came to Lochgilphead and joined the volunteers in the shop.

Other volunteers to receive the badge were Myra Neil, Ardrishaig, for 10 years' service. Nora McArthur, Lochgilphead, for 25 years' service, while Catherine Turner was named British Red Cross Shop Volunteer 2014.

ARDFERN

Mobile phone signal upgrade

ARDFERN has been named as one of five rural communities in Argyll to be shortlisted for mobile phone signal upgrade.

The village will be considered for the Vodafone Rural Open Sure Signal programme, a community-led initiative with Vodafone set up to bring mobile coverage to rural communities to help boost rural economies.

Customers in Ardfarn are among many who have experienced highly unreliable mobile coverage and slow network speeds.

Jeroen Hoencamp, Vodafone UK chief executive, said: 'I'm excited about the transformation this pioneering programme could bring to the community.'

'We are committed to investing hugely in our network and using inno-

vative technologies such as Sure Signal to provide coverage to rural communities means we can reach areas where it's been impossible to reach using traditional means.'

Other areas that have been shortlisted include Ormsary, Connel and Dunbeg.

DALMALLY

New car park and viewpoint

KILCHURN Castle at Loch Awe could get a new car park and viewpoint as part of a community project.

Dalmally Community Company has applied to the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS) to purchase approximately 1.7 acres at Kinachrean on the side of Loch Awe.

Administered by Forestry Commission Scotland, the NFLS gives communities the opportunity to buy or lease national forest land on the basis that it provides in-

creased public benefits. The community company's proposal is to establish a car park and viewpoint to replace the current arrangement which is considered to be potentially dangerous.

A 28-day open consultation period is required by the scheme and public comments on any aspect of the proposal are welcome.

TARBERT

Daffodil Ball

A SPRING ball will be held in Tarbert Village Hall in March in aid of charity.

The Mid Argyll Marie Curie fundraising group will host the Daffodil Ball on March 28 and is reaching out to local people and businesses for their support to sponsor the event.

One of the group members, Julie Brown, said: 'We are looking for table sponsors and/or raffle prizes. The event will be held in Tarbert Village Hall and any funds

raised stay within Argyll.'

Marie Curie supports people by giving end-of-life care. For further details contact Julie on 07720719307.

STRACHUR

Country dance club holds

Christmas party

STRACHUR and District Country Dance Club's Christmas party finally got underway last week.

Members enjoyed an evening filled with dancing and party food.

Unfortunately Santa had finished visiting for Christmas but it didn't dampen anyone's spirits.

The club's AGM will take place on Thursday, February 12 and all members are being asked to attend.

With the festivities out of the way the club can get back to normal with meetings on every Thursday evening in the hall at 7.30pm.

SWRI meeting

LADIES of the Strachur and District SWRI went on a journey with audio and visual enthusiast David Fiddes at their January meeting.

They went to Glencoe, Glendaruel and the Czech Republic with David's presentations.

The photo competition winner, judged by David, was Margaret Marshall. Next month's meeting on February 18 will be a corners afternoon.

Women's guild

STRACHUR and Strathlachan guild president, Lorna Sutherland, introduced Ian McCrorie to members and guests at their January meeting.

They enjoyed his talk on the history of ferry company McBraynes and its involvement with the west coast.

Next month's meeting on February 9 will be with John Kitson from the Scottish Churches Housing Action Julius Project.

TEXT FOR THE WEEK

Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep' (John 10:11).

BIRTHS



BRECHIN

Cameron and Jennifer are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Catherine Christina (Katie), on December 25, 2014 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley. A first grandchild for Gordon and Shona Brechin, Kilmartin, and Drew and Joan Brock, Lenzie. A great granddaughter for Catherine and the late Colin Cameron, and Gordon and the late Margaret Brechin.



GILLESPIE - CAMPBELL

Greig and Eilidh are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their son, Owen John, on January 9, 2015 at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley. Both families delighted. Special thanks to midwives, Helen and Isabel.



SINCLAIR - DONNIE AND KAREN

(née MacKinnon) are delighted to announce the birth of Greg Neil, on January 20, 2015 at Southern General Hospital. A little brother for Jack, third grandchild for Donald and Pat, and fourth grandchild for Malcolm and Jane. Special thanks to all at Lochgilphead Maternity Unit and SGH, Glasgow.

DEATHS

ALLAN - Peacefully, at the Campbeltown Hospital, on January 30, 2015, Stewart Allan, in his 84th year, Duncan, High Peninver, dearly beloved husband of Hazel Allan and a much loved father, grandfather and great grandfather. Funeral private.

DREGHORN - Peacefully, at Campbeltown Hospital, on January 30, 2015, John Dreghorn, in his 83rd year, 58 Limecraigs Road, Campbeltown and formerly of Southend, dearly beloved husband of Janette, much loved father of John and a loving grandpa of Hannah and Rosie.

ELLIOT - On February 2, 2015, peacefully at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, James (Jimmy) Elliot, in his 83rd year, beloved husband of the late Trina Elliot, much loved father of Linda, Bobby, Philip, Cindy and the late Edward and a dearly loved grandpa of Jamie, Liam and Jack. Sadly missed by all. Funeral service at Inveraray Parish Church, today Friday, February 6, at 12.00 noon, interment thereafter at Glen Shira Cemetery, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Collection if desired, for M S Society Scotland.

FERGUSON - Neil, peacefully on January 29, 2015 in Girvan Community Hospital, after a short illness, loving husband of Patricia, née Brown. Funeral at Masonhill Crematorium, Ayr, at 12.00 noon on Monday, February 9, 2015.

MACARTHUR - Peacefully, at Campbeltown Hospital, surrounded by his family, on February 3, 2015, Hugh Muir MacArthur, in his 88th year, The Flush, Machrihanish Road, Campbeltown, dearly beloved husband of Janet Morrison and much loved father Hugh and Georgina. Funeral private.

MACBRAYNE - Peacefully at home, 2 Hillview Terrace, Ardrishaig, on January 29, 2015, Jessie MacKinnon MacBrayne, née Fairservice, in her 93rd year, beloved wife of the late Duncan MacBrayne, dearly loved mum of Katrina, Janette and Duncan, much respected mother-in-law of Hugh, Melvyn and Lesley and adored and loving gran and great gran. Funeral service was held in Ardrishaig Parish Church, followed by service at Craighton Crematorium, on Thursday, February 5, 2015. Sadly missed.

MACDOUGALL - Peacefully at home, 6 Broomfield, Carradale, on January 31, 2015, Cathie Buchanan, in her 86th year, dearly beloved wife of the late Aleca MacDougall, much loved mother of Neenie, Mairi and the late Dorothy and a beloved granny and great granny.

MACLARTY - Peacefully, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, on January 29, 2015, Margaret MacLean MacLarty, née Hawthorn, aged 72 years, of The Homestead, Ardfern, beloved wife of Angus, much loved mother of Mary, Hazel, Sandra and Chirsty and cherished granny of Ceri and Millie. A dear sister, aunt and cousin to all the family. Funeral service was held at Craignish Parish Church, on Wednesday, February 4, followed by interment at Kilvaree Cemetery, Ardfern. Sadly missed.

SIMPSON - At Blandford Forum, Dorset, on January 23, 2015, Peter, dearly beloved husband of Becky, father of their dear children, Niamh and Joe and cherished elder son of Archie and Betty. May he rest in peace.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - The McKay and Cook families are very thankful for the flowers, cards and phone calls they received on the passing of their much loved friend, Ellen. They extend their grateful thanks to all staff at Auchinlee Care Home for their care of Ellen. Thanks also to the Salvation Army for the very fitting service, to Alasdair and Kenneth Blair for professional services and to the Kilbrannan Bar for the purvey. Finally, thanks to everyone who attended the service at the Citadel and graveside.

CHRISTIE - The family of the late Brian Christie would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy received and for flowers, phone calls, cards and visits received following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to doctors, nursing staff, home carers and members of the Red Cross for their kind care, consideration and attention given to Brian during his illness. Grateful thanks to Rev David Carruthers for comforting services at the church and crematorium; to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their caring and professional arrangements and to the Coachhouse Inn, Cardross for excellent purvey. Finally, we extend our thanks to those who attended at church and crematorium to pay their respects. The retiral collection,

has raised over £500 for local Red Cross and the Kintyre Dialysis Campaign.

DEMPSTER - Lorraine, Caroline, Michael, Donald, Valerie, Lilian and families would like to thank relatives, friends and work colleagues for the kindness and support shown to them by way of flowers, cards, calls and messages received at the sudden loss of their dad, George. We were overwhelmed by the number of people who traveled to Connel to pay their respects at St Oran's Church and at the graveside, it meant so much to all of us. We would like to thank the Rev George Cringles for his personal and comforting tribute to Dad. We would also like to thank Hamish Hoey Undertakers for their professional and personal service. Thanks also to the Lochnell Arms Hotel for providing the funeral lunch. Our gratitude to the Lynn of Lorne Care Home for their care during Dad's final months. The collection for Alzheimer Scotland (Oban & Lorn Branch) raised £764.43.

HODGSON - James and Louise would like to thank everyone during this very sad time. Thanks to all carers, Rev P Wallace for a comforting service, Alasdair Blair, funeral director, for professional services, the Ardsheil Hotel for excellent purvey and to all her friends and family for the cards and kindness.

MACARTHUR - Betty and Walter MacArthur would like to thank Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for a very professional and organised funeral for the late Euphemia MacArthur (Effie). Thanks to the staff of the Mid Argyll Community Hospital and carers that looked after Effie at home, before being taken into Ardfenaig, and latterly the staff at Ardfenaig Care Home for the care over the last two years. Betty and Walter would also like to thank all friends and neighbours for sending cards and text messages, which were much appreciated at this difficult time. Lastly, but not least, Graham Brown and the cemetery boys for preparation at Achnabreac, as usual, to a very high standard.

MACIVER - Maureen and family wish to thank everyone most sincerely for the many kind expressions of sympathy received in their recent bereavement. Special thanks to all staff at Auchinlee for their loving care and attention over the last ten years. Thanks also to Rev Derek Gibson and Angus MacNeil for a comforting service and to Angus and Carol for their friendship to Jean over the years, to Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for professional services, Stag Hotel for excellent catering and to all who paid their last respects at church and graveside. The collection for Auchinlee raised £240.

MCPHEE - Duncan and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their many kind expressions of sympathy received on their loss. Our sincere thanks to the doctors and staff at Campbeltown and Southern General hospitals, to Rev Philip Wallace for his comforting service and to the Argyll Hotel for an excellent tea. Finally, our thanks to all who attended the church and graveside to pay their respects.

RAMSAY - Margaret, Duncan and family would like to extend their sincere thanks to family, friends and neighbours for their kind words of sympathy on the loss of their mother, Elizabeth (Bessie). Appreciation also to the Argyll Homecare team, community nurses and Carr Gomm staff for the support and care given to Elizabeth in her last weeks. Thank you also to Matthew Ramsay for a wonderful service, to Alasdair

Blair, funeral director, for his dedicated services and to the Ardsheil Hotel for their great hospitality on the day.

SEMPLER - The Henderson family from Thorntonhall would like to express their sincere thanks and gratitude to the Rev David Thom and elders of A'Chleit Church for the Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate the life of Margaret Sempler on Saturday, January 3, 2015. Thanks also to Nettie Sempler for organ accompaniment, soloist Iona Barr, Argyll Arms Hotel for the purvey and to all persons who attended the services at Carnunock and A'Chleit, where a total of £1,720 was raised for The Mairi Sempler Fund for Cancer Relief and Research. The family would also like to express their thanks to the Kintyre and Muasdale community for making Margaret so welcome during her forty years in Kintyre. Special thanks to the kind neighbours, friends and community carers who supported Margaret in her failing years and made it possible for her to live her days out in her home in Muasdale.

SEMPLER - Peter and the family of the late Mary Sempler would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for the many kind expressions of sympathy, cards, phone calls and visits received following their sad loss. Special thanks to the staff of the Mid Argyll Hospital and Ardfenaig Residential Home for their exceptional care and compassion given to Mary. Grateful thanks to Rev Roddy MacLeod for an uplifting and comforting service; Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for professional service; to The Scotch Heather Shop for beautiful floral tributes; and to Donald and his staff at the George Hotel, Inveraray for fine purvey. Finally, our thanks to all who attended at church and graveside to pay their respects. The retiral collection raised over £1,000 for The Salvation Army and the Inveraray British Legion.

IN MEMORIAM

CARD - Remembering a loving mum and gran, Annie, died February 6, 2008.

Thoughts today, Memories forever.

- From family in Tarbert.

MCKILLOP - In loving memory of my dear wife, Annie, who died on February 9, 2011.

A million times I needed you, A million times I cried, If love alone could have saved you, You never would have died.

- Loving husband, Davie.

MILLS - Treasured memories of our beautiful mum, Margaret Mills, who died February 8, 2008.

"Fly high, free as a bird, shining above all the stars above." Loved and missed every day.

- From your girls, Corinna and Lynda xxx.

REID - Precious memories of John, passed away February 6, 2010.

Forever in our hearts.

- Love, Verona, Anita and Ashley. Cameron and Callum xx.

SOUDEN - In loving memory of a dear dad and granda, Alex, who died February 4, 2007. This day is remembered and quietly kept, No words are needed, we will never forget.

- Inserted by his loving daughters, Isobel and Liz, sons-in-law, Martin and John, grandson, Graeme and great granddaughter, Ava.

CHURCH NOTICES

Highland Parish Church

 SCO02493
Sunday 8th February
 The service will be held in the Church
 And will be led by Rev William Crossan
Badminton Club meets Tuesday evening in Kirk Street Hall
 Primary 1 - 5: 6.30 - 7.30pm
 Primary 6 - 7: 7.30 - 8.30pm
 Everyone very welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES
 "It is good to sing praises to our God"
 Services in Ardrishaig at 11:00am and Achahoish at 12:30pm

Scottish Episcopal Churches
 Everyone Welcome
Christ Church
 Bishopton Road, Lochgilphead (SC013787)
Sundays
 11.00 am Eucharist service
 4th Sunday of the month 10am Mattins
 & 11am Eucharist Service
 Coffee & Cake follows the service
St Columba's, Pottaloch, nr Kilmartin
 (SC031391)
 1st Sunday of the month 9am Eucharist service
 3rd Sunday of the month 3.30pm Evensong
 Scottish Prayer Book
All Saints, Inveraray
 (SC025646)
 Saturdays 5.30pm Eucharist Service
 Father Simon Mackenzie
 Priest in Charge of the charges of Mid Argyll & Arran
 01546 602315

WEST LOCHFYNESIDE
 Services 8th February 2015 - all welcome!
Cumlodden Lochfyneside and Lochgair
 Charity No. SC016097
 Morning Service in Cumlodden Church at 10 am
Glenaray and Inveraray
 Charity No. SC016665
 Morning Service in Inveraray Church at 11.30 am

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH
 8th February
Sunday Service, 11.00 am
 Visiting Speaker: Martin Haworth
 Scotland Coordinator for Latin Link with Sunday school followed by refreshments
Baby & Toddler Group
 10.00 - 11.45 am every Thursday (term-time)
 We meet at the Guide Hall, Kinloch Road
 www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk

 We are a member of the Baptist Union of Scotland
 SC043322

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GLASSARY KILMARTIN and FORD PARISH CHURCH
Sunday 8th February
 Morning Worship
 Kilmartin 11.45 am
 Rev. C. Acklam
 All welcome
 SC0 02121

LORNE AND LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH
 Scottish Charity Number SC011686
Sunday 8th February
 11.15 am Service
 Creeche Triple C Next Generation
 Rev. P Wallace
Tuesday 10th February
 Tiny Tots New Hall 9.45am
 Boys' Brigade Church Hall
 Anchor Boys 6pm
 Junior Section 7.15pm
Thursday 12th February
 Choir 7.30pm
Friday 13th February
 Lunch Club 12noon New Hall

The Salvation Army
 Campbeltown Corps
 Burnside Street, Campbeltown
 01586 552046
Sunday Services
 10.30am Morning Worship
 Army Kidz
 6.30pm Evening Worship
Tuesday
 12.15pm Lunch Club
 1.30pm Home League
Wednesday
 7.00pm The Make & Munch Mob
Thursday
 7.30pm Bible Study & Prayer
 Lt. Mark Scoulding

St. Kieran's Scottish Episcopal Church
Argyll Street, Campbeltown
 St Kieran Episcopal Church: Campbeltown
 Scottish Charity No SC023277
Sunday 8th February
 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
 10.45am Holy Communion
 All Welcome
Details of services are on the church door
Enquiries Tel: 01586 551141
The Scottish Episcopal Church is a Province of the Worldwide Anglican Communion

free church of scotland
 George Street, Campbeltown
Sunday 8th February
 11.15am Worship Service
 Rev Finlay Mackenzie
 11.15am Sunday School
Wednesday 11th February
 12.30pm Bible Study and Prayer
 2.00pm - 4.00pm Water of Life Café
 All Welcome
 www.campbeltownfreechurch.com
 Scottish Charity Number: SC009980

lochgilphead baptist church
 All Welcome
 Pastor Rev Derek Gibson
Sunday 8th February 2015
 11.00am with communion
Monday 9th
 2.30pm Ladies Meeting
 Rev. Walter Ritchie Kilmartin
mainly music
Tuesday at 10am
Jumpstart
Friday from 10am
 Scottish Charity SC015187

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH
 Charity Number SC001002
Sunday 8 February
 Tayvallich Church 10 am
 Holy Communion
 Rev. C. Acklam
Tuesday 10 February
 Kirk Session 7:30 pm
 Tayvallich Church
 All welcome
 Enquiries 01546 606926
 www.argyllcommunities.org/nknnapdalecofs

TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 8th February 2015
 Tarbert Service 11.30am
 Kiliberry Service 2pm
 Rev. Iain McNeel
Guild meets
Monday 9th February
 Tarbert Church Hall 2.30pm
 For all church enquiries and pastoral care
 Telephone 01880 821012
 Everyone very welcome
 SC002622

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH
Sunday 8th February 2015
 11.00 am WORSHIP SERVICE
 Rev. Hilda Smith
Every Tuesday
 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Bumps, Babies and Toddlers
Every Wednesday
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Drop-In Cafe
 All Welcome
 More info. at www.lpchurch.co.uk
 Lochgilphead (Church of Scotland) SC016311

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN US FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP ON SUNDAY AT:
Tarbert 10.00am, located on School Road.
Lochgilphead 11.30am, located on Lochnell Street/Manse Brae
 Minister: Rev. R Macleod
 Prayer Time (fortnightly)
 Mondays 1.15 - 1.45pm
 Ladies Bible Study 2pm
 Soup Lunch Monthly (last Thursday)
 All welcome.

LIVING STONES CHRISTIAN CENTRE KILMARTIN
Sunday 8 February 2015
 11.00am
 Worship Service for all ages followed by light lunch
 Speaker: Graham McLean
 "Hungry for His Presence"
Thursday 12 February 2015
 7.30pm
 Praise, prayer & sharing
 All Welcome

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH
 75 Longrow, Campbeltown
Sunday 8 February 2015
 11am Family Service with Communion with crèche
 Oaths and Promises (Matthew 5:33-37)
 Pastor Ross Ferguson
Wednesday 11th February
 10am Toddlers Group
Thursday 12th February
 7.30pm Bible Study and Prayer
 PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DAY
 To hear Christian music, conversation and thought for the week, tune in to Argyll FM - 106.5/107.1 & 107.7fm - on Monday mornings from 8am to 9am and listen to the Breakfast Show. For details and other enquiries contact Pastor Ross Ferguson 01586 551200
 www.springbankchurch.co.uk
 SC014646

ST MARGARET'S R.C. CHURCH
LOCHGILPHEAD
 Holy Mass Sunday 10am
ALL SAINTS, INVERARAY
 Holy Mass Sunday 12.30pm
ST KIERAN'S CAMPBELTOWN
 Saturday 5pm
 Fr. David Connor
 01546 602380
 All Welcome
 (SC0002876)

For Funeral Directors Blair, MacDonald and Lupton please turn to page 22.

Hebridean sightings soar for harbour porpoises but plunge for basking sharks

HARBOUR porpoise sightings off Scotland's west coast increased by 25 per cent in 2014 compared to the previous year while sightings of basking sharks unexpectedly fell by 33 per cent, during marine research expeditions carried out by Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust.

The charity's research also revealed dramatic evidence of a shark attack on a member of an endangered group of killer whales thought to be the UK's only resident population of orca.

The latest studies were carried out in a research season lasting from May to October last year, and form part of the trust's unique long-term monitoring of whales, dolphins and porpoises – collectively known as cetaceans – in the Hebrides. The surveys also collect data on basking sharks.

Kerry Froud, biodiver-

sity officer at Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, said: 'Our findings add to knowledge about cetacean distribution, abundance and habitat use in Scotland's western seas – and allow us to make informed recommendations to protect these remarkable species.'

'This pioneering research is vital for effectively conserving the world-class biodiversity of these waters – and for securing the long-term future of spectacular cetaceans and iconic basking sharks.'

Porpoises

The trust's teams of marine scientists and volunteers encountered 574 groups of harbour porpoises during 2014 – a 25 per cent increase in the rate of sightings compared to 2013.

Reasons for this increased sighting rate – of up to eight groups per 100 kilometres surveyed – may include con-

ductive weather and calm seas, making the unobtrusive porpoise easier to detect.

Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust has previously discovered that the Hebrides hosts one of Europe's highest densities of the harbour porpoise, the UK's smallest cetacean – but Scotland still has no protected area for this species as required under European Union directives.

Basking shark sightings fell by 33 per cent from the previous year to 16 encounters – showing a trend of decreasing sightings of the world's second biggest fish in the area over recent years.

This does not necessarily indicate a reduction in population size – as possible explanations include a shift further offshore in the distribution of plankton, the sharks' favourite food.

The distribution of plankton within the



The groups adventures often take them to waters near St Kilda.

water will also dictate where basking sharks are feeding – which means they may still be present, but not feeding at the surface.

Notable highlights during 2014 included two separate encounters with what is believed to be the UK's only known resident population of killer whales – five males and four females known as the West Coast Community. This small, isolated population of orca has never produced offspring since studies began, raising fears that it faces imminent extinction.

Evidence of drama emerged when one of the group's males – known as John Coe – was observed with a large area of his tail fluke missing. Consultations with experts suggest that this was almost certainly the result of a shark attack.

Another outstanding close encounter featured minke whales riding in the bow-wave of the trust's research yacht Silurian. This was unexpected as minke whales are usually elusive and shy of boats.

In July, an individual minke approached Silurian with what appeared to be blue plastic strapping wrapped round and embedded in the front

of its head – a stark reminder of people's impact on the marine environment. The crew was unable to disentangle the whale.

Cetacean entanglement in fishing gear and litter can cause mobility problems, injury and even slow and agonising death. Other human activities causing increasing stress on cetaceans and basking sharks include fisheries bycatch, climate change, pollution, underwater noise and habitat damage.

Silurian – previously used in the filming of the BBC's The Blue Planet series – covered more than 4,500 nautical miles during 2014, equivalent to crossing the North Atlantic three times. It surveyed the Saint Kilda archipelago – the remotest inhabited

part of the British Isles – twice, rounded the Mull of Kintyre to the south and reached Cape Wrath, mainland Britain's most north westerly point.

In total, the surveys recorded more than 1,400 encounters with cetaceans and basking sharks, and recorded almost 600 hours of underwater acoustic detections of cetaceans.

Surveying

Good weather conditions for surveying allowed twice as many photo identification opportunities than in 2013. This technique allows individual cetaceans or basking sharks to be identified by their distinctive markings, often shedding new light on population sizes and social dynamics, and whether individuals in-

teract with other populations. The latest results are currently being analysed.

The annual surveys depend on paying volunteers. In 2014, 65 volunteers clocked up 760 survey hours – working with scientists on visual surveys and acoustic monitoring with underwater microphones or hydrophones, and identifying individual cetaceans through photography.

Western Scotland's seas are one of Europe's most important habitats for cetaceans and one of the UK's most biologically productive areas. So far 24 of the world's 83 cetacean species have been recorded in the region, many being national and international conservation priority species.



A Minke whale next to the Silurian boat.

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Star lose out to clinical Haldane in Marshall Cup

Lochgilphead Red Star 1
Haldane United 6
Jimmy Marshall Cup - 1st Round

RED STAR welcomed Haldane to the Joint Campus 3G pitch for the Jimmy Marshall Cup tie.

The game, which was played at the third time of asking, finally went ahead last Saturday.

Despite Red Star competing well against the Premier League team for the best part of an hour, it was the visitors who ran out clear winners in the end.

Scored

Haldane started well and took the lead after 20 minutes, before some neat forward play released the forward who scored past Kalache to making it 0-1.

Star players tried to work their way back into the game and had

a couple of opportunities from corners but could not find the finishing touch to put the ball away.

Star were struck a hammer blow just before half time when slack marking from a Haldane corner saw the spare man volley home from close range to make it 0-2 at the break.

In the second half of the game Star pulled a goal back. Weir's corner was flicked on by Forbes into the path of Peacock who this time applied the touch to make it 1-2.

This spurred the visitors into action and they responded with a goal of their own on the hour mark.

Star had themselves to blame again as a poor

throw-in landed at the opposing forward's feet and he hammered the ball home from the edge of the box.

Haldane were playing some decent football now as Star began to tire and were finding more space all over the park.

Two headers

The Haldane centre half caused plenty of problems and netted two headers in quick succession to make it 1-5 with 10 minutes remaining.

United finished the score late on when once again Star failed to clear their lines and the big forward hammered his shot into the top corner to make it 1-6 at full time.

Despite what ended up a heavy defeat, manager Weir was pleased with how Star competed for the first hour of the match against an excellent Haldane side.



From left: The winning team's shooters were Scott Robertson, Norman MacDonald, Fiona McInnes and Ally McDonell.

Underdogs win on last shoot before final

TARBERT Gun Club continued its winter league series of competitions with the February shoot last Sunday.

The shoot was the club's last before the final set to take place next month.

The teams were trying hard to boost their scores in an attempt to avoid the wooden spoon when it comes to the final competition.

Most of the shooters had a good day, not losing many targets, so they successfully increased their individual and team scores.

Brian Baird, president of Tarbert Gun Club, was the high gun for the day.

He went on to win the sporting and down the line section.

Denied

Ally McDonell's squad were the high team, relegating Bob McColl's team down to second place, which denied them a clean sheet of wins.

The turnaround of Sunday's competition has made it all the more interesting for the final shoot of the series in March.

Lottery numbers

THIS week's Inveraray Shinty Club lottery numbers drawn were 1, 11 and 15. There were no winners. Next week's totals £300.

Tarbert Football Club's lottery numbers for this week were 12, 14 and 16. There were no winners. Next week's jackpot will be £500.

This week's lottery numbers drawn for Kilmory Camanachd Club were 2, 10 and 12. There were no winners and the jackpot for next week will be £600.

SAFL results and fixtures

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division - Alba Thistle v Campbeltown Pupils postponed; Premier Division Two - Dunoon Athletic 1, Paisley 3; Lochgilphead Red Star 4, Drumchapel Colts 2; Jimmy Marshall Trophy first round - Dunoon v Jamestown; Easthall Star v Oban Saints; Coronation Cup first round - Rossvale v Tarbert all postponed.

Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division Finnart v Campbeltown Pupils; Haldane United v Kings Park Rangers; Oban Saints v Alba Thistle; Thorn Athletic v Busby.

SPOT THE BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2850

LAST WEEK'S BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
C Mead
Burnside Cottages
Stewarton
D Sandler
Smith Drive
Campbeltown

All you have to do

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

To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball.

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

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

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 10 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Ball" Competition, The Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6AE by 4pm on Tuesday. 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.



Please tape your £1 coin here (if posting)

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spot the
ball jackpot
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**Red Star lose out
in Marshall Cup**
Shooting news

Star shock runaway Colts

Lochgilphead Red Star 4
Drumchapel Colts 2
SAFL Premier Division Two

AFTER a heavy defeat from Haldane at last week's Jimmy Marshall Cup tie Red Star bounced back to thrash Drumchapel Colts.

Star welcomed the runaway league leaders to the Joint Campus 3G pitch on Saturday for the clash, which was played out in testing weather conditions.

Star made some changes to the shape and personnel of the side, following their previous loss, and kicked off playing the stronger game of the two teams.

There could have been a goal ahead inside 10 minutes but Peacock's effort missed when the goal looked odds on.

Cammy Hendry then tried his luck from eight yards, but with the keeper well beaten the ball went wide of the post.

Colts showed their quality in spells, and hit the post twice in quick succession.

First of all after a neat move between their forwards, secondly their number seven rattled the bar with a tremendous effort.

Star were not to be denied however, and after 41 minutes they broke the deadlock; Naisby was fouled wide on the left, Forbes took charge of the free kick and flighted a beauty into the box, which deceived everyone and nestled in the top corner. Half time score 1-0.

Star worked to press home their advantage in the second half and could have been further ahead inside five minutes.

Peacock outpaced the Colts defence but his effort went inches past.

No mistake

The home side doubled their lead soon after a ball into the box by McGuinness fell kindly for Hendry, who made no mistake from 10 yards with a well-placed shot into the bottom corner taking the score to 2-0.

The Colts came back into the match and forced Kalache into two outstanding saves to maintain the two-goal advantage.

The visitors did pull a goal back though when a long throw in, assisted



Red Star's John Kennedy, left and Luke Naisby, right, watch the ball fly past the Colts keeper.

by the wind, found the late run of the Colts defender whose header went past Kalache making the score 2-1.

This brought about a positive reaction from Star, who went 3-1 ahead on 70 minutes after a surging run from Moore followed by an

inch-perfect pass which found Hendry, who bagged his second of the game after another classy finish.

Shake off

Star still couldn't shake off the champions-elect, though, and they pulled another back as the forward shot through a

ruck of bodies to make it 3-2. Colts began to throw everything at Star and could have been level but Naisby was on hand to make a heroic clearance on the line with just five minutes to go.

Star stood strong and the game was settled

in stoppage time when Moore picked up the ball just inside his own half, with the Colts pushing everyone forward the midfielder strode forward and rounded the keeper before slotting the ball into the empty net to make the score 4-2 at full time.

Manager Alan Weir was delighted with the effort from his side who put on their best team performance of the season.

Tomorrow Star look for another three points as they travel to take on Centre FC in East Kilbride.

Club workout all the rave in Lochgilphead

A FRESH and edgier way to get fit is set to take Lochgilphead by storm this spring.

The latest fitness craze to launch in Mid Argyll is Clubbercise.

It was formed in 2013 and was originally set up to allow women to work out comfortably in dimmed light while having fun.

Clubbercise incorporates all aspects of '90s dance styles, club anthems, rave-wear and glow sticks.

Members of Tarbert Youth Group became the first people in Mid Argyll to take part in the all raving, club-like fitness class.

Clubbercise leader Jacqui Barker said: 'We had great fun and feedback was extremely positive, with an invitation to return and dance with them again soon.'

'My number one priority is for people to have a great time and really let go. Getting fit and healthy is the desired

outcome, but it's not the focus and that's what keeps everyone coming back. Glow sticks were originally introduced just as a bit of fun for the '90s effect, but people didn't want to put them down and now they're incorporated into all of the routines.

'The bonus is that the glow sticks also provide a really good arm workout.'

Jacqui is also in talks with Active Schools to introduce the fitness class to secondary

pupils at Lochgilphead Joint Campus. For the time being there will be monthly 'pop-up' Clubbercise parties for mums and daughters.

Jacqui added: 'With a constant waiting list, it's looking very likely that a second class could be added to the timetable at Mid Argyll Sport Centre very soon.'

To book a place at a Clubbercise class at Mid Argyll Sports Centre in Lochgilphead telephone 01546 603228.



New club-themed fitness classes are set to take off in Mid Argyll. Photo by Niamh Adams McGilp

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004



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