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Mental health ward move marks end of hospital era

EXCLUSIVE By AMANDA CRAWFORD
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

PATIENTS at an in-patient mental health unit in Mid Argyll will be moved to another hospital in Lochgilphead, NHS Highland has revealed.

The news came on Wednesday that Succoth ward, based at Argyll and Bute Hospital in Lochgilphead, will close and in-patients will be moved to the ground floor of Mid Argyll Community Hospital and Integrated Care Centre, also in Lochgilphead.

The decision comes one-week after the merger of two dementia units at Mid Argyll

hospital. Last Wednesday patients of the Glassary ward, a dementia assessment unit, were moved to Knapdale ward, an ongoing dementia care unit, because Glassary ward was running well under capacity, according to NHS Highland.

The space now created due to Glassary ward being empty will be used to transfer in-patients from Argyll and Bute Hospital over the next few months.

At a meeting of Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands (MAKI) in Campbeltown on Wednesday morning it

was revealed that the plan is to relocate 23 beds from Succoth ward to the Glassary ward, which includes the current 19 in-patients.

NHS Highland has said the move is an interim one, with more work to be undertaken before a decision is reached on how and where the service will be provided in the long term.

The decision was taken because Argyll and Bute Hospital, which was built in the 1970s, is becoming increasingly unsafe to use.

The move will mean that there will no longer be in-patients facilities at Argyll and Bute Hospital, although it will still offer outpatient services. It is part of the plan to eventually close the hospital.

Christina West, the Partnership's Chief Officer, said: 'We believe that it is the right decision for patients and staff at this point in time



Succoth ward to move to Mid Argyll hospital. 06_a13MAhospital01

and we will work with patients, staff, carers and public representatives to ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible.

Mid Argyll Hospital provides a high standard of accommodation with a wide range of other clinical

services in proximity to the ward areas. The decision by the core team will result in a significantly improved

care environment for our patients and a much improved working environment for our staff.'

Ongoing debate over MPAs

A TARBERT fisherman has expressed his fears for his future in the business, following last week's rural affairs meeting at Scottish Parliament. **Read his story on page 3.**

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Man fined for assault

AN ARDRISHAIG man pled guilty to assaulting another man at court on Tuesday.

At a court session in the Lochgilphead annexe of Dunoon Sheriff Court it was heard that Hugh McMahon and the victim were drinking at McMahon's home in McMillan Court in Ardrishaig on March 7, 2015 when they began fighting.

The court heard that McMahon hit the victim over his head with a bottle during the brawl.

The 23-year-old was fined £225 and Sheriff Ward said: 'If this happens in the future the outcome will be different.'



Housing problems dampen move for Mid Argyll gran



Margaret in her new house. 08_a06gacha07

A GRAN who moved house in a bid to escape severe damp in her home has found the same problem.

Margaret Walker, 61, featured in *The Argyllshire Advertiser* in November 2014 after she felt let down by Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA).

She and her grandson David McCulloch lived on Lochnell Street, but after applying for a transfer, as advised by ACHA, a year later they were moved to 10 Manse Brae in Lochgilphead.

The move in September 2015 was suitable as it meant the pair remained close to David's school and Margaret looked forward to settling in to a 'water-tight' and 'damp-free' house, but just weeks after moving it appeared that would not be the case.

Margaret said: 'It wasn't like this when I moved in, it took about three weeks to come through the living room. 'At first I thought it was a shadow under my curtain and when I touched the wall it was wet. It's just kept growing since and is spreading, getting worse through the house.'

'The inspector came from ACHA in January and took off the window frame at the side of the wall and put his hand down and under the ledge and said it was filled with water. He just put it back on again. He said he did that until they find the root of the problem.'



A towel soaks up water bedroom windowsill. 08_a06gacha03

'Someone came out after that and was trying to blame the guttering, but I don't see how that would be possible.'

The water is visible on the walls around her window frame in the living room; the door frame in the hall, on the walls around her grandson's window frame and she also keeps a towel on her window ledge in the back bedroom.

Problem

She said: 'I've spent a year fighting this and have gotten nowhere. I thought the move would make it better, but I just have the same problem. 'I've had to buy new furniture because a lot of our stuff was ruined by mildew in the last place.'

'I have the stress of my health issues as well as my teenage grandson to look after. Although his health has improved, David hasn't been well since we were in the last place.'

Margaret suffers from arthritis and has had chest infections, among other illnesses she feels are related to

living in poor and damp conditions.

'I don't want to move again. I want to have it all taken apart and replaced. At the end of the day we pay rates in our rent for repairs and charges, but they aren't getting done.'

Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of ACHA, said: 'We have carried out extensive checks of the roof and wall area to try and pin point the location of the issue. We are currently arranging with our contractor to replace roughcast and carryout work to the lintels of the affected area as we believe there may be an issue in these areas.'

A specialist from the insulation company contracted by ACHA was due to attend the property on Wednesday.

Mr MacGregor added: 'I can sympathise with Mrs Walker and we are working to try and resolve the issue to avoid any damage.'

'We will carryout roughcast work and internal work as speedily as possible to resolve the problems.'

Police files

Drug possession

A MAN was found to be in possession of a class C drug after being stopped by the police.

The 33-year-old was stopped in a car on the A83 in Ardrishaig on Tuesday January 26 at 1.40am. He was searched and was found to have a small quantity of cannabis on his person and was issued with a warning.

Defective tyre

DURING a routine vehicle check near Furnace a van stopped by police was found to have a badly worn tyre.

Following the check at 3.30am on Thursday January 28, the 42-year-old man driving the van was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Disturbance

TWO MEN were arrested and charged following a complaint in Kilmichael Glassary.

Police attended a house in the village following a report at 4pm on Thursday January 28.

They later charged a 63-year-old man with alleged assault and abusive behaviour.

A 32-year-old man was also charged with alleged assault. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Drink driving

POLICE received a report that a man was driving in Tarbert while under the influence of alcohol, and later arrested a man.

The 56-year-old was traced and arrested for allegedly drink-driving on the village's Brunswick Street, at 4pm on Friday January 29.

He was also charged with abusive behaviour and failing to disclose the identity of the driver of the vehicle when asked to by police.

A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

☐ If anyone has information in relation to the above, or to any other incident, they should contact local police on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



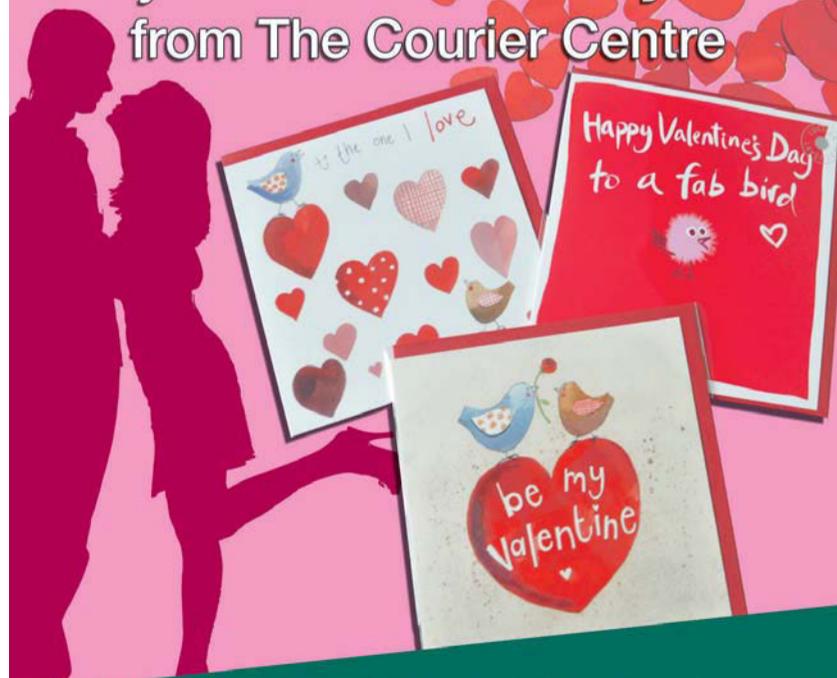
Margaret thought this damp patch was a shadow before she touched it. 08_a06gacha05

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Army recruiting today in Tarbert

ARGYLL soldiers have laid on a recruitment drive across Mid Argyll this week, as part of a series to take place across Argyll and Bute.

Colour sergeant Roddy MacPhee, is leading the week and has been in Campbeltown and Lochgilphead before finishing in Tarbert today.

His goal is to sign up new people to the 4th Battalion of the Highlanders, Royal Regiment of Scotland, which is a infantry battalion - a front line unit.

The unit, which was once the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, will celebrate 10 years since its formation in 2006 later this year.

CSgt MacPhee said: 'We want people to come on board with the 4th Battalion, and that is what we are specifically recruiting for. We are a front line battalion and hope that young people will come on board with us.'

'We'll have a piper with us, gazebo, recruitment caravan, and will be displaying some of our weapons and equipment.'

CSgt MacPhee, originally of South Uist, has spent 20 years in service. He will be on hand along with his colleagues to offer advice and guidance on Harbour Street in Tarbert today (Friday) between 11am and 4pm.

Fisherman shares his fears

A TARBERT fisherman fears his career and future hangs in the balance if closures to western water go ahead.

Colin Clark, 54, is a family man from the village and has fished from Tarbert Harbour since leaving school aged 16.

He was amongst a number of fishermen who turned out at Scottish Parliament last week to express their opposition to proposals to create Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the River Clyde and Loch Fyne.

The MPAs to have sparked the most discussion since the debate at the rural affairs committee meeting last week are those planned south of Arran - a section of water that Colin feels will affect his livelihood in particular.

The prawn fisherman said: 'The fishing is still good. The last few years have been some of the best I've seen.'

'From March until September we fish the west coast. The south Arran MPAs are going

to affect us - most of the closures are going to affect us.'

The uproar from fishermen Scotland-wide came last June when cabinet secretary for rural affairs, food and environment Richard Lochhead announced MPA plans having not consulted with Clyde Fishermen's Association (CFA).

Despite more than three years of discussions with CFA, the new plans revealed by the secretary, which did not reflect discussions, were deemed over the top and badly thought through by CFA.

Pressure

Colin, who lives with wife Margaret and two daughters Emma, 15, and Jacquelyn, 17, said: 'It means we will have people from other grounds fishing in our area because they are going to be limited at times. It is going to put pressure on all of our grounds and on all of the fishermen.'

'Some of the bits of water that they are try-



Colin fears for the future of fishing and his livelihood. 08_a06colin01

ing to cut back on will make it harder to fish. There are no hard and fast rules to it, we can get prawns in pretty much all depths. However, scallops are more inshore. South Arran is effectively closed for mobile gear.

'The more of these areas that get closed off, the more pressure it puts on these areas.'

'On Monday, we had westerly winds, we could be fishing south of Arran, that is what we would do, but the restrictions will end these options. If the waters are closed to us, then it will be a day's work lost.'

'We won't be able to shift around, as fishermen we need to be able to move around. It doesn't pay to stay in the same place.'

lasted this long. It is made out like we fish in one spot until it is ruined then we move on. That is not the case and if it was we couldn't keep it up for all of these years.'

Michael Russell MSP said: 'I have the greatest of respect for my constituents views. Richard Lochhead gave categorical assurances not just about the impact of MPAs but about the monitoring of economic effects and was clear about help for communities if that was required.'

Discussion

Speaking about the uncertain future of fishing Kenny MacNab, chairman of Clyde Fishermen's Association said: 'Mike Russell was good enough to organise a meeting after the demonstration last Wednesday with the minister and we had a meaningful discussion, in which we raised that we want to stabilise the issue, because right now we don't know what to expect or what is going to happen next.'

'We are the guys out there, earning a living and who know the waters and that goes for fisherman across Kintyre, Tarbert, Arran and the West Coast. But our views are still not being heard.'

'I have two girls going to college soon. I want to be able to help and support them. We all have bills coming in, when there is no fishing those bills still have to be paid.'

'We have been fishing sustainably from Tarbert for years and years. If we didn't fish sensibly then we would not have

Penalty points and fine for driver

A MAN was fined after pleading guilty to one charge of driving without due care and attention at the Lochgilphead annexe of Dunoon Sheriff Court.

George Fell, 29, of Fairway, Kirkcaldy, overtook vehicles at a concealed junction near Birdfield, Minard on May 3, 2015.

He was given a £180 fine and five penalty points on his licence.

Sheriff Ward said: 'You know the problems with the roads here and one of the problems is impatient drivers.'

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Man fined for carrying knife

A MAN found carrying a Stanley knife in Lochgilphead was fined in court this week.

At the Lochgilphead Annexe of Dunoon Sheriff Court, it was heard that Colin Moran, 37, had been using the knife to make a birthday present for one of his children and had forgotten to take it out of his pocket before being searched by police.

Colin, of 14 Garry Drive, Paisley, was stopped on Bishopton Road, Lochgilphead, on September 26, 2015 when the blade was found on him.

He pled guilty and was fined £250.

Advertiser
newsdesk

01546 602345

Mid Argyll village finally connected thanks to local champion Barbara

A WOMAN who fought for the installation of 3G mobile coverage in her village is delighted by its success.

Barbara Cutler, of Ormsary, read about Vodafone's Rural Open Sure Signal programme in the *Argyllshire Advertiser* last year and de-

cidated to apply for it. Barbara said: 'There was no coverage in the area.

'At best people could get a glimmer of Vodafone, but no other network existed. I downloaded an application form and emailed it. Then MP Alan Reid gave his full

support. I didn't give it another thought, so was surprised when just a few weeks later I received a reply.'

Vodafone has since installed the programme, aimed at giving internet access to mobile devices.

Barbara's home is one of

three properties throughout the village that has a signal station.

She said: 'My home looks on to the beach and is also near the local school, so it will benefit from the coverage.'

'There is also one at the es-

tate office, which will help the community centre.'

Barbara was supported with her application by Ormsary District and Social Club chairwoman Mary Semple and today (Friday) it will be officially launched.



Rebecca in Malawi with one of the children she helps at the orphanage.

Friends help Rebecca deliver festive cheer

A MID Argyll teenager was able to share Christmas gifts with African orphans thanks to friends at home.

Rebecca Foster, of Achnamara, travelled to Blantyre, Malawi, last August to volunteer at Yamikani Orphanage as part of a year-long placement with Coll Project Trust.

When her mum and dad Alka and Martin visited the 17-year-old shortly before Christmas they realised

Rebecca was working with children who were without parents or family.

On their return to Achnamara, Alka and Martin, enlisted the help of Rebecca's friends to raise cash for gifts so the orphans could celebrate Christmas.

Teaches

Rebecca's friend Susan Doe said: 'During the day Rebecca teaches English to children aged between 2 and 16 years old.

'She also teaches adults computer skills.'

Rebecca has been a member of Daltote Equestrian Centre for 12 years and has been riding horses for most of her life.

She called on the support of friend and fellow member Susan and the rest of the club to raise money to give the African youngsters a Christmas to remember.

A donation of £300 was sent to Malawi, which Rebecca used

to buy ingredients for a special Christmas dinner and rent a water slide for one day.

Rebecca's friends at the horse-riding club also sent over presents for the children, including t-shirts, toys and other gifts.

Young members of Daltote were paired with children from the orphanage and assigned to write Christmas cards, an exercise that proved a real hit when they arrived.

paths for all
ARTHRTIS CARE SCOTLAND

Be a Walk Leader

Stepping Out is a health walking project for Arthritis Care Scotland. We are looking for volunteers to lead local health walks for everyone, including those with a long term medical condition such as arthritis. All walks are short, safe, low level and reflect individual pace.

Do you:

- want to meet new people
- like getting outdoors
- have spare time for something new

Sharon Macpherson, Project officer
07769681783 / 0845 6003756
steppingout@arthritiscare.org.uk

Dear Volunteer,

Do you have lovely walks in your area? Would you like to set up a walking group for people with any long term condition? Training is available.

Hippocrates once said 'Walking is man's best medicine' and that is still true to this day. A few of the benefits of regular walking include:

- Reduced fatigue
- Reduce stress and anxiety
- Improve low mood or depression
- Improve bone health
- Help maintain a healthy weight
- Build muscle strength
- Reduced risk of many long term conditions
- Improved self-management of long term conditions

Walking in a group can also be very sociable, fun and you can learn more about your area.

There are many group walks throughout Scotland,

however often these are not accessible for people living with long term conditions. We are therefore looking for Volunteer Walk Leaders to lead health walks in their community for people living with a long term condition.

The role of Volunteer Walk Leader is to:

- To lead safe and enjoyable walking sessions for people of all ages and abilities particularly those who are or have been inactive
- To promote the health benefits of walking and motivate people to take up walking as a form of physical recreation
- To help people tailor health walking to meet their individual needs

There is a one day Walk Leader Training course designed to train people to promote and lead health walks in their local areas. The training is provided by Paths for All. This one day course provides practical advice and training on how to lead a health walk safely and effectively. By the end of the training day, participants will be able to:

- Outline the main benefits to be gained from becoming more active.
- Recognise the main barriers faced by people in participating in a programme of regular walking.
- Explain the current recommended amount and type of physical activity to benefit health.
- Understand the stages of a health walk and describe the main issues and considerations involved in organising and leading a health walk.
- Outline the roles and responsibilities of a Walk Leader to safely accommodate participants.

There will be a training day on 4th of March 2016 in Lochgilphead.

Places are limited on this training so if you are interested in attending please get in touch with your contact details to Sharon on **07769681783** or at **Steppingout@arthritiscare.org.uk**

MS Centre celebrates 20 years



Margaret, centre, with friends from the MS Centre.

A LOCHGILPHEAD charity will celebrate 20 years with 20 fundraising events this year.

The Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Centre has been helping people for two decades, but sadly mourns one of its key founders, Margaret Kilgour, who died on January 26, aged 63.

Margaret, who suffered from MS, wanted a centre where people could get treatment and support each other.

Other people got involved and there were meetings at Margaret's house and fundraising events in a tent on the town's front green. When the centre opened in 1996, Margaret's son Aiden played the pipes.

Centre manager Karen McCurry said: 'If it hadn't been for Margaret there would be no centre.'

Margaret was diagnosed with MS on her 25th birthday and took

medical retirement from teaching primary school pupils in Glasgow aged 29. She and her family moved to Lochgilphead as she had grown up in Argyll.

Since opening, the centre has developed its services and now provides a range of groups and clubs for the community.

Karen said: 'A lot of different groups use the centre. It's more of a community centre with health and wellbeing at its core now. It used to be that if people saw you coming in here they would know you had MS even if you weren't ready to let people know. Now you could be coming in for all kinds of reasons.'

Aiden and his older sister Keira were regular volunteers at the centre; Margaret served as director and was a regular user as her illness progressed.

Karen said: 'She was paralysed but she always provided a supportive,

listening ear to others.'

Keira said: 'Mum loved going to the MS centre on a Tuesday and had been popping in on a Friday for the Scrabble club too.'

Margaret was a very keen baker and talented artist and there are many paintings and sculptures in the family home in Lochgilphead, a home that was at the centre of New Year celebrations for friends and family every year.

Fundraising for the centre in the past has involved people with and without MS taking part



Margaret's graduation from Jordanhill teacher training college in Glasgow.

files so there are certain to be interesting fundraising events throughout the year.

As well as providing treatments, the MS Centre also provides people with MS and others with somewhere to socialise and meet new friends which is also vitally important.

Centre members are also encouraged to volunteer and help in whatever way they can.

Karen said: 'Everyone here has talent for something and can help, even if it's just being someone to talk to.'



Margaret and her children enjoy a holiday to Paris for Margaret's 60th birthday.



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Community loses local champion

IT IS with the greatest sadness the *Argyllshire Advertiser* reports the passing of Margaret Kilgour.

She was a founding member of the MS Centre and has played a key role in its role in supporting those suffering from degenerative illnesses in Mid Argyll.

The centre will celebrate its 20-year anniversary this year and will continue to develop its service and it will remain Margaret's legacy.

Librarians play a vital role

IF THE removal of all 10 librarians from secondary schools in Argyll and Bute goes ahead it will have a negative effect on children in the area.

Without the guidance of a librarian to show them books and suggest what to read, many children will never be turned on to reading.

This will hugely affect their time at school and could restrict their opportunities when choosing a career path afterwards.

It will also devalue books and make them seem less important than they are.

Many children may not get to experience the adventures that can be found in a book and this will be a huge loss.

The possible loss of mobile libraries too will have an effect on those in the more rural areas and island communities who use them.

These people can often be unable to travel to public libraries and find their trip to the mobile library very important.

who's who at your advertiser

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Thanks from fundraisers

Sir,
With reference to the Corner House fund raising article in the *Argyllshire Advertiser* (January 22), we would like to say a huge thank you to all of the people who have supported any of the events we held to raise money for charity.

Maybe you baked a cake, came along and had a wee cuppa, bought raffle tickets, owned a horse, sponsored a race, gave a donation, answered a few quiz questions, gave up your time to help or even jumped out of a plane.

There are too many people to name, but you all know who you are so thanks, again.

We really appreciate your help and support. Duggie and I are very proud of our wee village for its community spirit and generosity.

In addition to this, we were kindly named Citizens of the Year at the Tarbert Senior Citizens Christmas Party and can't thank everyone enough for their support and lovely words.

Duggie and Margaret MacNeill,
Corner House pub,
Tarbert

Safe road at the Rest

Sir,
In response to Mr Fisher, I'd find most of the money to construct a safe road at the Rest and be Thankful by cancelling the SNP's plans to spend £60 million on a mile of new motorway in Glasgow and find the rest from the money lying unspent in the SNP Government's coffers due to their huge under spend.

Spending the money on the Rest and be Thankful before a

landslide kills passing motorists will save lives. The proposed Glasgow motorway won't.

I've sent Mr Hay a copy of the SNP's council cuts briefing document in which they outline their plans to close Kilmory. Perhaps now he will stop writing letters to newspapers claiming these plans don't exist.

Alan Reid
Liberal Democrat
candidate for Argyll and Bute,
Dunoon,
Argyll

Inside stories of 'Up the Brae'

Sir,
I have long been curious about the Argyll and Bute Hospital, and was delighted to find 'Up the Brae'.

I have pored over its pages and loved to see the photos of pages from the old records, and discussions of how the various developments were proposed and received.

I note that 'treatment' included the idea of contact with the natural world, of the 'therapeutic' aspect of work on the farm or in the gardens, and appreciate the connection with the Blarbuie projects today.

The memories of those who lived within the ambit of the hospital, its patients and its staff members, were also resonant with significant information about the history of the Lochgilphead area of Argyll.

What is still missing for me, however, are some of the stories of the inmates - the inside stories.

What were the experiences, the conditions that brought people here to be treated or simply contained, within the

hospital? What was it like for them?

The inside stories of those who found themselves going 'Up the Brae', would add a richness and depth to our understanding of what may have been, over all those years of the Argyll and Bute Hospital, an aspect of the 'dark side' of life in the rural West Highlands of Scotland.

Mary MacCallum,
Ardrihaig

Better Scottish Education

Sir,
Nicola Sturgeon, the first minister, asks everyone to judge the SNP on its record in government. I should like to do just that, focusing on education.

On the SNP's watch over 150,000 college places have been lost. This attack on essential knowledge and competence has resulted in a shortage of skilled workers.

Early education is the best investment in our children's future we can make. It's proven to help children get on in life, whatever their background. But expansion of nursery education has moved at a snail's pace. The Scottish Government has missed its targets for early education for 2-year-olds by 75 per cent.

Clearly the SNP's performance has undermined Scotland's education reputation. So what's to be done? Scottish Lib Dems will invest half a billion pounds to improve Scottish education. They will close the attainment gap by providing a Scottish Pupil Premium. This gives schools the extra money they need to make sure every child achieves her/his potential.

Lib Dems will reverse the cuts to Scottish colleges and bring in more courses to help people train for careers.

Lib Dems will massively expand nursery education. Parents will find the new free provision more flexible and easier to access.

And where will the Scottish Lib Dems get the £475 million to invest in education each year for the next five years? Their plan will put 1p on income tax. In fact, thanks to increases in personal allowance, the poorest Scots will pay nothing extra and the richest Scots will pay for almost half of the investment. It's the fair way.

So if you want better education a vote for the Scottish Lib Dems on 5 May is the answer.

Finlay Craig,
Shore Road,
Cove

Party for seniors was a big hit

Sir,
I would like to commend everyone involved in the organising of the Tarbert Senior Citizens Christmas Party this year.

We had a wonderful evening provided by a group of volunteers who give of their time each year to make this event happen.

The food was wonderful, the music excellent and the company was most enjoyable.

Congratulations to Margaret and Duggie MacNeill, Tarbert Citizens of the Year, who richly deserve their award.

With my sincere thanks again to everyone involved for such a successful evening.

Anne Horn,
Councillor,
Tarbert

Letters to the Editor, *Argyllshire Advertiser*,
Argyll Street, Lochgilphead,
Argyll PA31 8NB

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Do you support our fishing industry and our fishermen?

Sir

Having attended the Rural Affairs Committee meeting last Wednesday at the Scottish Parliament, can I first of all congratulate all of the fishermen who turned out to oppose the Marine Protected Areas being considered in our coastal waters.

The debate itself, which took place within the Parliament building, was disappointing. There was no support from Marine Scotland, our MSP Michael Russell and the cabinet secretary Richard Lochhead.

The economic impact and the damage this will cause to our rural communities was totally ignored. Decisions had already been made prior to this meeting. Clearly the public has not been listened to.

Mr Russell was likened to a Rottweiler by his colleagues when he was first elected, but his display of support for the fishing industries and the families who depend on fishing, lacked any bark.

Mr Russell claimed that he would not support any future restriction orders affecting fishing. His reasons for his decision were because of the way the proposal of the MPAs had been handled.

If he was unhappy at the way things had been handled he should have opted to continue the consultation and take account of the strong public opinion, which is out there.

The question has to be asked of our government – do you support our fishing industry and our fishermen?

**Councillor
John McAlpine,
Tarbert**

Safe road at the Rest

Sir,
Following the recent landslides at the Rest and Be Thankful, Scottish Transport Minister Derek MacKay claimed that the miti-



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l LETTER

gation measures already in place 'are doing their job'. This complacent comment shows that, in his ministerial office, he is out of touch.

Mr Mackay can't have seen the photograph of the car teetering on the cliff edge after the last landslide. The sticking plaster solution has failed. More sticking plaster, as announced by Mr MacKay is not the answer.

The Jacobs Report identified four affordable permanent solutions – the road on a viaduct, a debris flow shelter above the road, upgrade the Old Military Road to trunk road status or a new road on the opposite side of the glen.

The Scottish Government should be starting work now on one of these solutions before a passing motorist gets caught in a landslide and killed.

**Alan Reid,
Liberal Democrat
candidate for
Argyll and Bute,
Dunoon,
Argyll**

Concern to the Kintyre business community

Sir,

The current proposals to create Marine Protected Areas, along with Fishing Regulating Orders, are of considerable concern to the Kintyre business community.

The closure of the main fishing areas available to the fishing boats of Tarbert, Carradale, and Campbeltown, would effectively end the fishing industry in Kintyre. Local processing firms will be forced to close, with a further loss of jobs. Road haulers in the area will also be affected.

Tarbert has been recognised as a fishing port for many centuries, with several families following a tradition in fishing for generations.

Having run a retail business in Tarbert for almost 60

years, I am aware of the importance of fishing to the local economy. The annual income generated by the catch of scallops and prawns landed in Kintyre runs to millions of pounds.

The suggestion that 'Sea-Angling Tourists' will flock to the area if commercial fishing is restricted, can only be fanciful. Previous attempts to operate such businesses have failed. The actions of SIFT and COAST appear to be setting the communities of Arran and Kintyre against each other, when in fact by working together to promote tourism, both could benefit.

In 2007, a press release issued by the SNP stated that Kintyre and related areas had been 'badly let down in the past'. A vehicle ferry link between Antrim and Kintyre was seen as 'a vital component of future success'.

Despite the assurance that, (if elected) an SNP government would reintroduce such a service, (adding that this was 'a pledge from a party that keeps its promises') it has failed to materialise.

Experience of the short-lived summer car ferry service between Campbeltown and Ballycastle (which ran 1997, 98 and 99), suggests that the islands of Arran and Islay also benefited from the tourists arriving in Kintyre via this route. Government officials have blamed financial cut-backs for their failure to keep this promise.

Nevertheless major projects on the East Coast, road, rail, tram and new Forth Road Bridge, have been progressed. At the same time a budget under-spend of several hundred million pounds has been reported.

The economy of Mid-Argyll, Kintyre and Islay is already under threat from existing transport problems surrounding the Rest and Be Thankful on the A83.

An agreement must be reached which will protect the Kintyre fishing industry, and the promise of a Kintyre and Antrim vehicle ferry service finally implemented.

Our MSP representatives must be persuaded to take all necessary action to counter these threats.

**Ian Y MacIntyre,
Tarbert**

The Rest and Be Thankful

Sir,

Argyll and Bute Council will be pleased to hear the Rest and Be Thankful is not its responsibility, but the SNP's. It is a public works issue where lives are at stake.

During the war, I worked with Wimpeys and Sir Robert MacAlpine and we really did move mountains.

A four lane highway should be started at the bottom of the hill on the Inveraray side; cutting off that nasty corner with a gentle curve over the old bridge up the hill to the car park, draining the pond if necessary, into the stream, skim the top off and commence a gentle graded road down the centre of the valley, making it perfectly safe from both sides.

While this takes place the normal road should be put on a convoy, better to be delayed than dead.

The SNP can well afford this with all the taxes it is are going to take off us if re-elected and the council will be able to tackle the potholes with the money it has saved and the problem will be solved forever.

**John Allison,
Lochgilhead**

Who runs NHS Highland?

Sir,

What sort of board does NHS Highland have?

I trained as a nurse and health visitor in London in the 1970s. What I have found since being a patient of NHS Highland is that it has

no interest in the overall health of its population. (I came to Scotland in the 80s and have used other NHS boards in Scotland).

NHS Highland see to show no care or regard for the physically or mentally disabled, the very young or the older generation.

Instead, board members allow those leading the health service to control them. The tax payer, past and present, supports the board's inability to manage its budget.

Who are the people who run NHS Highland? Does anybody know, or care? Who selects the board? Who is in charge of the budget?

The people of NHS Highland have a right to answers.

Does Nicola Sturgeon have the answers?

Or even the health secretary for Scotland?

**Hilary Taffs,
Lochgilhead**

Clean for the Queen

Sir,

Her Majesty The Queen will celebrate her 90th birthday in April 2016.

A number of events are being organised to celebrate this. One of the events goes under the banner of 'Clean for the Queen' and obviously is intended to improve the environment by removing as much litter as can be done by those who volunteer.

Fortunately, in Argyll and Bute, there has been a long tradition of beach cleaning which is now administered by the GRAB Trust. The Trust provides the coordination and equipment required.

The Trust, with the support of the Lieutenancy, is already enthusiastically mobilising those groups which would normally participate in beach cleaning to take part in this

year's important event.

In Argyll and Bute this will take place across the weekend March 4-6, 2016.

Any other group, formal or informal, which is keen both to improve our environment and by doing so acknowledge the Queen's contribution to our nation over her lifetime, is asked to be in touch with GRAB Trust (Julie Fairbrass, Project Manager, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, Argyll or julie.fairbrass@grab.org.uk), indicating the name of the organiser, the location and the date of the proposed clean-up.

If the dates above do not suit another date can be chosen.

The Lieutenancy is already organising groups in many locations.

If you are not part of a group, but an individual intending to participate, please let me know and I shall see whether I can direct you to a group, or indeed form a group around you.

**Patrick Stewart,
MBE, WS,
HM Lord Lieutenant
for Argyll and Bute.**



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Children who took part in the recital of Burns' *To a Mouse*.

Mid Argyll school pupils impress the judges at Burns recitation showdown

PUPILS from three Mid Argyll schools went head-to-head in a Burns recitation showdown, which was judged by Inveraray Burns Club members.

Children from Inveraray, Furnace and Minard primary schools' P6 and P7 classes took up the challenge of reciting eight verses of *To A Mouse* either solo or as a group.

The competition is an annual event held at Inveraray Primary School.

Impressive

Three pupils proved to be the most impressive to the judges – club president Jim McMillan, honorary president Jim McCulloch, and Reverend Roderick Campbell.

Tilly Cunningham, Tem-

ma Tierney-Clerk and Angus McAskill, all from Inveraray, delivered their recitations solo and were awarded for their efforts.

Tilly received the prize for best in P6, Temma received the prize for best in P7, and young Angus received the shield trophy for best overall.

The group award went to

Furnace and Minard primary schools. The judges said on the day that they thought all competitors had prepared well, before presenting each pupil a certificate for taking part.

Culminated

The celebrations culminated in haggis and oatcakes, and a joint sing-song of *Auld Lang Syne*.

Burns Supper at Inveraray

A SPECIAL tribute was paid to two respected members of Inveraray Burns Club, who recently passed away, at its annual Burns Supper.

President of the club Jim McMillan paid homage to Frances and Alasdair Chrystal, following their recent deaths, to 80 guests at the Inveraray Inn.

The supper, held on January 23, saw Stuart Liddell, pipe major of Inveraray District Pipe Band, lead the presentation of the haggis with his pipes, as new member of the club Phillip Elliot held it up for everyone to see.

The haggis was then enthusiastically addressed by former president Michael Kidd.

After grace, which was delivered by Reverend Roderick Campbell, the meal was served and Jim McCulloch toasted the Queen.

Stuart Liddell, renowned for his solo championship performances enthralled the audience with a performance on the pipes. Bobby McCallum, delivered a captivating *Im-*

mortal *Memory*, and outlined the characteristics of Burns that led to his unique legacy.

A humorous *Toast to the Lassies* was provided by former president Kenny Stark to which his wife Sylvia ably replied.

Recitations of Burns were provided by Bobby McCallum and John Burns. Scottish folk group Bletherskyte from Ayrshire gripped the audience with a foot-stomping selection of Burns' songs.

The evening was brought to a close in true club tradition, by everyone singing *The Star of Rabbie Burns* and *Auld Lang Syne* with a resolve, in Burns' words, 'to meet some 'ither day'.



Robert Burns.

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Former Lighthouse Keeper,
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about his experiences
All very welcome
Pauline Simson -
01880 740 255

Kintyre Antiquarian & Natural History Society 'Bird-ringing in Spain'

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Defibrillator training takes place at Tayvallich Hall

MEDICAL training sessions which were open to the public in Tayvallich proved a success.

Seventy adults and three children took part in defibrillator training sessions, delivered by Graeme Ramage, a fellow of The Sandpiper Trust, at the village hall on January 27.

Caroline Abernethy, a Tayvallich resident, championed the installation of two defibrillators in the community.

She also attended each of the six, one-hour sessions held last week.

Caroline said: 'Our sessions went really well. In fact, they were so well attended that we ran out of hand-outs and certificates. We had an overwhelming response from people in the community, and I have to say a huge thanks to everyone who helped to raise the money and who came along.'

Caroline spent two



From left: Graeme Ramage delivered the training with the support of Caroline Abernethy.

years raising the funding needed to pay for two heart-starting, and potentially life-saving, devices.

The defibrillators were provided by The Sandpiper Trust.

One will be situated at Tayvallich Village Shop while the other will be at Carsaig Bay.

There are no plans to set up a first response unit based in the village.



Graeme Ramage demonstrates how to use the defibrillator.

Robert Nairn Trio at Inveraray Accordion and Fiddle Club

THE Inveraray Accordion and Fiddle Club welcomed the Robert Nairn Trio to the Inveraray Inn for its first meeting of the year.

Fyne Folk – Nick MacFarlane on accordion, Sally Hall, Jake MacKay and Alex John MacLeod on fiddles and Agnes Liddell on keyboard – got the evening started.

Also performing at the

January 13 event was James MacArthur and Colin Sutcliffe, both on melodeon, Charlie Sloane and Jimmy Duncan, fiddle and accordion, 13-year-old Calum MacDonald on accordion, and Jake MacKay and Agnes Liddell.

The Robert Nairn Trio consisted of Robert on accordion, brother Alan on drums and Ross Wilsson on keyboards.

The crowd enjoyed their West Coast sound and a selection of tunes from slow airs to jigs and reels.

A surprise was the appearance of Skippin'ish man and Mòd gold medallist Robert Robertson who had joined the Nairn brothers on their trip to Argyll. He played a few tunes on his accordion and sang Gaelic song, *Eilidh*.



The Robert Nairn Trio.

Kilmartin Museum still fundraising for planned improvements

KILMARTIN Museum is preparing for the final stage of its Heritage Lottery Fund application.

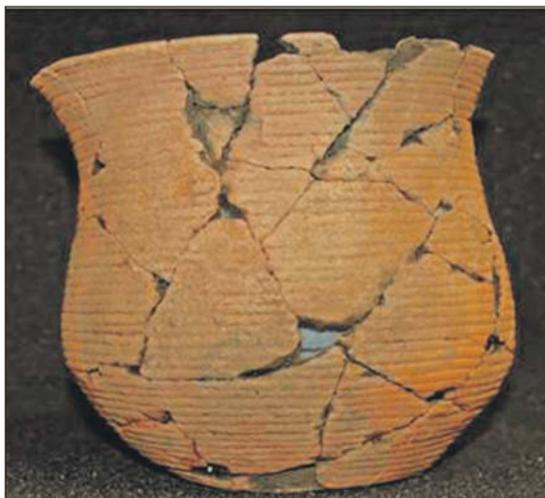
The fund will provide about half of the £6.5million redevelopment costs and, although another £1.5m has already been raised, the museum is still fundraising as there are a lot of improvements planned.

When staff at the museum carried out a consultation last year to find out what people wanted from the museum, suggestions included a second exhibi-

tion hall, more chance to get involved in excavations, and more formally taught archaeology.

Redevelopment officer Kay Owen said: 'This is a big list and we will be working on how we will achieve all these things in the new museum.'

Thankfully, we are recruiting for a redevelopment project manager who will help to get us there. We are also planning events in London, Edinburgh and Glasgow to make people aware of how important Argyll's archaeology is and how important this project is.'

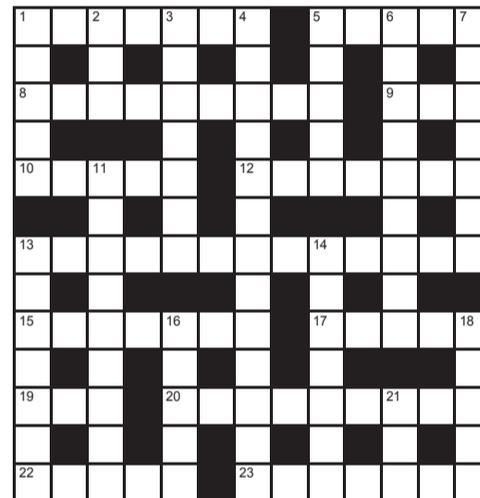


This Bronze-age beaker, found at Kilmartin, is the oldest in Britain. It will be on display at the museum when the redevelopment is complete.

Sponsored by Scottish Building Society SCDA Kintyre District DRAMA FESTIVAL

in Campbeltown Grammar School
on Thursday 18th February 2016 at 7.00 pm prompt
Strachur and District Youth Drama:
The Struggles by Kendra Thomas
Accent Players:
Romance by John Reason
Lochgilphead Drama Club:
Mrs Meadowsweet by David Campton
Peninver Players:
When I Snap my Fingers by Bruce Adam
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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



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|------------------------------------|--|
| Across | Down |
| 1 Living area (7) | 1 Carved (5) |
| 5 Puzzle of words and pictures (5) | 2 Computer program - not quite a mechanical person (3) |
| 8 Out to get the magic one (5-4) | 3 Tops forming a junction shape (1-6) |
| 9 Whisky grass (3) | 4 Very surprised (13) |
| 10 Block (5) | 5 Threadbare (5) |
| 12 Journal (3,4) | 6 Child who works with a handcart (6-3) |
| 13 I can't explain this word! (13) | 7 Small patch of colour (7) |
| 15 High stacks of fodder (7) | 11 Child's bedtime toy (5,4) |
| 17 Large American beaver (5) | 13 Known only by the group or company (2-5) |
| 19 Employ (3) | 14 Tractor with excavator (7) |
| 20 Fresh rinse (9) | 16 Energy but not a fast mover we see (5) |
| 22 The ground we stand on... (5) | 18 One who puts you in your place (5) |
| 23 ...this one crouches (7) | 21 Afflict (3) |

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Oban Highland Cattle Show and Sale celebrates 125th event



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THE Highland Cattle Society will celebrate its 125th annual spring show and sale at Oban Livestock Centre, Oban, this month.

The judge, Donald MacNaughton of the Rannoch Fold, will cast his eyes over a total of 114 animals - seven aged bulls, eight senior

bulls, 23 two-year-old bulls, 13 yearling bulls, five senior heifers, 11 three-year-old heifers, 16 two-year-old heifers, 27 yearling heifers, three cows and one unaltered female.

Donald is no stranger to the show and sale ring.

He and his family, who originate from the island of Kerrera, have bred Highlanders all their lives.

In fact, Mr MacNaughton has been coming to Oban for the last 52 years, only missing one show during that time, which just happened to be the opening show. Mr MacNaughton himself has won the Oban show, has

twice won the 'Glasgow' show (City of Glasgow International Show), and has never been out of the top three in any show he has exhibited at.

Young handlers will have to impress Catherine McKechnie if they are to win the Woodneuk Cup.

As well as the show and sale on Monday February 15, both starting at 10am, there are also a number of social events taking place.

Before the show and sale start, the society will meet for its annual general meeting at 5pm on February 13 at the Royal Hotel in Oban. A drinks reception and casino evening

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Highland Cattle Society

125th ANNIVERSARY SPRING SHOW & SALE OF HIGHLAND CATTLE

114 Entries - 51 Bulls & 63 Females

Show - Sunday 14th February 2016 at 10am
Sale - Monday 15th February 2016 at 10am

Venue: Oban Livestock Centre, Oban

Pre show & sale events to be held at The Royal Hotel, Oban include:
AGM - Saturday 13th February 2016 at 5.00pm
Drinks Reception / Casino Evening - Saturday 13th February 2016 at 6.30pm

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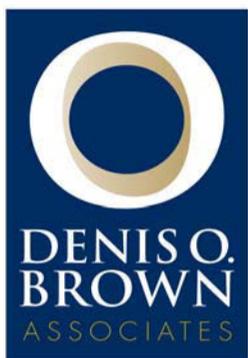


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Kintyre Agricultural Society ANNUAL PLOUGHING MATCH

At Kilbloan farm, by kind permission of the McLean Family
On Saturday, March 5th 2016

Classes as follows:

Class 1; 10 to 12 inches Class 3; Reversible
Class 2; Over 12 inches Class 4; Horse

£5 per entry **Lots to be drawn at 9.30 a.m.**

Space is very limited so entries will be accepted on a first come first served basis and must be with the Secretary by 9am Monday 15th February

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North Argyll Branch Blackface Sheep Breeders Association

AGM

Wednesday 24th February
2016 at 8pm in the Falls of
Lora Hotel, Connel

The annual stock judging will be held on Friday 12th February at 7.30pm at Dalmailly Auction Mart (by kind permission of United Auctions).

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New Holland 5040, 4wd, c/w Quicke 750 loader, 2008, 85hp approx, mechanical shuttle, 2 spools.....	£18,495
John Deere 6110, 4wd, 2002, reg: c/w Quicke Loader/joystick/3rd service, left hand shuttle, power quad, 85HP approx.....	£17,995
Kubota ME 8200 4 wd c/w Kubota LA1251 Loader, Air Con, 85HP approx, 980 recorded hours, hydraulic shuttle.....	£17,995
Takeuchi TB153 Excavator, 5 ton, 2007, hydraulic quick hitch, 1 bucket, twin speed tracking, rubber tracks 80%.....	£15,995
Kubota ME5700, 4WD, 2006, c/w Kubota Loader/6ft bucket/, shuttle box, 60hp, air con, 80% turf tyres.....	£15,495
Manitou MLT 629 120 LSU, 2001, c/w pallet forks, 6 metre reach, 3 ton lift, c/w pallet forks.....	£14,495
John Deere 6200 4wd, c/w Trima loader, 1995, 5hp approx, Powequad transmission, telescopic PUH.....	£13,495
John Deere 6100 4WD, 1996, same owner for 12 years, 3815 recorded hours, 75 HP, PowerQuad, Air con.....	£13,295
John Deere 6300 4WD, 1996, 90hp, power quad, 3700 recorded hours, telescopic hitch.....	£12,495
Massey Ferguson 2210, 4wd, 2003, c/w Massey Ferguson 871 loader, shuttle, 2 spools, 53 HP, 1935 recorded hours, air con.....	£12,495
Case CS78, 2001, Synchro Forward and Reverse, 4WD, 2 Spools, Toplink, Pickup Hitch, Trailer Braking Valve.....	£11,995
Massey Ferguson 3075 Autotronic, 1994, 4WD, Reg: 86 HP, 5088 Recorded Hours, 4x2 Powershift, Ex Local Farm.....	£11,995
Kubota L5740 4wd, 2010, c/w W & A Wilson front linkage, 4 cylinder, 60hp approx, hydrostatic, air con cab, 897 hours.....	£11,995
Manitou MLT 524 Turbo, 2000 X reg, c/w pallet forks, ex local farm, 5m reach, 2.4 ton lift, front spools, Manitix PUH.....	£11,495
Renault Pales 210, 2001, 3 cylinder Deutz, 52 hp, 4100 recorded hours, shuttle box, 2 spools, over sized flotation tyres.....	£8,795
Kubota BX2350 4wd Hydrostatic Drive c/w Snow Blade, 2010, 3 cylinder 23HP, 1600 recorded hours, 1 spool.....	£7,495
Case 795 4wd, 1990, c/w Quicke 4560 loader/muck fork/lever control, 77HP approx, 1 spool, PUH, V5 document, low cab height.....	£7,495
Ford 3910 2wd, 1989, 50hp approx, 2773 recorded hours, same owner for past 15 years, column change, PUH.....	£5,295
Polaris Ranger Utility Vehicle, Diesel, 2010, Green, Agri registered, reg: SN60 FCM, good tyres.....	£6,295
Kawasaki Mule 3010 Diesel, tipping body, bench seat, half cab.....	£5,495
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Yamaha Grizzly 350cc, 2007, auto, green, 4wd, tow ball.....	£2,995
Suzuki King quad, 500cc, brand new, power steering, auto, UK delivery £95, save £250.....	now £7,200
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Dougie MacDonald, Tyree, Benderloch, won the young handler's prize last year, to the delight of the locals in the crowd.

16_t08highland07

Library cuts petition presented to Argyll and Bute Council

A PETITION against possible cuts to library services in Argyll and Bute has been handed in to Argyll and Bute Council.

In the council's budget consultation there were options to remove all 10 secondary school librarians and take mobile libraries, which cover island and more rural communities, off the road.

The campaign has been going for two months and is supported by politicians Brendan O'Hara, Michael Russell and Alan Reid. Writers have also got behind the campaign with Debi Gliori and Alan Bisset backing it. Alan said: 'It is not by any means guaranteed that children will simply discover books for themselves. They have to be guided, by people with expertise about young people's literature and passion for books. School librarians are always aware of the



School, mobile and public libraries could all be hit by council cuts. 08_a3library01

contemporary writing scene and which authors work well in front of a school audience, which can lead to a magical experience for pupils.

'The years of specialist knowledge which librarians have accumulated will be lost to school pupils. I know myself that had I not had access to our school's library, and had the expert hand of its librarian, it's possible that this young man from a working-class background,

whose parents were not themselves readers, would never have gone on to become a writer. Whole worlds of the imagination will be lost to children, as they will have no-one to guide them through and encourage them to read books.'

People signing on the petition have commented on how the loss of school librarians is short sighted. Not only will it affect the life chances and employability of

children in the area, but it also devalues books and reading.

Spokesperson for Supporters of Argyll and Bute Libraries, Jenny Des Fountain said: 'School librarians provide support for independent learning in all areas of the curriculum. They help young people learn skills they will need to be successful in any future they

choose. They provide access to computers for many who do not have access to the internet at home.

'They help young people learn how to use information technology for learning. They provide a safe haven for youngsters with additional support needs by providing a place to socialise, to relax and to learn. Librarians give all young people a place to

read, daydream, think creatively and to grow intellectually. They put the right book in the right child's hands at the right time.'

If these proposals go ahead Mull will be one island to lose its mobile library service and local councillor Mary-Jean Devon said it would be a huge loss to those that use it.

The petition is still open on Change.org

Coffee morning for Syrian refugees

THERE will be a coffee morning for a charity which helps Syrians at the MS Centre, Lochgilphead.

Charity Hand in Hand for Syria is one of few charities able to get food and other vital supplies into besieged cities.

The event is being held by the McCurry family which previously raised £1,000 for Caritas Athens which helps refugees who have made the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean.

Donations of raffle prizes and home-baking are welcome as are people willing to help out at the event which will take place between 11am and 1pm on Saturday February 13.

Games

As well as tea and cake, there will be fundraising games and two local charities will also be supported.

There will be a collection for Kintyre food bank and donations for the MS Centre.

The family would like to thank local artists Caroline Hunter, Lynne Girdwood and Ged Connelly for art they have kindly donated to be raffled and to the Bell family, from Glasgow, for donating a large teddy for our guess the name game.

Thanks also to everyone who has volunteered to help at the event.



Rebecca McCurry, 13, and her twin brother Michael, will be volunteering at the event. a06syria01



The Thistle crew including Archie, second right.

Talk on Strachur sportsman



Thistle on the Clyde.

THERE will be a talk on Strachur's first international sportsman, Archie McNicol, at Strachur New Hall.

Iain MacAllister, will speak about his great, great grandfather Archie's quest for the Americas cup in 1887 as part of Strachur and District Historical Society's series of open winter talks.

Archibald was part of the crew on Thistle which was built in Glasgow and was the Royal Yacht Club's challenger for the Americas cup. They were beaten but Archie went on to work on yachts for the rest of his career.

The talk will take place on Saturday February 13 at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Win work with the Public Sector



Argyll and Bute Council has scheduled a series of workshops, over the coming months, to help local businesses tender for work with the Public Sector.

The Supplier Development Programme offers expert training, support and information to help businesses win work and grow their business. And best of all – it's completely **FREE**.

Is the Public Sector for You?

24 February 2016, 10am-1pm - Level 1 (Introductory) workshop.

Are you ready to tender? This workshop will help you determine if your business is ready to start bidding. The workshop covers the tender process, Invitations to Tender, PreQualification Questionnaires, Public Contracts Scotland; Quick Quotes and OJEU; Partnering and subcontracting.

Using Public Contracts Scotland and Other Portals

22 March 2016, 10am-1pm - Level 1 (Introductory) workshop

Public Contracts Scotland is the national public sector portal for Scotland. It lists opportunities for all public sector bodies and has a "Quick Quote" function for lower value contracts. This workshop will help you ensure you are comfortable using this site as well as other portals in the UK and Europe.

Winning work through the supply chain

28 April 2016, 10am-1pm - Level 1 (Introductory) workshop.

Learn how to find and win sub-contracting work and how to get into the supply chain.

All workshops will be held at The Enterprise Centre, Kilmory, Lochgilphead

To register for any of these workshops either call Business Gateway on 01546 604555 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk or visit www.sdpScotland.co.uk

Young farmers sow seeds for the future

YOUNG Farmers clubs have been enjoying some highly social events across Argyll in the past couple of weeks.

The newly re-established Mid Argyll Young Farmers Club, covering Lochgilphead and surrounding areas, held a well-attended new members' games night on Wednesday January 27 at the Stag Hotel, Lochgilphead.

Team building

Lots of laughs were had as members took part in some informal team building games.

The group was given an insight into the history of the Scottish Association

of Young Farmers' Clubs (SAYFC) and current structure during a short presentation, which highlighted the benefits of being a member in the year ahead.

North Argyll Young Farmers Club, for young people around Oban, held its second stockjudging event on Friday January 22 at Oban Livestock Centre, courtesy of Caledonian Marts. A healthy turnout of 108 people took part – up on last year's attendance – raising £850 for club funds.

Since re-establishing, the club's regular meetings provide 14 to 30-year-olds with a so-



Mid Argyll Young Farmers enjoy their new members night in Lochgilphead.

cial network full of opportunities – from training and travel to events and competitions.

Local farmer Blair Menzies from Kilninver is the current club chairman.

He said: 'Our night was a great success, attracting spectators from Argyll and further afield. It was great to welcome people of all ages from Kintyre, Ardnamurchan, Stirling and Mull and our sincere thanks must go to NFU Mutual (Oban branch) for the prize donations.'

'We are looking forward to the summer, and we are currently work-

ing with SAYFC development manager Jenny Baillie to create a summer club syllabus which should be available soon.'

Find out more about the Young Farmers at www.sayfc.org or by contacting Jenny Baillie at jenny@sayfc.org.

The next meetings of the clubs will be their annual general meetings and all are welcome.

Nominate your favourite teacher

IF ANYONE knows a teacher who always motivates their class or a school classroom assistant who goes the extra mile, now is the time to show how valued they are by nominating them for a Scottish education award.

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education and lifelong learning, Councillor Rory Colville, said: 'Argyll and Bute schools and education staff have an excellent track record in the Scottish Education Awards in previous years, including winning the coveted Head Teacher of the Year award, and I don't expect this year to be any different.'

'Our teachers are enthusiastic and committed to delivering the best quality learning experience for all pupils and are constantly striving for excellence and to improve standards.'

Nominations can be made by visiting www.scottisheducation-awards.org.uk and nominations close at noon on February 15.



The well-attended stockjudging in Oban, organised by North Argyll Young Farmers Club.

Work begins on the next Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan

ARGYLL and Bute planners are thinking ahead, as the council looks to the public for help in drawing up a development plan for the years 2020 to 2025.

The key document for strategic development in Argyll and Bute, it will replace the current plan, which runs from 2015 to 2020, becoming the main consideration in determining planning applications and supporting the council as it works to unlock the area's huge economic potential.

Timescale

Councillors last week set the timescale for delivering the next

plan, while agreeing to engage with as varied an audience as possible in its development.

Councillor David Kinniburgh, policy lead for planning, said: 'Through the process of developing the next local plan, communities wishing to influence their future direction can work in partnership with the council.'

'Over the next few months we will be participating in community events on Tiree and around the Crinan Canal, funded by the Scottish Government, with a small contribution from the council, through which community

plans will be developed and used to inform the next local plan.

'We will be making every effort to involve those who do not normally engage in this kind of process, in particular younger people and harder-to-reach groups.'

Audit

'A key stage in the development of the next plan is an audit of the existing one, which is currently under way. This will allow us to assess how effective some of current allocations are and be innovative in working with landowners and developers to overcome the development hurdles.'

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TREAT YOUR LOVED ONE THIS VALENTINE'S DAY



VALENTINE'S DAY is the perfect opportunity to spoil that special someone. Whether it be rekindling an old flame or sparking a new romance, your other half deserves the best.

Flowers are an age-old classic to suit every budget - A dozen red roses has always been considered the pinnacle of romance but if the wallet is still feeling light after Christmas florists will have plenty of cheaper alternatives. Carnations are known to last up to three weeks, the perfect bunch for those who like to make their money last.

Valentine's is a time to celebrate love and a personal touch will really show you care. Framed photographs are always a big hit and these days you can have an image printed on just about anything. Mouse mats, mugs, clothes, you name it, you can have something printed on it. Why not do things the old fashioned way and put a romantic photo inside a locket - traditionalists will appreciate the sentimental value.

Those lucky enough to be in the first exciting throws of a new relationship can struggle to choose a personal gift. If you don't yet know the recipient well enough to choose something unique, fragrances and chocolates go down well with both sexes.

Plenty of couples are happy with a Valentine's dinner at home but if you want to push the boat out most pubs and restaurants offer special menus or deals on the 14th.

If quality time is what you need romantic getaways are a perfect gift idea. A secluded B&B destination will offer tranquil walks and cosy fires or celebrate in style with dinner and a show in a nearby town or city.

Various surveys over the years have shown that men spend around double what women do on Valentine's gifts, so ladies it's time to splash the cash. If the man in your life is treating you to dinner, you could make sure you look your best for the occasion. Treating yourself to a haircut, manicure or facial will ensure your man is the envy of the restaurant when he walks in with you. Can't choose a treatment? A lot of salons will book you in for an entire morning or afternoon of pampering so make the most of what they have to offer.

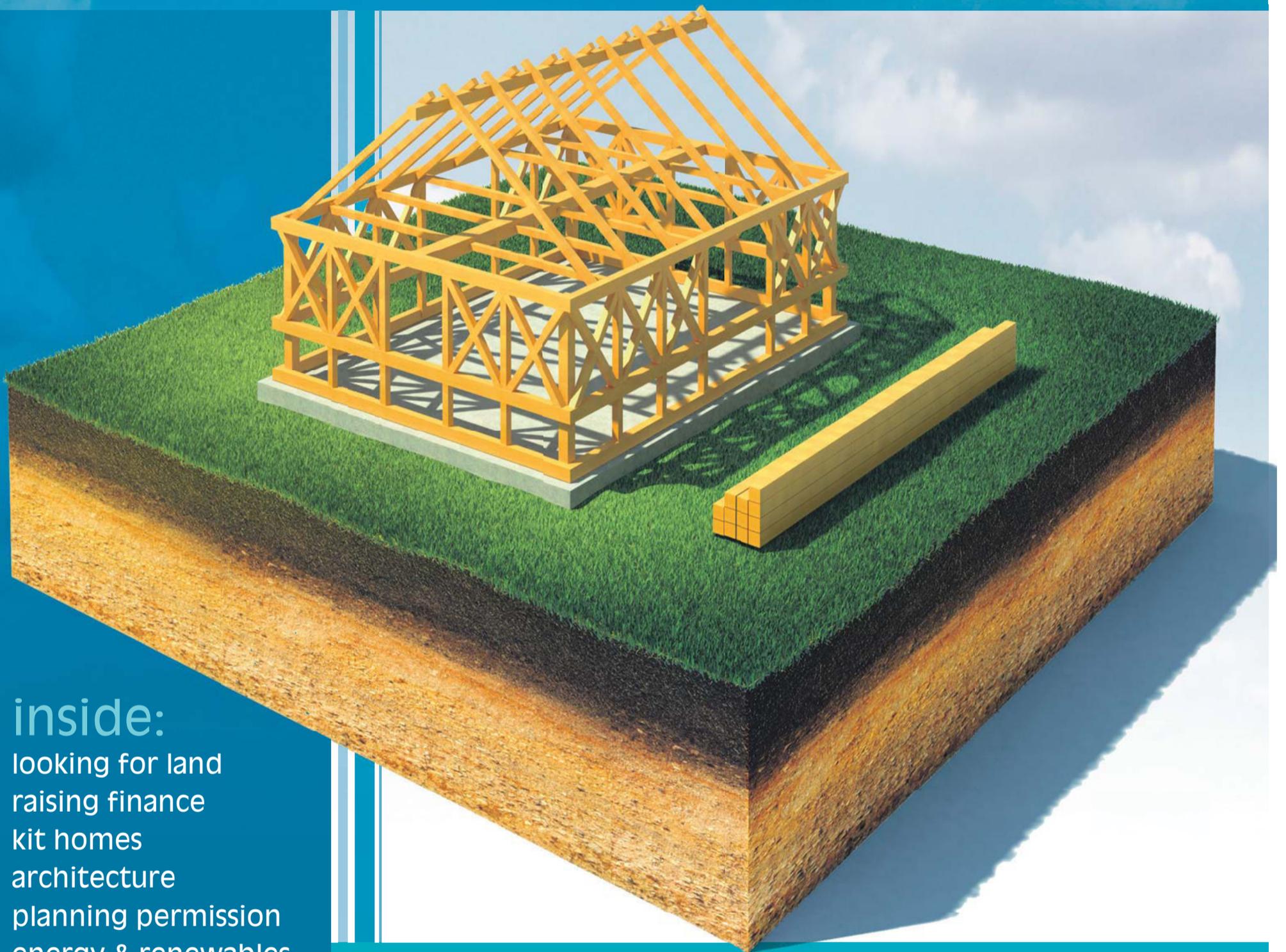
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Beginner's guide to self-build

WHAT IF you could build the perfect home from scratch? A self-build could open the door to your bespoke dream home. Imagine stamping your own design and tastes on the entire property from the start.

'Self and custom build has long been seen as the friendly face of new housing,' said Michael Holmes, Chair of National Custom and Self Build Association. 'When people build homes for themselves and their families to live in, they not only tend to build houses that are better designed and of higher quality and have less impact, but they are much more likely to put down roots and become contributors to that community.'

Whether it's a desire to create a modern, environmentally friendly home, or the vision of that picture-perfect spot overlooking a stunning view that motivates them, more than 12,000 Brits that embark on a self-build adventure each year. 'Building your own home is a big project to undertake, but the rewards can greatly outweigh the hoops that homeowners need to jump through to make it happen,' shared Brian Kilroy of Building LifePlans Ltd. 'Self-building provides the opportunity to build the perfect home to suit your lifestyle, and help is at hand to guide you through the process.'

The process can seem overwhelming, but our guide will help you get on track to your dream home, starting with the first steps you will need to take.

Set a realistic budget

Take a sensible approach to your budget and your project won't turn into a money pit like

those seen on shows such as Grand Designs. Set a firm, realistic figure before the design stage begins, but include a contingency- at least 10% of your overall budget is wise. Use this money only for unexpected cost or unavoidable delays. If you don't spend the contingency by the end, consider using it to upgrade interior finishes or landscaping.

Arrange financing

Whether through a bank or a dedicated self-build mortgage company, your next step should be to secure funding. That way you will know exactly what your budget is from the start, and when you find a plot you love, you will be able to seal the deal before it gets sold out from under you. Self build mortgages often work on a stage payment basis, in which funds are released at key points throughout the project, either in advance or in arrears, depending on the product you choose. Be careful to note that this relates not necessarily to the actual money spent on a specific stage, but to the value by which it has increased the property as a whole.

Choose a building route

Many first-time builders choose a package company to guide them through the entire process, from design to build. These companies generally offer customisable standard houses and bespoke design options.

The other option is to hire an architect and contractor or professional project manager, so that the house can be built to your exact specifications. Check listings, then ask around to find out if others had a good experience with your potentials. You may decide to project

manage the build yourself with a view to saving money by keeping a close eye on labour and materials- just keep in mind this can be overwhelming for those with no budgetary experience or time to take care of all the details.

Find an architect or self build package company

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

Start the planning process

Get in touch with the local planning authority early. Argyll and Bute council offers a pre-application system called Planning for Firm Foundations, so you can find out whether your proposal is likely to be acceptable in terms of the provisions of the adopted development plan. They even provide guidance prior to committing to comprehensive architect or agent commissions, and in some cases it may be possible to agree a timetable for your planning application to be determined based on the information you submit.

Sort out the essentials

Before going any further, make certain you have all the proper consents in addition to planning permission (sometimes you need other special local permissions, such as conservation area consent.) Be sure to safeguard your investment

by getting the contracts, warranties and insurance in place. Even if your contractor has insurance, you may need to take specialist self build insurance.

Prepare the plot

The first step before starting the build is preparing the site, something your contractor usually deals with. This includes clearing vegetation, levelling the plot, installing drainage and setting out the trenches. Don't be surprised if unexpected problems crop up during this phase- for example, the discovery of a spring running under the proposed location for the foundation, or trees that you had hoped to keep end up interfering with the build.

Get building

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

Enjoy your dream home!

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



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Everest would be delighted to work with those building their own houses, the pictures are of a self built home with Everest doors and windows installed, looks great! Everest supplies products with a comprehensive range of accreditations. Why not give one of the two people named a phone to arrange a consultation.

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Tips on finding land for your self-build

- Search the Scottish Property website for suitable public sector land for sale;
- Check your local Solicitors Property Centre or estate agents;
- Look out for 'For Sale' signs; Approach local private developers with undeveloped or partly developed land to see if they would consider selling you a plot;
- See if there are any community trusts in the area which may have land available for self-builders, especially if you want to build in a rural area; or Consider sites with a derelict property which could be demolished or substantially renovated. See estate agents or the Buildings at Risk Register to find possible properties.

Finding land

A RECENT survey by the National Custom & Self Build Association (NaCSBA) revealed the toughest obstacles faced by self-build hopefuls. A staggering 56% claimed finding an affordable/suitable site with which to build their own home was by far the biggest challenge they faced. Mike Hardwick, NaCSBA CEO, said, 'These figures make interesting reading and echo the views of self and custom builders that I meet. The demand for land is still well above the available supply and so many of our supporters are eager to start their projects in the next couple of years but are held back by this critical shortfall! Starting a self-build can be very easy if you or your family already own a suitable piece of land, or it may take years of effort if you have geographical or budgetary constraints. Once you have worked out what budget you have available, you can find out about plots of land for sale which may be suitable for self-build from a number of sources. There are several websites that allow you to search for details of plots for sale, although for some of these you need to pay a fee for membership. A range of websites are available, such as Buildstore Plotsearch, UK Land Directory Ltd or plotfinder.net. Some other methods for plot hunting include networking (ask all your friends on Facebook to look out for one for you, for example); contacting estate agents and landowners, checking out auction houses,

hiring agents to search for you, advertising in the local press, in pubs and shops, and with mobile workers such as taxi drivers, mobile gardeners and hairdressers. You can also search an area for an untended garden or neglected building, and then approach the owners. If you have a defined search area, buy a high resolution Ordnance Survey map as this can sometimes help you identify quirky potential infill sites that are not visible from the main roads. Google Earth can sometimes be useful for this too.

A word of warning

Don't get conned into buying land by a property scam company. These organisations often advertise plots of land that will never realistically get planning permission (for example, in areas that are protected by the Green Belt). If someone is selling a wonderful plot of land at an unbelievable price it's probably too good to be true. And if you buy a site like this – usually still costing tens of thousands of pounds – you're very unlikely to ever recover your money. Be warned.

Consider crofting

If you are keen to raise produce or keep a herd of sheep or cattle, consider a croft site on which to build. The crofting counties of Scotland, including Argyll, have a long tradition of smallholding known as crofting. Existing crofts for sale are priced about the same as other housing land, and sometimes come with planning permission

for the building of a house. And according to an announcement by Environment Minister Aileen McLeod this week, the level of grant support available to help crofters build their homes is to be significantly increased. From April 1 this year, crofters will be able to apply for up to £28,000 under the new Croft House Grant Scheme – and up to £38,000 if they live in island and specified mainland communities. The three previous funding rates will be replaced with a new standard level of grant and a higher level for the islands and some mainland areas. These new rates are significantly higher and mean some crofters will be eligible for more than double the funding available under the old scheme.

Dr McLeod said: 'Good quality housing is essential to help attract and retain people in Scotland's most remote and rural communities, and to help crofters fulfil their duty of living on or close to their croft.' 'The Scottish Government's Croft House Grant Scheme has invested £14 million to build or improve almost 700 homes since 2007 and the changes I am announcing will help ensure this support is fit for purpose in the years to come.' More information on how to apply, including guidance for applicants and the application form, will be available on the Scottish Government's Rural Payments website in due course at www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/.

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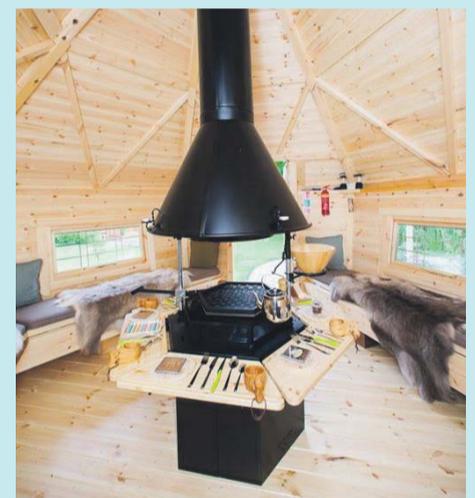
Neil Young Joinery & Building on the Isle of Arran is a family business providing complete, high quality house building service from planning, project management through to completion. All of their construction is completed to the highest standard, delivering quality and value for every new build. A trusted name on Arran for all joinery and building needs, Neil Young and his team have over 25 years' experience. They offer comprehensive building packages and take care of all the details. 'Choosing a builder to undertake your project can be a difficult decision,' Neil said. 'We work closely with you to deliver exactly what you need in a timely manner.'

Neil Young Joinery & Building provides their clients with competitive prices without compromising on quality, making certain that their new builds will be the pride and joy of their owners for years to come, and offer excellent re-sale value down the road. Neil's customers value his team's commitment, their high standards of workmanship and excellent customer service. 'We are driven by customer satisfaction, meaning we continually strive to deliver top quality craftsmanship at affordable prices,' Neil said. 'Our goal is to give our clients their perfect dream home.' Visit neilyoungjoineryandbuilding.co.uk or ring 01770 600 500.



Arctic Cabins

Arctic Cabins are based in Derbyshire and have been manufacturing and selling barbecue cabins for over 10 years. A barbecue cabin solves the issue of the Great British weather and allows the luxury of spending time with family and friends in a warm, cosy and exotic Lapland atmosphere just steps from home. They are warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Once inside, the octagonal cabins are deceptively spacious even with the centrally positioned BBQ grill. They come in a range of sizes from 7 to 25 meters squared. Most cabins have benches that are extendable and convert into comfortable sleeping bunks. Our 10 meter cabin seats 15 and sleeps 3, these are suitable for most gardens while a 25 meter cabin seats 40 and sleeps 6. This size of cabin tends to be used for more commercial uses for example, shooting lodges and camping barns. For those with a smaller space or garden a straight walled barbecue cabin will fit snugly into any corner. The cabins have a full 10 year manufacturers guarantee, are supplied with a full Finnish accessory kit and fully stained externally. Telephone: 0115 932 8888 or Email: Info@arcticcabins.co.uk www.arcticcabins.co.uk



Noremac Argyll Ltd

Noremac is a well-established, family-run business, founded in 2002. They have gained a good reputation for building high quality homes, offices, extensions, conversions and all types of building and joinery projects throughout Argyll and the greater Glasgow area. The majority of their work comes from recommendations from local Architects and from satisfied clients that trust in the work they do. Offering a complete builders' service in Argyll is vital to the smooth running of any project. You can rest assured that Noremac will work with you from the early planning stages, right through to handing over the completion certificate. All sizes of projects

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Raising finance

THE FIRST hurdle to overcome on a homebuilding project is funding. There are several ways to secure the money you need, but the three most common routes are to use existing savings, sell your current house (or use it as security on a loan) or borrow the money by taking out a self-build mortgage.

The first two options are pretty self-explanatory. The third – self-build mortgages – operate very similarly to conventional mortgages, except that payments are staggered to coincide with various stages of your project.

How much can I get?

Like all mortgage finance, self-build mortgages were affected by the credit crunch. However, in the wake of government support for self-build, more and more lenders are returning to or entering the market for the first time. Potential homebuilders can access suitable mortgages directly with a bank or building society, or through a specialist self-build mortgage broker. Pre-credit crunch, it was fairly common for self-builders to be able to secure 95% borrowing on both land and the build. These days, lenders are looking for higher deposits – so 70-80% on each is more common.

What type of mortgage should I get?

The advance stage payment mortgage remains a stalwart of self-build finance, as it offers positive cash flow up front. The beauty of advance stage payment mortgages is that you agree with the borrower up front how much each stage will cost (including the land purchase). Each tranche of money is then released to you prior to commencement of the relevant stage.

That puts you into positive cash flow, so you can pay bills when they're due and keep workmen on site. It also means you can be a cash buyer of building materials, with no need for credit accounts, which can also help a project run more smoothly. There are fees involved with an advance stage payment mortgage, but the savings in hassle and time make an advance mortgage a great option if you don't have significant amounts of cash available at the start of your project.

The other main option is the arrears stage payment mortgage, whereby money is released after each agreed stage of the work is completed. You'll usually need to pay for an assessment (typically totting up to £200-£300) after each phase before the funds are made available.

What about budgets?

When it comes to planning your budget and arranging your finances, don't forget to take other financial commitments into account, such as an existing mortgage or temporary accommodation.

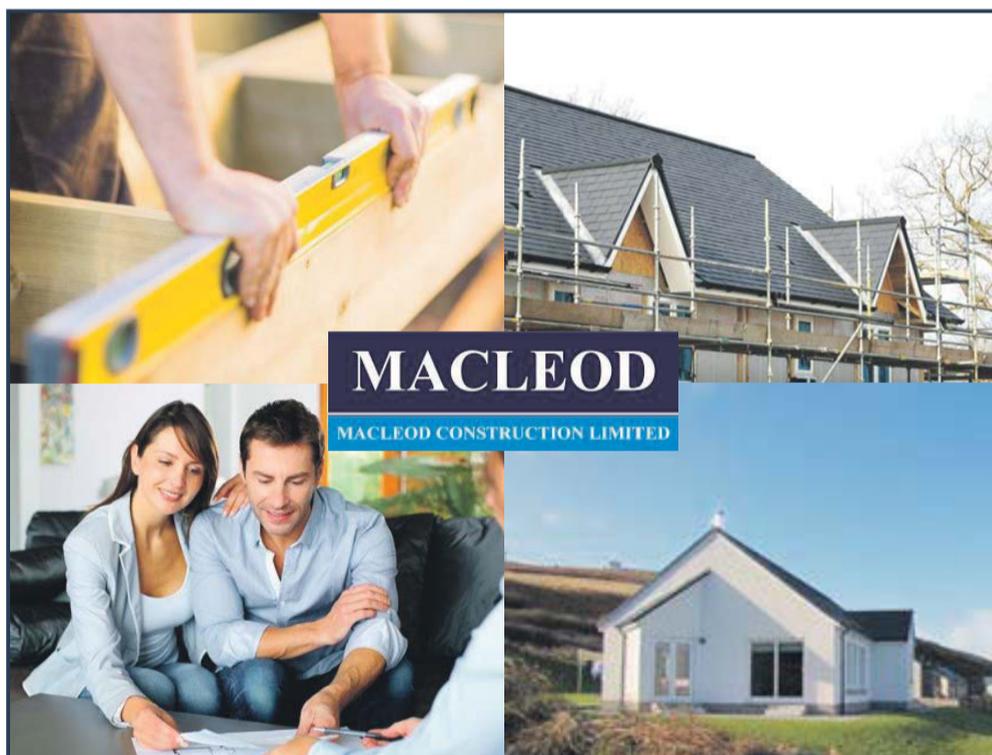
'Lenders understand that you have to live somewhere during your project and, quite understandably, not everyone wants to stay in a caravan on site or with relatives,' said Rachel Pyne, director of financial services at BuildStore. 'They also appreciate that if you sell your current home and move into rented accommodation during the build you will still have housing costs, paying rent rather than a mortgage. Consequently, they allow you to run a self-build mortgage alongside the mortgage on your current house, although, like the rest of the market, the rules are tighter now than pre-credit crunch. However, the lender will want to ensure that you are in a position to support both mortgages, and your current mortgage will be taken into account when deciding how much you can borrow for the build.'

'Some lenders calculate the total amount you can borrow based on your income and then deduct the amount of your current mortgage from this. So unless you have a very high income or a tiny current mortgage, this method

is unlikely to provide you with sufficient borrowing for your project

'There are, however, a number of more enlightened lenders that view affordability differently. They treat your current mortgage as a regular commitment in the same way as they treat a personal loan. They include the monthly mortgage payment in their affordability calculation, and provide you with a loan amount that your remaining income will support.' The extra involvement and administration cost for the lender means that a self-build mortgage is likely to be more expensive than a standard mortgage for the same amount – though of course you may need to borrow less. Once the build is completed, many self-builders switch to a different mortgage deal.

Many people choose self-build because they want to create a home they expect to stay in for good. But if you do choose to move from your self-build property, the good news is that its resale value may well be higher than what you paid to build it. This is Money estimates that self-build properties sold on the open market could fetch 20-25% more than their build costs – although this, of course, depends on location, build quality and the state of the wider property market.



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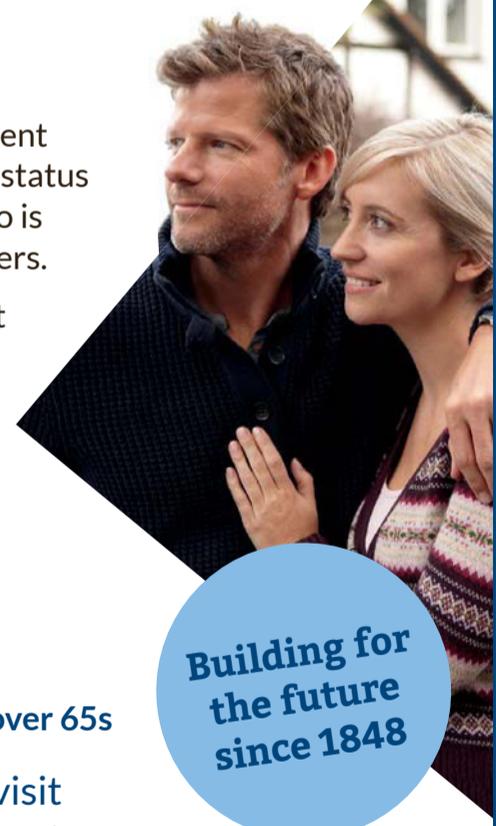
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MacLeod Construction is the largest timber frame design and manufacturing company in the area. While they have vast home-building experience with a traditional approach to service and quality, they also operate at the cutting edge of construction, using the very latest methods and materials, and always seeking out new improvements to the end product. They design every frame and panel with the latest software, before manufacturing the kit with an automated frame-maker- quick, easy and accurate.

'We have 40 years of experience and a proven track record for quality timber frame construction,' said Greig MacLeod, 'Business Development Manager'. 'We offer a lot of services, but house building is our specialty and our passion- we build around 150 kit

homes a year.'

The process is very flexible, allowing you to customise the kit to your own specifications. They can simply supply a timber frame kit (one of their tried and tested designs, or based on an architect's drawings), or they can manage the whole design and build project from start to finish.

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

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

Scottish Building Society has been recognised with a 'Highly Commended' award by Savings Champion in the Best Savings Provider for

Existing Customers category. They are the only independent building society based in Scotland, and is believed to be the world's oldest building society. It has assets of some £397 million, a mortgage book of £275 million and a network of six branch offices and 60 agencies throughout Scotland.

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



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

'It is never too early to come in to talk to us,' said Iain Campbell, 'to discuss your dreams and your present and future requirements, what your ideas and aspirations are and your budget and programme.

'We can help assess your options from the start; our design and technical expertise guides projects through from consent to completion.' The team's 3-D modelling helps bring ideas to life and test them out along with their skills in integrated renewable energy systems each

individually designed for existing properties and new-builds.

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



Planning permission

If there is not already detailed planning permission for your home for your plot of land, you will need to secure this before you can start building, as the planning authority of Argyll Bute Council will need to be satisfied that your plans for your home are in line with the Council's Development Plans and that your home's design will be acceptable in terms of its impact on the surrounding homes and landscape.

You should try to get planning permission as early as possible, as the process can take some time and you should aim to secure planning permission before you enter into a contract with any building firms in case your planning application is rejected. Try to speak to a planning officer at the council (or the National Park authority if your home will be in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park) before submitting your application, as they should be able to let you know if there are any issues you should be aware of or any restrictions they might impose (for example they might restrict the size or height of the home, its distance from a road or the plot boundary, etc.)

The council should also be able to help if you need advice or guidance on completing a planning application. There will be a fee for submitting an application.

Planning online

The Scottish Government's existing ePlanning portal has been upgraded, and over the next four years the new system

is predicted to save approximately £17 million across the country's planning authorities. The revamped version of ePlanning Scotland, first launched in 2009 and now ePlanning.scot, lets individuals, architects and agents submit and manage planning applications online, saving millions. The new system, which went live on Wednesday January 13, is set to be quicker and easier to use.

Nearly 70 per cent of all planning applications nationally are submitted electronically through the portal. Argyll and Bute Council now receives more than half of its planning applications electronically.

Social Justice Secretary Alex Neil said: 'Seventy per cent of planning applications are now made online, double the original forecast. The new service will continue to provide access to the planning system in a way customers want, delivering a high quality consistent service, saving time and money.'

Two new forms are now available for completion online, the post submission additional documentation (PSAD) and the notice of review (NoR). In the future another two forms will be available, the appeals refusal and the appeals notice. The Government is also developing a new national eBuilding Standards portal for public launch in August 2016, with Argyll and Bute's own building standards service providing support for this new national portal. Visit argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment for more information.



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'We operate a turnkey package offering all services from both operated, non-operated and specialist plant,' Darran said. 'Our environmental services division can also deal with all aspects of waste disposal, skip hire and recycling.'

All three of West Coast Tool & Plant Hire's depots offer well stocked tool shops with everything from power tools and

accessories to workwear, boots and PPE. They are main dealers for Stihl, Husqvarna and Honda tools and equipment, as well as dealers for Indespension trailers for sale or hire.

The friendly staff at West Coast Tool & Plant Hire can help you choose the right tool for the right job, and if they don't have what you need, they will get it for you. To enquire about anything from a complete site clearance to a DIY finishing touch, visit one of their three depots, fill out an enquiry form at westcoastplanthire.co.uk, or telephone 01546 602992.

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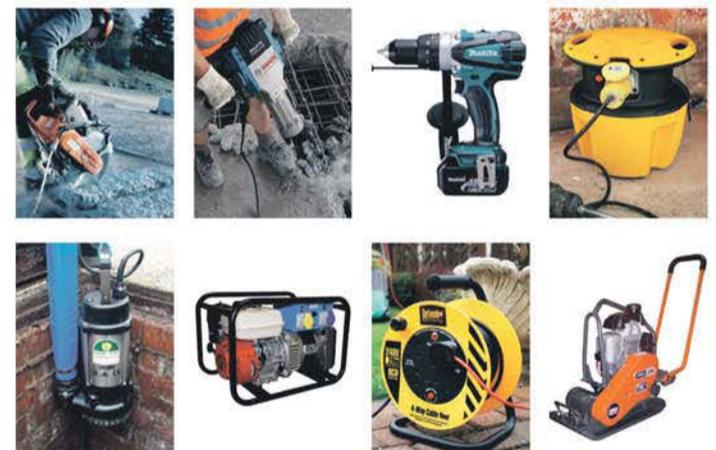


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Benefits of a kit home

- It is simple and relatively risk free.
- It is fairly simple to get a home built this way.
- It is usually one of the fastest ways of getting a home built.
- Some kit homes are quite modestly priced.
- Brings predictability and greater control to the construction process.
- Meets and often exceeds all current Building Regulations.
- Provides excellent thermal efficiency.
- Vast range of designs are available.
- Construction can continue through cold and inclement weather.
- Significantly faster construction period overall.
- Particularly suited to sites with poor soil conditions and sites with restricted access.

Kit homes

DON'T let the term 'prefab home' scare you away – today's kit homes are downright fabulous. Not only do they provide home buyers with a custom, energy-efficient building solution, they're also typically more affordable than traditional stick-built homes.

Also known as prefabricated homes or modular construction, essentially, kit homes are constructed in a factory before being shipped to a building site in pieces, where they're then assembled on-site in a matter of days. Unlike manufactured or mobile homes, kit homes must be constructed according to local building codes. This makes them a widely-accepted form of new construction that isn't subject to the same zoning restrictions that frequently limit the placement of manufactured and mobile homes. In other words, prefab homes must meet the same building codes as traditional 'sticks and bricks' construction, so you can build a prefab home practically anywhere.

Also, like traditionally-built homes, prefab homes typically qualify for construction and home loans, so you don't have to have the total home cost on-hand. And in some cases, kit home manufacturers are prepared to help you find appropriate financing (sometimes offering in-house financing) to get your home construction started.

In addition to reduced build times, there are several advantages to kit homes versus masonry built homes, according

to Peter J Body, managing director of Norscot Joinery Ltd. These include:

- Quality assured off-site manufacture significantly simplifies construction, resulting in less on-site waste (as much as 20-40%, compared with other construction methods).
- Promotes greater efficiency and supply chain integration by combining component and material deliveries. Prefabricated components are also easy to transport and handle.
- Brings predictability and greater control to the construction process.
- Meets and often exceeds all current Building Regulations.
- Improves on-site construction health and safety. Off-site manufacture with automated machinery reduces accidents, as a controlled factory environment is a safer work space.
- Significantly faster construction period overall. Requires 20 per cent fewer on-site labour days. This means a faster return on investment, reduced disruption to local communities and tidier, safer sites.
- Wet trades are eliminated, so there's no drying out time before work can continue on interior finishes.
- Construction can continue through cold and inclement weather – meaning shorter and more predictable build programmes.
- Particularly suited to sites with poor soil conditions (sites that favour lighter buildings), and sites with restricted

access. Modular components are also easy to transport whilst prefabricated panels offer strict quality control and fewer post erection quality problems.

- Manufacture takes place in a quality controlled factory environment, resulting in less on-site defects.
- Provides excellent thermal efficiency, with lifetime savings in energy cost so an extremely environmentally friendly way to build. Timber is an organic, non-toxic and naturally renewable building material.
- Easier to achieve a high performance building fabric by maximising thermal performance and minimising air leakage. This approach is a low risk, cost-effective way to achieve sustainable homes.

In addition, there are virtually no restrictions as far as design choices with kit homes. 'Any style of house which can be built using masonry construction can be built using timber frame construction,' Peter said. 'In the case of more 'exotic' house designs, where there may be cantilevered upper sections, timber frame construction offers the advantages of being lighter and more flexible. In Scotland, most timber frame kit houses will have a brick or rendered block outer wall which makes them indistinguishable from masonry built houses. Similarly, masonry built houses will often be timber lined inside (to accommodate additional insulation and services) making them indistinguishable from timber frame built

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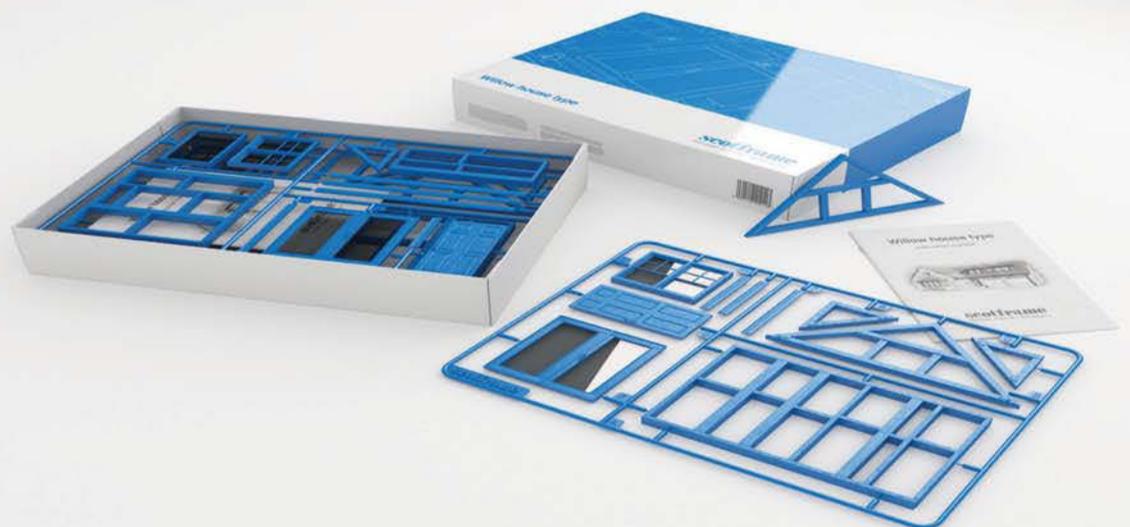
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houses. In reality, the opposite is true – timber frame construction offers more design options than masonry construction.'

Home Package Inclusions

When considering a prefab home, it's very important to pay close attention to what is and isn't included in the home package you select. For instance, modular homes are often (but not always) sold with a full package of fixtures, appliances, windows, and flooring, while pre-cut and panelised homes often consist just of the materials necessary for a wall, roof, or frame. These walls and roofs may or may not include insulation, wiring for electrical, windows, doors, or even drywall. In some cases you can pay additional for the completed wall structure, but in most cases you have to work with an onsite contractor to help you complete and finish your home, including the finishings of the roof and walls.

What's Typically Not Included

Don't get lulled into a happy sleep with the phrase 'all inclusive' when it comes to buying a modular home – it can be misleading. Understand that the base price of a prefab home doesn't account for many of the expenses required to build a home. You must be prepared to pay additional expenses, which may include the land the house will be built on, site survey, utility hookups, if necessary (water, waste water or septic, electrical, cable), the prepared foundation for the home to be built on (concrete slab or pier and beam framing), landscaping, driveways and pavements, garage or carport (may be available

from some manufacturers) and possibly a local contractor or builder to finish the interior. These expenses are incredibly variable based on location, size of home, and even council requirements or personal preference. For instance, if you're building in the country, you may not need or want much in the way of outdoor landscaping. However, if you're building in the city – or in a neighbourhood with strict home owners' association standards – you may be required to put in some kind of landscaping. That said you can expect to spend possibly tens of thousands on permits, fees, foundation, and utility hook-ups – especially if your property isn't served by a local sewer and water system and you'll need to put in a septic system and well.

Options and Upgrades

In addition to the modular home finishes that come standard in a preselected home build, it's important to understand that there may be a selection of upgrades to choose from for an additional price. For instance, you can upgrade items, such as opting for bamboo instead of cork floors.

The cost of a prefab home will vary depending on how much you're willing to do yourself and how much you outsource to others. Some ambitious home purchases prefer to buy a prefab home as a kit and assemble it themselves, with the help of a few (very good) friends. Others are happy to spend the money to have the details of construction and permitting taken out of their hands. Wherever you fall on the spectrum, make sure you understand exactly what you're paying for into before you go the kit home route.

Your self-build specialists...

Scotframe

The fabric of a building gives substance to its thermal performance
"Think Fabric First"

In practice the energy efficiency of a building boils down to a couple of things. How much fuel is required to power its heating and water systems and how well the building manages to retain the heat that is generated

The better a building performs in these two areas, the less fuel its occupants will use on a daily basis and the lower its emissions will be. As such the fabric of a building is central to its green credentials. Increasingly this is becoming a significant factor in the decision making process for all house builders. Within the past few years, the building standard regulations were amended to ensure all new properties deliver a 30% cut in the current benchmark for CO2 emissions. The standard will then be reduced again by a further 30% in 2016.

In the same way that fuel consumption for cars has become an important factor, people are being encouraged to look at the energy performance of a property, understand its ongoing running costs and include this in their purchasing decision.

For those looking to build their own home, constructing a property that meets not only today's standards, but also those of the years to come, has significant benefits in relation to the day-to-day costs of living in the property. In short, the fabric of the building and the way it is put together means homes of this type can be heated up very quickly and retain their temperature for incredibly long periods of time. This reduces their energy needs significantly. This is where our focus should lie, rather than with using renewable energy to make up for poor design and build quality.

For further information, contact Peter Hall – Marketing Manager
Email: peter.hall@scotframe.co.uk



Norscot

Norscot Kit Homes Offer Gold Standard

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

Norscot is a member of the Structural Timber Association, the trade association representing 85% of UK timber frame manufacturers. One of the STA's roles is to promote higher standards through their Q-Mark quality scheme and training services. Norscot kit homes are accredited with Q-Mark Plus, representing the 'gold standard' for the industry.

The structural panel construction employed by Norscot is simple in design and that used by most house builders in Scotland, where over 80% of all new homes are built using timber frame. Norscot kit homes are individually certified by an independent structural engineer and, in standard form, suitable for any UK mainland or

island location.

What sets Norscot apart from other conventional timber frame manufacturers is its overall external wall construction 'EcoWall'. The type, thickness and position of insulation and other non-structural components which, combined with high levels of air tightness, provide the perfect balance between cost and benefit in terms of energy efficiency. Norscot's 'EcoWall' achieves significantly better thermal performance than that required by Scottish Building Standards.



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Architectural designs

THINKING of building your own home in 2016? You aren't alone! The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has published new research forecasting the main trends in UK housing design for the year ahead.

Over the course of 2015, RIBA Chartered Architects have reported the design trends in greatest demand:

- Sustainable and energy conservation measures - demand for sustainable materials, advanced insulation products, water conservation and recycling features
- Larger extensions and bigger new build bespoke houses
- Adaptable designs - increased demand for homes that can make living easier for ageing occupants and live-in relatives
- Family social hubs - multi-functional open-plan spaces are still highly desirable

An increase in land availability and the relaxation of planning restrictions have led to an increase of one-off single houses and housing extensions. 55% of RIBA architects reported that bespoke homes and housing extensions are getting bigger in size. As the ageing population increases, more of us are planning ahead for later in life by seeking design solutions to facilitate easier living. Adaptations to make independent living simpler, or adjusting a family home layout for the addition of an older family member are the two main drivers in this growing market. The popularity of generous multi-functional

living spaces - combining cooking, dining and living space shows no sign of diminishing - when these spaces are combined with direct access to gardens and outside space, they are even more popular with 66% of architects reporting a demand.

Sustainability and energy conservation are no longer niche concerns, but factor prominently in the design decisions of many clients. 70% of RIBA architects expect to see an increase in specifying advanced insulation products and 66% expect to see a rise in the use of solar/PV panels.

RIBA President Jane Duncan said: 'The appetite for building or improving your own home for your family and future shows no sign of abating, with architects experiencing increased demand from creative and ambitious homeowners. This new RIBA report gives a glimpse of what to expect in housing design for 2016 and beyond. It shows the insight, value for money and peace of mind that an architect can bring to any housing project.' Choosing an accredited RIBA Chartered Practice will give you peace of mind. They comply with strict criteria covering insurance, health and safety and quality management systems.

Use the RIBA's free 'Find an Architect' directory at www.architecture.com/FindAnArchitect and search for an RIBA Chartered Practice that is right for you. Architects are highly skilled, and professionally trained to turn your aspirations into reality.



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Interior design

A NEW house is the chance to inject some new life into your personal space. From bold colours to metal trimmings, Hamdi Ben Yaghane, Designer and Managing Partner at DND Contemporary Furniture Studio shares the scoop on the five home design trends that are set to be all the rage in 2016.

Trend #1 - Year of the Metal

The 1950s and 1970s are hot trends in fashion right now, and it is no different in interiors. The year 2016 will see more and more designers include all different textures of metals in their designs and furniture pieces. Accessories and decorative objects such as lanterns, vases, and mirrors will have metal elements incorporated in their design, reflecting back to the Golden Era.

Trend #2 - The Spirit of Nature

The spirit of nature can be seen in some elements of Scandinavian style, particularly in raw wooden elements. By leveraging a natural feel for winter, the 'mountain lodge' look transports you directly into an enveloping cocooning atmosphere that is simple and warming. With this design option, the ubiquity of white wood modernized, all made cosy with comfortable materials such as linen, mohair and cashmere seen on accessories such as rugs, cushions, carpets.

Trend #3 - Bold Colours

Translating to wall colours and ceramic backsplashes, the presence of vivid colour is back. Creating bold, statement-colour combinations, the aim is to use strong shades to create fluid movement from room to room. Hard textures like cement and wood are also playing a key role in this trend for contrast.

Trend #4 - The Age of sustainability

From the padding in our sofas to the premium wood sourced for counter worktops, sustainability is at the heart of everything for 2016. Recycling, repurposing, reinventing and reusing are all things that consumers are beginning to consider when they make purchases today.

Trend #5 - Outdoor Living Areas

Porches, patios and decks inspired by interior design principles are replacing the traditional backyard. From decorating smaller spaces with greenery to turning expansive backyards into glamping adventures, 2016 should bring in experimentation with nature into the home- for example buying furniture that can be used indoors and outdoors. In terms of interior décor, wall decorations, accessories and small plant life inspired items are going to be hot.

Your self-build specialists...

Highland BlindCraft

Don't miss out on a great deal at Highland BlindCraft as they have genuine discounts on beds, headboards, armchairs and bedroom furniture.

Three years ago Highland BlindCraft opened their new showroom in Ardconnel Street, Inverness opposite the Redcliffe Hotel. This increased sales area has allowed them to revamp their products and given their own manufactured beds a very contemporary look. They have introduced a selection of suede's, Shetland wool, and faux leather fabrics which you can choose to cover your bed base, and when combined with a bespoke headboard in the same fabric it will enhance any bedroom. Their under bed storage option, gives fantastic storage and has proved a huge success since its introduction.

The Serenity mattress is another innovative development has over 3,000 individual pocket springs along with luxurious layers of fillings, including soft strands of cashmere, wool and cotton making the mattress naturally supple and flexible and providing great support throughout. Highland BlindCraft go from strength to

strength and pride themselves on being a local manufacturing company that continue to meet the needs of their customers with variety, quality and speed of delivery. Come and visit them in their new showroom on Ardconnel Street, Inverness and speak with their friendly and experienced sales staff or visit their website at www.highlandblindcraft.co.uk



Oban Stove Centre

The Oban Stove Centre is ground zero for wood burning and multi fuel stoves for the West Coast of Scotland. A family run business, OSC offers all the highest quality stove brands, including Charnwood, Morso, Everhot, Rayburn, Jotul and Stovax. From traditional to contemporary, you'll find a wide range of stoves as well as range cookers on display in their shop in Oban town centre.

Rising electric prices mean that stove heat is a better value than ever. In addition to stove and flues, OSC supplies spares and accessories, as well as fuels, including solid fuel, pellet, biomass, peat, logs and coal. A stove from OSC means your home will be warm and cosy, with the lovely ambience of a crackling fire. Whether you choose a freestanding or insert model, let OSC assist you with design and installation from start to finish. The friendly and experienced staff of OSC

are happy to welcome you into their showroom to discuss the best stoves and flue systems for you, from a fireplace and range cooker to a full set of stoves throughout the home. To find out how Oban Stove Centre can help make your dream home even cosier, ring 01631 564790 or visit Oban Stove Centre, Old Crofters Yard (near Stoddarts).



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Kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms

THE BIGGEST trend in home design going into 2016 is personalization-fitting the house to the needs of each member of the family. It's all about tailoring your home to fit your lifestyle, especially in the three areas of the home we spend the most time in- bedrooms, kitchens and bathrooms.

Convenient bedrooms and baths with plenty of storage

Adults and children spend a good deal of their time in their bedrooms and trends reflect this. Homeowners want spacious master bedrooms, with dressing areas and a bathroom within the space. They want to walk just a few steps to find everything they need for relaxation and grooming. The biggest request is for lots of storage space in the form of built-in drawers and

cabinets and walk-in closets. For children's rooms, parents want toy space, shelving for books and areas to display hobbies. Room for the plethora of electronics is also a primary demand when it comes time to designing new homes.

Requests for bathroom features in the master bedroom involve spa-like conveniences, turning a utilitarian room into a peaceful retreat.

Open, Light-Filled Kitchens

Kitchens have always been the one room in the home where owners are willing to spend the most money. Modern homeowners are asking for kitchens that are spacious and airy with lots of windows. Another big trend in kitchen design is extra-large islands with sinks and cutting areas for food prep, stovetops for cooking, counter area for eating and stools for sitting.

According to Sergei Kaminskiy of Kaminskiy Design and Remodeling, 'One of the most popular trends in the early stages of 2016, for kitchen remodelling, is in the area of transitional kitchens. So called because they blend elements of traditional and contemporary kitchens, transitionals incorporate modern elements like stainless steel appliances with traditional interior design.'

Pets are family, too

With the increasing popularity of pets, many homeowners are asking for amenities for their furry friends. In the kitchen, dog doors, also suitable for cats, are just the beginning. Feeding stations in the kitchen and pet bathing areas in the utility room are also common.

Getaway, But Not Too Far

There is a trend for rooms made just for concentrated work and private downtime. Using one bedroom as a study or home office fits in with the work-from-home movement. When doing their job, adults can lock the door and focus on work. The preference is for lots of light, bright colours and as much storage as possible.

There is also a trend for bigger children's playrooms, with desks and electronic capability for homework, games and their digital social life. For younger children, requests are for lots of floor space and child-accessible places to put toys.

In short, customization is the big trend for home design in 2016. What that means is designing your space to suit your needs, instead of the other way around.

Top 2016 kitchen trends

Slide-out shelving is a kitchen strategy which is both clever and functional, making use of available space for necessary storage. Pots, pans, and cleaning accessories can all be stowed under the sink or elsewhere, with sliding shelves that are easily accessed on demand.

Hardwood flooring is becoming a strong alternative to recently favoured systems

like laminates and tiles, and is appearing in planks six inches wide and more. Antique wooden flooring for the kitchen is also trending significantly in 2016.

Farmhouse sinks, a.k.a. apron sinks, are also trending in new kitchens. Their compelling size alone makes them a focal point in the kitchen, and since they are now available in a huge variety of sizes and styles, they are very versatile in how

they can be used in almost any style of kitchen.

Technology is also featured in 2016 kitchen trends, with the general move toward 'smart' devices moving into the kitchen. Having coffee automatically brewed for the morning wake-up is just one example, but programmed lighting and heat levels can also be managed in a modernized kitchen.



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- Be specific and set out a detailed, clear brief when requesting at least three quotes.
- Ask friends and family for a recommendation and check to ensure that the tradesman is registered for the particular trades you require.
- Use a firm that advertises using a landline phone number- be wary of those only willing to give you a mobile number.
- Seek references, speak to previous customers and if possible, visit previous jobs.
- Don't just go with the cheapest, consider your ability to communicate with the firm and the quality of their work.
- If materials need to be bought in advance by the tradesman, it is reasonable that the customer is asked to pay a fair percentage of these costs as the job progresses.

Trades and professionals

When building a home, it's vital that you choose tradesmen that you can trust. Follow these handy tips to help you choose the most suitable tradesmen for the job:

Check credentials and trade association membership

If a gas engineer says that they're Gas Safe registered or if a builder says they're in the Federation of Master Builders, then ask for proof. In some cases, this may be essential, such as if you're installing a boiler and need to ensure the engineer is Gas Safe-registered. Does the builder belong to a professional body or trade association? Contact those organisations to verify membership and enquire about what assurances they offer to consumers if things go wrong.

Ask For a Written Quotation

Get a full written quotation for your project. It should include full details of the work being carried out, the total cost and give you an idea of when the work will be finished. Having a document like this is essential if the cost of the project later increases or is delayed for a long period. If there are revisions to the quote later on, ask for these in writing.

Make sure that the builder has public liability insurance

Ask to see the builder's public liability insurance certificate. Building work may also affect your home and contents insurance, so check with your insurance company before work begins.

Check if the builder intends to use sub-contractors

Make sure the builder knows that he or she is responsible for all team members, including sub-contractors. They should be covered by the builder's public liability insurance and suitably qualified if tasked with gas or electrical work.

Check Previous Work

Make sure you check the company's experience of carrying out similar work. There are some ways of doing this online, such as using Google Plus, or you could ask the business for references from satisfied customers. Make sure you are getting access to recent references.

Seek Assurances

Ask if the work is covered by a guarantee, how long that guarantee will be for, and whether it is backed by insurance. If the company stops trading, this will ensure that any work owed will be remedied.

Evaluate Performance

Does the tradesman turn up on time? Does he/she respond promptly to questions? How closely do they listen to what you're saying? Do they take time to survey and measure the project? It's important that you trust your tradesman and so getting a read on how well they do small tasks at the start of a project may give you an idea of what they'll be like further down the road and how thorough their work will be.

Don't Pay In Full Up Front

Be very wary if any tradesman asks you to pay in full up front. For the majority of building or plumbing work, standard practice is to either agree 50% at the start of the job (this would normally be to cover materials) and 50% on completion, or for staggered payments throughout the job. Larger jobs will tend to involve part-payments whereas small or medium-sized jobs will often simply involve full payment on completion. Be cautious if you are asked for the full amount up front, particularly for larger projects.



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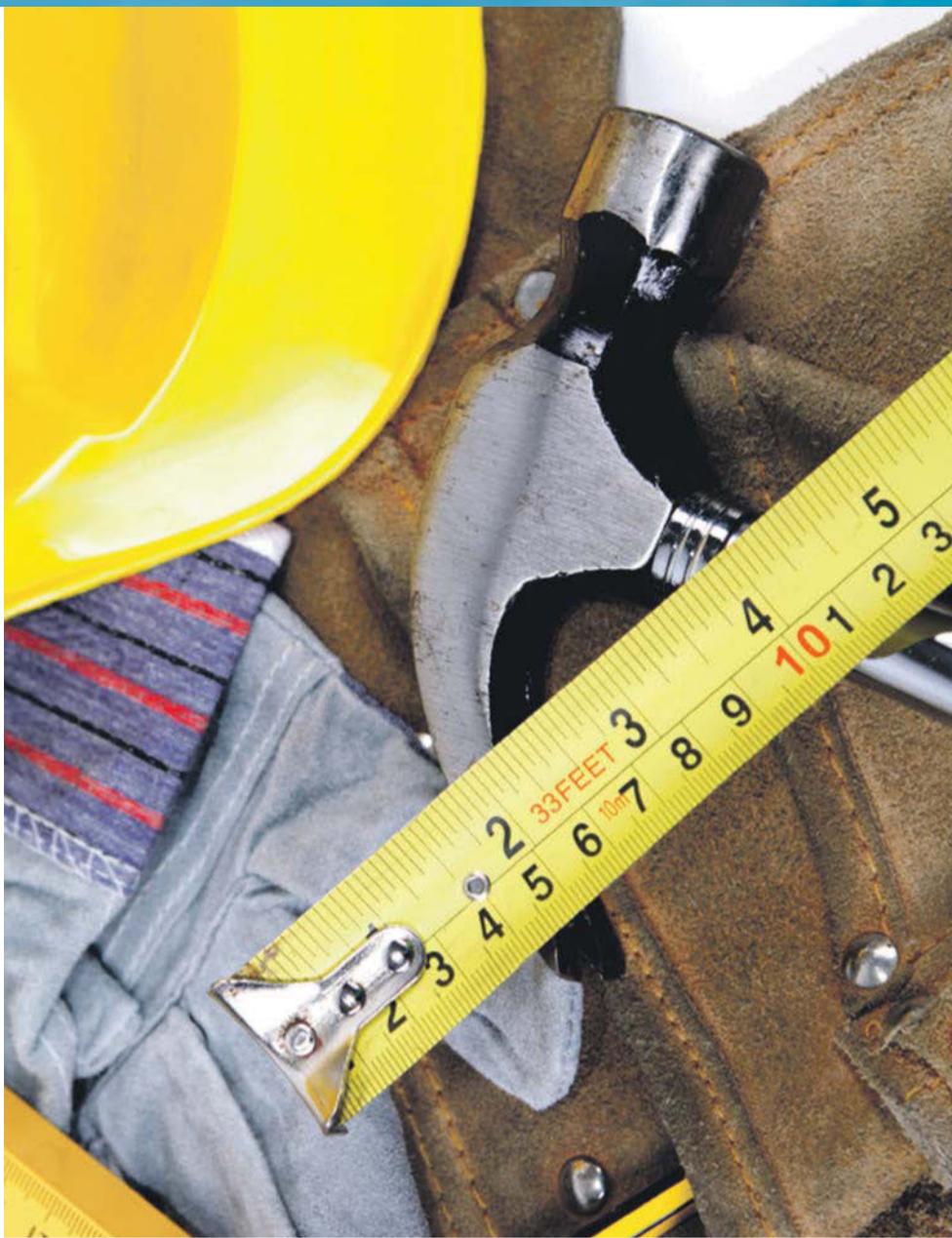
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Your self-build specialists...

John MacLachlan Ltd

John MacLachlan Ltd started as a construction business around Oban in 1919. The family business has continued to grow and has now developed to the point where it offers a wide range of consumer and business to business services in Argyll and further afield.

These various businesses now branded together as Argyll Resources Group include,

- * Quarrying & Aggregate
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- * Gas Supplies
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- * Skip Hire
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The current proprietors, John and Susan MacLachlan operate with a team of 50 staff and are continuing to develop these businesses, create new opportunities and providing valuable services to the local and wider communities of Argyll and Scotland.



Jewson

Jewson's can offer a whole range of help for a variety of self build projects from costing your project to recommending a kitchen. Sales Executive Dan Baxter explains: 'When we get an enquiry we will send you a self build pack that will have brochures from the likes of Velux windows so you can see a range of products.'

When you have an idea of what you want the self build team will cost the plans for you and provide support from foundations to roofing and getting the inside just the way you like it.

As well as brand new houses they help with other projects as well. Dan says: 'The self build team can help with building things like conservatories and extensions.'

If you discover you don't quite have the right tools for the job Jewsons offer a tool

hire scheme. There are tools that will only be needed for a short time and this means there is no need to buy them.

Jewsons also have experts in lots of different areas Dan said: 'The knowledge these specialist have is great and there are specialist in areas like drainage and roofing.'



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Financial incentives

- The Home Energy Scotland renewables loan scheme funded by the Scottish Government offers interest free loans up to £10,000 for those who install a domestic renewables system.
- The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) encourages uptake of renewable heat technologies. It provides financial support to the owner of the renewable heating system for seven years.
- Under Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) you could be paid for the electricity you generate if you install or have installed an eligible system like solar PV, a wind or hydro turbine, or micro CHP.
- Visit ofgem.gov.uk for more information.

Energy and renewables

GREEN living is becoming easier with the renewable energy industry at an all-time high. Innovative new products are emerging all the time and finally government subsidies may be available to support this development. If you want the ultimate in green energy there's no better solution than building your house from the ground up. It provides the ideal chance to integrate energy efficient measures at the earliest stages of design. The measures could include under-floor heating that is integrated with an air source heat pump- this will make a long-term difference to your heating system efficiency.

Think insulation

Every building and the way energy is used within it is different. Before you consider making any green additions to your home, you need to take a look at the fabric of the building and examine its insulation efficiency. Ensuring your property has the best insulation possible can be the most cost effective energy improvement. Self-builders can benefit from choosing materials such as Warmcel, a recycled sustainable insulation with a high thermal mass and 30% improved airtightness. 'Annual energy cost for a house built to current building regulation insulation levels is likely to cost around £900,' said Gareth Major, Design & Marketing at PYC Group. 'If the levels of

insulation are increased to a higher level (up to Passivhaus Standards) the annual energy costs would be less than £100. Over the lifetime of a building, at today's fuel prices, cost savings are likely to exceed £50,000.' According to Gareth, the benefits from building sustainably are not only financial, but environmental and social. 'An initial investment of improving the building fabric by increasing the insulation thickness will not only save the occupant money but enhance their overall quality of life by giving them a warmer, more comfortable environment to live in.'

Heating Options

The advancement of renewable heating options over the last few years have been significant. There are now efficient solutions for almost every property. Speak with a professional about the benefits of renewable heating in your self-build. Well-insulated homes are best suited to an air or ground source heat pump. To reduce the cost of high hot water usage, consider a solar thermal system or hot water heat pump.

Electricity Options

Solar PV is the obvious choice for renewable electricity for your self-build. Panel prices have recently dropped making it a more affordable solution on the road to self-generation. The UK has a Feed-in Tariff provided by the

government too, which rewards you for solar installation and gives 20 years of tax-free income from the power you generate- that's on top of the savings you'll be making on electricity bills. If your property doesn't have a south-facing roof, solar panels are still an option. You could consider panels on another out building/garage or having a ground-mounted system in your garden. When you've got a lot of land with your property you could also have a look into small-scale wind turbines. These latest renewable energy additions can generate power day and night when placed in the right location there are no restrictions, unlike solar, turbine generation also comes with the Feed-in Tariff benefits. If you are completing a self-build, consider getting renewable energy experts on board to assess your plans and advise on how to make them more effective.





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and NAPIT, the regulatory bodies for the renewables industry ensuring that all works carried out are regulated, audited and assessed, an assurance for every client that their workmanship is to the highest standard. If you'd like to make a no-commitment enquiry, contact Alistair Barr on (07554 377491 or at info@barr-renewables.co.uk alternatively have a look on our facebook page)



Alistair Barr offers green renewable energy in the form of solar panels for domestic homes and biomass boilers for commercial businesses.

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Visit our excellent website which offers a virtual showroom, along with a wealth of information on installation, chimneys, fuel, water-heating and much more besides. Or call us to arrange an appointment at our premises in Barcaldine.

For further information please contact us:-
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 Argyll PA37 1SG
 T. 01631 720539
sales@backwoodsman-stoves.co.uk

www.backwoodsman-stoves.co.uk

Backwoodsman

NEW BUILD PROJECTS AND TWIN-WALL CHIMNEY DESIGN

The whole emphasis in chimney design is to minimise heat loss so that the flue gases remain hot right to the point where they exit the stack. There are compelling reasons for keeping a chimney as straight as possible as even slight bends introduce friction and in marginal situations this may be enough to upset performance. The exit point for the head of a chimney is another critical factor in its performance. Every effort should be made to locate the terminal high up on the roof in an area of "clear air". The ridge of a roof creates turbulence and down-draughts as do dormer windows and other projections. The safest bet is to bring the chimney head out within the top third of the slope, though a shallow-pitch roof creates less turbulence making location of the chimney head less critical. Every effort should be made to keep the

chimney within the warmth and shelter of the building. Exposing long lengths of sectional chimney is likely to result in severe fouling up of the chimney over time with deposits of moisture, tar and creosote.



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Job hunters find success at Lochgilphead Work Shop Cafe

EVERY Thursday in the Lochgilphead Community Centre job hunters can gather at the work shop cafe to enjoy tea, cakes and company while searching for work.

The evidence suggests this relaxed approach is working as plenty of people who have come through the cafe's doors since last Easter have successfully found work or gone on to training.

Meeting others

Two of the tutors – Brendan Docherty and Helena Greenlees – realise that coming to the cafe means more to people than just finding a job. It's about getting out and meeting others in the same situation.

Brendan explained: 'We want to become a one-stop shop for anything to do with jobs and employment.'

To accomplish this the

cafe work with several partners, including Citizens Advice Bureau, Adult Learning and the Job Centre. The nearest Job Centre to Lochgilphead is in Oban, so it is helpful that Job Centre staff regularly attend the Work Shop Cafe.

Christine Townsley is a regular and has found it very helpful.

She said: 'It's good to speak to the people here. You can talk to people like Brendan and Helena. You're put at ease and it's all very relaxed. 'Coming here makes you realise there are others in the same position as you too.'

Christine is looking for work in areas such as childcare and hospitality. She added: 'There's not a lot of work but you just have to keep at it.'

The tutors and others involved with the initiative can also help peo-

ple on a one to one level when needed.

Helena said: 'Some people aren't comfortable discussing certain things in the cafe which can get quite busy, so we can help one to one.'

Important

Because the internet is becoming increasingly important to finding and applying for jobs, the cafe provides computers as well as support in using them for those who need it.

The cafe staff see a wide range of people.

Brendan said: 'It's not just people who are signing on. We also see people who are looking to change their careers or mothers who took time off with their children and want to get back into work. We work with Business Gateway and quite a few have gone on to start their own businesses.'



Job hunters enjoy the relaxed atmosphere at the cafe. 08_a04job01

Councillor steps down from policy lead role for health and social care

POPULAR Argyll and Bute councillor Mary-Jean Devon has announced she is to step down from her role as

policy lead for health and social care integration.

Councillor Devon, who lives on Mull,

will continue as local councillor for Oban South and the Isles.

She will also remain as a Children's Champion for Argyll and Bute, a role that she is very passionate about.

She said: 'I have built up years of experience in that role now and know what's involved in helping young people in Argyll and Bute.'

Ms Devon believes people speaking up to protect children's services and education is more important now than ever, with Argyll and Bute Council looking to save £9 million this year and more in years to come.

She said: 'Some of the additional support needs, ASN, propos-

als should never have been put on the table and they caused panic.

'Every child who enters school at whatever stage is assessed and if they are assessed as having additional needs they need to be supported. It's a statutory obligation.'

Proposals to cut additional support needs in the region saw a public outcry that culminated in children and parents protesting outside the council's headquarters at Kilmory Castle last November.

The heated meeting, where cuts were being discussed, saw the proposed 45 per cent cut to ASN removed from the budget consultation.



Councillor Mary-Jean Devon. t06maryjean01

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MP speaks out for Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau

ARGYLL and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara has asked Argyll and Bute Council not to remove funding from the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).

In the council's consultation document, there is a proposal to remove funding from advice services and this will affect the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Mr O'Hara said: 'Last financial year the ser-

vice advised clients on 7,800 issues, saving 70 from losing their homes and as a result CAB estimates it has saved the council £1.5m in additional expenses. From an outlay which represents only four per cent of the savings to the local purse, this has to represent one of the best returns on investment choices I have seen. It is mitigating expenditure. Cutting funding to

the Citizens Advice Bureau will cost the council money.

'At a time when funding is being squeezed from every direction and in response to an austerity agenda, I remain deeply opposed to losing this service amongst so many invaluable third sector organisations. It will leave a deep void in our community, one that each of us could easily find ourselves dependent upon.

'I have written to Argyll and Bute Council advising this is false economy and urging them not to cut funding to this local asset.'



Brendan O'Hara wants the CAB to remain funded. a06O'hara01

Crarae Gardens hit by storm

CRARAE Gardens shut its gates as a precaution against storm Henry.

Thankfully, the gardens, near Furnace, have only suffered minor storm damage so far this winter but concerns over high winds prompted this closure.

There are also fears some plants may have flowered too early because of mild weather and are now being affected by the worsening weather.

Head gardener Mark Jeffrey said: 'We haven't got much out just now.

'But if it gets really mild in March and some of the early rhododendrons and magnolias come out all looking lovely and colourful then we get a hard snap that's when the damage can occur.

'But we're not at that stage yet.'

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Local produce with an Argyll flavour

FINE Kintyre cheese will feature next week in a banquet for farmers, based on some of Scotland's best produce.

The fantastic menu will grace NFU Scotland's annual dinner as part of the union's AGM in St Andrews on Thursday February 11.

Showcasing Scotch lamb and potatoes for the starter, the menu continues with beef fillet and cheeks for the main course and ice cream, ginger and beetroot for the dessert. The finest chocolate, Mull of Kintyre Cheddar and oatcakes will round



Mull of Kintyre Cheddar will form part of a top-notch menu.

off the tasty fare. NFU Scotland president Allan Bowie commented: 'This dinner offers us the chance to reflect and savour the great food that Scottish farming

delivers day in and day out and allows us all to take a bit of time out to appreciate the fantastic results of these endeavours.

'I am particularly

grateful to the companies throughout Scotland which have sponsored or supplied the produce for this year's dinner.

'Scottish farming takes great pride in what we grow and to have a stronger food and drink industry that same passion has to go all the way to the table or shelf. This menu reflects exactly that. I am aware consumers, here and abroad, recognise and value the provenance and quality of the food we produce here in Scotland and I will continue to champion this cause.'

Argyll and Bute family project showcased

THE GROWING success of Argyll and Bute's Family Pathway Project has been showcased by the Scottish Government on its website.

The project, part of the Early Years Collaborative, sees children's needs assessed from pre-birth until the age of five and involves midwives, health vis-

itors, nursery staff, school staff and other community services.

Kintyre is the first place to have taken part in the project and a recent analysis of the work done there shows there is now greater joint working between relevant professionals and services are more person-centred and accessible to families.

Argyll and Bute Council's policy leader for education and lifelong learning, Councillor Rory Colville, said: 'The Family Pathway Project is a wonderful initiative which ensures the needs of children and their families are recognised at the earliest opportunity. It helps to ensure that we are getting it right for every

child and provides support and reassurance to parents.

'This project is a prime example of how our community planning partners are responding to the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and its key principles where we must work together to ensure children's well-being.'

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
(DISABLED STREET PARKING – MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE & ISLAY)(VARIATION) (NO.2)ORDER 201_

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an amendment to an existing Order in accordance with the introduction of the Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Order will introduce new bays and delete existing bays no longer required. The effect of the order will be to make it an offence for anyone to park in a marked disabled persons' parking place unless they are the holder of a valid blue badge and are using it in accordance with the terms of the national blue badge legislation.

This order affects the following streets:-
CAMPBELTOWN – Argyll Street, Davaar Avenue
LOCHGILPHEAD – Dewar Avenue, High Bank Park
BOWMORE – Main Street

Full details of these proposals, which form the proposed as "The Argyll and Bute Council (Disabled Street Parking – Mid Argyll, Kintyre & Islay) (Variation) (No.2) Order 201_", together with Plans, and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make this Traffic Regulation Order, are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the offices of:

- (i) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead;
- (ii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Burnet Building, Campbeltown;
- (iii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilarrow House, Bowmore;
- (iv) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Any person wishing to object to the proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll by 26th February 2016.

Jim Smith, Head of Roads & Amenity Services, 1A Manse Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD PA31 8RD

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Macmillan Cancer Support - Campbeltown Committee

Monday 15th February 2016
 Argyll Hotel, Main Street, Campbeltown
 Start time:- 7.30pm

For more information please contact Mrs Elizabeth McCallum on 01586 552641
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Argyll Bute COUNCIL

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For further information on either of these positions or for a copy of the job description, please contact Jacqueline MacLeod, Human Resources on the details below.
 Salaries for these posts are dependent on experience.

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Area Manager

Loch Etive, near Taynuilt

Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland, England and Ireland.

We are currently looking to identify a suitably qualified and highly motivated individual to undertake the role of Area Manager for our five seawater farms on Loch Etive, near Taynuilt, Argyll.

As Area Manager you will be fully responsible for the day to day planning, running and reporting of all five farms, 25 staff and producing >3,000t annually of 5.5kg Rainbow Trout (Steelhead).

Reporting to the Production Manager, the successful candidate will already be a Farm Manager within the aquaculture industry. Essential skills will require the demonstrable aptitude for managing and motivating personnel plus an ability for developing site infrastructure and establishing best farming practice, with first class planning and organisation abilities and a high degree of computer literacy. In addition, applicants should have a full driving license.

We offer an attractive salary package along with the opportunity to develop your management career within a company at the forefront of UK trout farming

Our production in Loch Etive is expected to double within the next 2-3 years with the re-development of existing sites and the further potential for opening new production in a separate geographic region(s).

Assistance with relocation may be available.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, by 15 February 2016, to:

Jane McCusker, HR Advisor, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office 01698 810008, E-mail: jane.mccusker@dawnfresh.co.uk

Informal enquires can be made to Gideon Pringle, Mobile 07747 487232, E-mail gideon.pringle@dawnfresh.co.uk

West coast

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- General photocopying and filing.
- Dealing with numerical calculations.
- Accounting for monies in accordance with financial guidelines.
- Undertake light portering duties as required.
- You will have regular contact with court users, including members of the Judiciary and the legal profession. As such you be required to competently answer queries giving consistent and reliable advice.
- You will work within a small team with regular management support and will be responsible for your own time.
- Assist with preparing statistical information and other returns to ensure standards of work meet the agreed level.
- Assist in clearing up of criminal courts by preparing court minutes, issuing letters, ordering reports and filing complaints as necessary.
- Process and enter fine payments onto computer system and reconcile at end of day.

The above lists are not exhaustive and the job holder may be required to undertake such duties as may reasonably be requested within the scope of the post.

Outline of candidate profile.

You as one of the successful candidates must be focused on providing a high quality service to all court users. You should have a flexible approach to work and be prepared to work in a team environment and be willing to develop and acquire new skills as your job demands. The ability to get on with others is an essential quality.

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If you are interested in this challenging and rewarding opportunity, you may apply online at www.scotcourts.gov.uk/ recruitment. For further information on the post please contact David Bell, Executive Support Officer, North Strathclyde Business Team, Paisley. Email: dbell@scotcourts.gov.uk, Direct Dial: 0141 847 6721.

There are no formal qualifications for this post.

The closing date for the post is 26th February 2016.

Interviews will be held on the 17th March 2016.

The Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service is exempt from the protections of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (1974). This permits us to ask applicants details of both spent and unspent convictions, along with details of any formal cautions that you may have. Individuals without existing security clearance will always be considered as all successful applicants will require a standard level Disclosure check completed before employment can commence.

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Angela Gibson

The Scottish Salmon Company

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If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, by 24 February 2016, to:

Jane McCusker, HR Advisor, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office 01698 810008, E-mail: jane.mccusker@dawnfresh.co.uk



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To apply please email a CV to martinvalente@valmarhandling.co.uk, or post to:- Martin Valente,, Valmar Handling Services Ltd., 17 Springburn Place, College Milton, East Kilbride, G74 5NU.



Community Enablement Co-ordinator

Argyll and Bute TSI are seeking part-time co-ordinators to work on their community resilience as Community Enablement co-ordinator (2 posts):

Lorn & the Isles (20 hours per week) and Lochgilphead, Mid-Argyll (7.5 hours per week) – Salary £11.25 per hour.

The co-ordinator will establish and deliver a range of initiatives as part of a team designed to support older people to remain living in their own homes, to make social connections, and reduce loneliness.

The closing date is 22nd February at 5pm and interviews will take place in early March. For job description and application pack phone 01631 564839

or email shirley@argylltsi.org.uk

For informal discussion phone 01631 564839

and speak to Glenn Heritage, CEO, ABTSI.

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Dacia Sandero a four-time winner at What Car? awards



Dacia has picked up the title of What Car? 2016 'Best Small Car for less than £12,000' with its Sandero 1.2 Ambiance hatchback for the fourth consecutive year.

First picking up the accolade in 2013 following the brand's entrance into the UK car market, and retaining the award in 2014 and 2015, the practical and affordable supermini has taken

the honours once more to truly reaffirm its popularity alongside the rest of Dacia's 'shockingly affordable' range.

Commenting on the decision to give the award to the Sandero for the fourth time, Jim Holder, editorial director, What Car? said: 'If you're looking for budget motoring, it's hard to go wrong with the Dacia Sandero.

In entry-level specification it's

the cheapest new car available in the UK, yet it offers comfortable seating for four adults and a big boot. We'd recommend spending a little more on the slightly higher-specification Ambiance version, though. It adds several key creature comforts, including remote central locking, electric front windows and Bluetooth connectivity, which makes the Sandero much more enjoyable to own.'

Louise O'Sullivan, Head of Dacia UK said: 'We're delighted that the judges at What Car? have recognised the Sandero's qualities for a fourth consecutive year - especially given that starting from a 'shockingly affordable' price of £5,995 you can get one from just half the amount of the category it competes in.'

The Dacia Sandero is a five-

door hatchback, available in three trim levels with a choice of two petrol engines and one diesel engine. Pricing starts from £5,995, making it the lowest priced new car on sale in the UK today. The specific Ambiance version chosen by What Car? comes with features such as Bluetooth connectivity, electric windows and USB connectivity.

Dacia continued its prodigious rise in the UK with another strong year of sales, with 26,267 new Dacia vehicles sold during 2015, up 10 per cent compared to 2014. Dacia recorded 3.5 million sales across Europe in November 2015 since relaunching in 2004.

For more information on the Sandero, as well as the rest of Dacia's award-winning range, please visit www.dacia.co.uk

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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.

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THANK YOU

My sisters and I would like to thank everyone for coming out and celebrating Mum and Dad's Golden Wedding Anniversary, and for the lovely gifts, flowers and cards they received.

Angela Baldwin.

DAVID STEWART

Happy 50th Birthday



Love from Ellen and Tina

Happy 18th Birthday Ewan Meikle



Love from all the family

CELEBRATE A LOVED ONE'S BIRTHDAY WITH A PERSONAL NOTICE?

Call 01586 554646 or 01546 602345

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argyllshire advertiser
Incorporating Campbeltown Courier

John and Ismay Duncan, Dental Practitioners wish to inform all patients that the practice will change ownership on February 5, 2016. The new owners will be Raghu and Sakshi Verma Lal. We would like to thank all of our staff and our patients for their loyalty over so many years and wish our successors an equally long and happy time in the practice.

KINTYRE KLEENERS

Pam & Peter would like to thank all our customers for their valued custom over the years.

DAVID STEWART

Happy 50th Birthday



Have a fab day!
Love from Joanne, David & Tasha, Christopher & Cheril, Leanne, Rachel and Teigan, Wee David and Wee Christopher.

Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Shedden



NEXT week those of us in the Christian tradition begin our journey into Lent.

It is a time for reflection and a time of preparation. It is a time we remember the last weeks of Jesus' life.

It is a time we pause to think of the spiritual part of ourselves.

On Tuesday, many of us will enjoy the traditional indulgence of pancakes, deliciously appetising as they drip with butter or syrup.

The idea of Lent started in the fourth century. In those days baptisms took place on Easter day.

To prepare them for this the people often fasted and went without meat, fat, eggs and dairy products.

This was the last chance to use up all these things before Lent began.

Gradually Christians adopted this custom as they reflected on the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness.

And so on the day before Lent begins, we make pancakes.

As well as enjoying the finished product, we can reflect on the meaning as we make the pancakes.

We sift in some flour and get rid of the lumps and lumps which could remind us of the things we regret.

We add a dash of salt to make the ordinary things better, as God does in our lives.

Next, we add some milk as we will need strength for our own journey.

Then we break in an egg, the symbol of new life which we will find at the end of our journey.

It may look a bit of a mess, but often we feel our world is in a mess.

So we mix it all together, using up these ingredients of the past to encourage us to think of the future.

Can we now go through the desert of our own fears and ignore the voice in the wilderness that would distract us on the journey?

Let us follow the one who can.

Soup group celebrate Burns

TARBERT Soup Group enjoyed a Burns celebration with children at Tarbert Academy.

The children entertained the group by singing *Katie Beadie*, while older pupils served tea, coffee and shortbread.

To round off the visit on January 25, the children performed two dances and sang *You Cannae Shove Yer Granny off a Bus*.

The group thanked the pupils for having them and the class had also made thank you for coming cards.

LOCHGILPHEAD

SWI craft evening

LOCHGILPHEAD SWI held a craft evening with demonstrations by some of their own members for their January meeting.

The ladies tried quilting and lacing, both paper crafts, which proved to be challenging due to the intricate cutting and folding involved.

Those working with paper left with some lovely examples of their evening's efforts.

Similarly the ladies who chose to learn to crochet thoroughly en-



Kids enjoy the outdoor play area. a06kids01

Early level class at Tarbert Academy

TARBERT Academy's early level class has been running since 2014 and is going from strength to strength.

Important

Integration between pre-school and primary one is important and they have put on the first early level nativity and are taking part in a parent engagement project.

The classroom is set in the primary department of the school and the children are active participants.

There are indoor and outdoor areas planned and designed with the children at the centre.

Spokeswoman from the school said: 'The staff value the importance of knowing each child as

an individual which ensures each child can express their needs and interests.

Link

'Our team has strong partnerships with parents, families and the community, with links providing a range of opportunities to support child development and learning.'

joyed their masterclass. As time ran away with them the ladies have agreed to spend another of their evenings perfecting their new craft-

ing skills. The next meeting is February 16 when Alicia Chapple is the guest and will be providing entertainment on her clarsach -

a harp-like instrument. For some ladies this might prove to be yet another skill to try to master.

New members are al-

ways welcome to our meetings held in the community centre in Lochgilphead on the third Tuesday evening of the month at 7.15pm.

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

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

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

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



CAMERON

Craig and Emma (MacNair) are delighted to announce the birth of Maggie Fern, on January 22, 2016. A little sister for Edith. Huge thanks to the midwives at the Mid Argyll Hospital.



MACPHERSON - HUFFMAN

Born at Princess Royal Maternity Unit, Glasgow, on December 20, 2015, Lily Margaret, a lovely daughter to Lindsey and Jeff. A third grandchild for Margaret and Malcolm Macpherson, Lochgilphead, and a second granddaughter for Bruce Huffman, Bellingham and Susie Huffman, Ferndale.

DEATHS

CAMERON - Peacefully, after a short illness, at Mid Argyll Hospital, on January 31, 2016, with her family by her side, Isobel Cameron, aged 72 years, of 5 Duncuan View, Ardrishaig, much loved mum of Bryan, John and Robert, much respected mother-in-law of Terri, Allie and Fiona, cherished granny of Niki, Gary, Louisa, Megan and Keiran and great granny of Jack and Hannah. A dear sister, aunt and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour, dear friend and former work colleague to many. Funeral service will be held today, Friday, February 5, 2016, at 12.00 noon, at Ardrishaig Parish Church, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Flowers, or donations if desired, to Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital.

CATTERSON - Peacefully, at the Kintyre Care Home, Campbeltown, on January 28, 2016, Joseph Catterson (Joe), in his 88th year, formerly of Meadowpark and Castlehill Mansions, Campbeltown, dearly beloved husband of Fonce McGroary and a loving father, grandfather and great grandfather. RIP.

GALLOWAY - Peacefully, at Lynn of Lorne Residential Home, Benderloch, on January 28, 2016, William Galloway (Bill), in his 91st year, 3 Croft View, North Connel, formerly of Strathaird, Connel and Bonawe Quarries, dearly beloved husband of Ella McCulloch, much loved father of Elma and Sandra, loving father-in-law of Jim

and Tam and a loving and much loved papa, great grampa and opa.

MACINDEOR - Peacefully at his home, on January 20, 2016, Iain Hugh MacIndeor, aged 88 years, of 21 Glenfyne Park, Ardrishaig, beloved husband of the late Isobel MacGregor, much loved father of Lynn, John, Connie, Alasdair, Duncan, Rose, Gregor and the late Patricia and a treasured grandpa and great grandpa. A much respected father-in-law, and dear brother, uncle and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour, dear friend and former work colleague to many. Funeral service was held in Ardrishaig Parish Church, followed by interment at Achnabreac Cemetery. Forever in our thoughts.

MCLEAN - Peacefully, at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, on January 30, 2016, Catherine McFarlane McLean, in her 69th year, 17 New Parliament Place, Campbeltown, dearly beloved partner of Neil Maguire, much loved mum of Neil and Paul, and loving sister of Myra Pearson. Service will take place in the Lorne and Lowland Church, on Friday, February 5, 2016 at 1.00pm, funeral thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. Family flowers only please. A retiral collection will be held in aid of the Macmillan Nurses, Kintyre Locality.

ORR - Suddenly, at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, on January 28, 2016, Sandra, beloved wife of John, loving mum of David and adoring gran of Aileigh. Funeral service will take place on Monday, February 8 at 11.30am, at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Millport, thereafter to Woodside Crematorium at 2.00pm, to which all are respectfully invited. Family flowers only.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ADEY - Jackie, Jim and all the family of the late Hector Angus would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, flowers and telephone calls. Thanks also to doctors and nurses at Glenaray Ward and Erskine Home for their excellent care, to Rev Carruthers for his lovely service, to Roddy and Fiona for funeral arrangements, to The Grey Gull for catering, and finally to all who attended the church and graveside.

BONE - The family of the late Margaret Bone would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy received in their recent sad loss. A special thanks to the medical and nursing staff of Campbeltown Hospital, to the community nurses who cared for Margaret during her last illness, to Mrs Lorna Robertson for the additional assistance, to the Rev Philip Wallace for a comforting service and support, to T A Blair Funeral Directors for their professionalism in handling the funeral arrangements, and to Flora and staff of the Ardshiel Hotel for splendid catering. Finally, we would like to thank everyone who attended the church and graveside.

KILGOUR - The family of the late Margaret Kilgour would like to thank everyone who attended Margaret's funeral on January 29. Thanks to friends, family and neighbours for the cards and kind expressions of sympathy. Special thanks to the nurses and doctors at Glenaray Ward for their fantastic care of the whole family. Thanks to Roddy and Fiona at Donald Macdonald Funeral Directors, to Rev Hilda Smith for her kindness and a lovely service, to John Summers for playing the organ and to the 'A Team' of carers who looked after Margaret at home, giving exceptional care and quality of life. The collection for the MS Centre in Lochgilphead raised over £700.

LAW - Catherine, Joe and family of the late Phemie Law would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy received in their recent sad loss. Special thanks to doctors and staff at Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, Ardfenaig Care Home and Niomi Campbell for all the kind care and attention received. Thanks also to Margaret Sinclair for a comforting service, to Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for professional services, to Tarbert Hotel for catering and to all who paid their last respects at church and graveside. The collection for Tarbert Senior Citizen Annual Dinner raised £250.

MACINDEOR - The family of the late Iain MacIndeor would like to thank everyone for their many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards, phone calls and visits received following their recent sad loss. Grateful thanks to doctors and nursing staff at Mid Argyll Hospital and to the district nurses and carers for their kind care and attention. A special thank you to Billy for his friendship to Dad, and for never missing his daily visit. Our thanks to Rev David Carruthers for a most uplifting service; to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their caring arrangements; to the Grey Gull for fine purvey and to Morna for beautiful flowers. Finally, our thanks to those who paid their respects at church and graveside. The retiral collection for the home care teams raised over £350.

MACKINLAY - The family of the late Alexander (Alex) McKinlay would like to thank everyone most sincerely for the many kind expressions of sympathy and for the tremendous support received in their recent sad loss. Special thanks to doctors and nurses for their kind care and attention and to Paul Donnan for being a faithful friend. Thanks also to Rev William Crossan for a comforting and uplifting service, to Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for most professional services, to Argyll Arms Hotel for excellent catering and to the many who braved the elements to pay their last respects to Alex. The collection for Macmillan Cancer Support raised £1,390.

SMITH - Roida and Brian, the family of the late Norman Smith, would like to thank everyone most sincerely for the many kind expressions of sympathy received in their recent sad loss. Special

thanks to Kintyre Care Centre and all carers in Tarbert for all the kindness shown to Norman. Thanks also to Rev Robert MacLeod for a comforting service, to Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for professional services, to West Loch Hotel for a fine purvey and to all who paid their last respects at church and graveside. The donations for Argyll Animal Aid raised £100.

IN MEMORIAMS

ANDERSON - In loving memory of our dear mum, granny and great granny, Anna, who passed away on February 6, 2015. Always in our thoughts. - Lorna, John, Julie, Mairi and families.

CARD - Remembering a loving mum, gran and great gran, Annie, died February 6, 2008. Resting where no shadows fall, Loved and remembered by us all. - From family in Tarbert.

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

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GLASSARY KILMARTIN and FORD PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 7th February 2016
Morning Worship
Ford 10.00 am with Communion
All welcome
SCO 02121

Highland Parish Church

SCO02493

Sunday 7th February 2016
The service will be held in Kirk Street Hall at 11.15am and will be conducted by Liz Kennedy

Tuesdays
Junior Badminton Club meets in Kirk Street Hall
Primary 1-5: 6.30 - 7.30pm
Primary 6-7: 7.30 - 8.30pm

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH
Charity Number SC001002

Sunday 7 February
Tayvallich Church
Prayer meeting 10:30 am
Morning Worship 11:30 am

Monday 8 February
Tayvallich Church
Prayer meeting 10 am

Tuesday 9 February
Tayvallich Church
Kirk Session 7:30 pm

Thursday 11 February
Tayvallich Hall 4 - 6 pm
Messy Church
All welcome
Enquiries 01546 606926
www.argyllcommunities.org/nknapdalecofs

St. Kieran's Scottish Episcopal Church

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

Sunday 7th February
Sunday before Lent
Morning Prayer 10.45am

Details of services are on the church door.

Enquiries Tel: 01586 551141
The Scottish Episcopal Church is a Province of the Worldwide Anglican Communion

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday Service
11.00 am
with Sunday School followed by refreshments

Pastor Chris Holden
mainly music
10.00 - 11.30 am
every Thursday (term time only)
Registration required

We meet at the Guide Hall, Kinloch Road
www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk

SC043322

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES

"It is good to sing praises to our God"

Sunday 7th February Services in Ardrishaig at 11:00am Achahoish at 12:30pm and in Ardrishaig at 6:30pm with Mission Aviation Fellowship

SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNESIDE AND KILBERRY

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 7th February 2016
Skipness Service 10.00am
Tarbert Service 11.30am
Angela Stather
Guild meets Monday 8th February
Tarbert Church Hall 2.30pm

For all church enquiries and pastoral care
Contact Rev. Hilda Smith, Interim Moderator on 07826 235735

Everyone very welcome
Tarbert & Kilberry SC002622
Skipness SC004280

LIVING STONES CHRISTIAN CENTRE KILMARTIN

SUNDAY 7th February 2016
11.00am
Worship Service for all ages followed by a light lunch
SPEAKER: Graham McLean 'The Garden of the Lord'

THURSDAY 11th February 2016
7.30pm
(Please note change of time)
Prayer, Word and Sharing
All Welcome

CHURCH NOTICES

LORNE AND LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH
Scottish Charity Number SC011686

Sunday 7th February
Service 11.15am
Next Generation Triple C Creche
Rev P Wallace

Monday 8th February
Messy Church 3.45 - 5.30pm
Church Hall

Tuesday 9th February
Tiny Tots New Hall 9.45am
Boys' Brigade
Anchor Boys 6.00pm
Junior Section 7.15pm
Church Hall

Thursday 11th February
Choir 7.30pm

Friday 12th February
Lunch Club 12.00 noon

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH

75 Longrow, Campbeltown

Sunday 7 February 2016
11.00am Family Communion Service
Mr Kelvin Moller, Clachan

Tuesday 2nd February
10am - 12 noon
Coffe Morning restarts
All welcome

Wednesday
12.30pm at the Free Church
Joining in fellowship with Campbeltown Free Church for Prayer and Bible Study

For details, contact the church office on 01586 551200 or the Church Secretary on 0586 551237.
www.springbankchurch.co.uk
SC014646

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 7th February 2016
11.00 am WORSHIP SERVICE
Rev. Hilda Smith
All Welcome

Saturday 13th February 2016
COFFEE MORNING
10am - 12 noon
LPC Church Hall
to raise funds in support of Kasamba Congregation, Malawi
All Welcome

Every Tuesday
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Bumps, Babies and Toddlers

Every Wednesday
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Drop-In Cafe

More info. at www.lpchurch.co.uk

Lochgilphead Baptist Church

All Welcome
Pastor Rev Derek Gibson

All Welcome
Sunday 7th February 2016
Morning Service 11am with communion
Monday 2.30pm
Ladies Meeting
- Mrs Ruth Carruthers
mainly music
Tuesdays at 10.15am
Jumpstart
Fridays from 10am
Scottish Charity SC015187

Scottish Episcopal Churches
Everyone Welcome

Christ Church
Bishopston Road, Lochgilphead (SC013787)
Sundays 11.00 am
Eucharist service
Coffee & Cake follows the service

St Columba's, Pottaloch, nr Kilmartin
(SC031391)
1st Sunday of the month
9.00am Eucharist Service

3rd Sunday of the month
3.30pm Evensong
Scottish Prayer Book

All Saints, Inveraray
(SC025646)
Saturdays
Eucharist Service
Father Simon Mackenzie
Priest in Charge of the charges of Mid Argyll & Arran
01546 602315

THE SALVATION ARMY

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

Sunday Services
10.30am Morning Worship
Army Kidz
6.30pm Evening Worship

Tuesday
Lunch Club - 12.15pm
Home League - 1.30pm

Wednesday
7.00 pm Make and Munch
Craft Group

Thursday
7.30pm Bible Study
All welcome

free church of scotland

George Street, Campbeltown

Saturday 6th February
9.00am Prayer Breakfast

Sunday 7th February
11.15am Worship Service
Rev Finlay Mackenzie
2.00pm Explorers Club
for all Primary school children
3.30pm Missionary Aviation Fellowship

Andy Martin from MAF Scotland

Wednesday 10th February
12.30pm Bible Study and Prayer

Sunday 17th February
4.00pm Psalms Live
Community Psalm Singing
All Welcome
www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SC009980

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND WEST LOCHFYNESIDE

Sunday 7th February 2016
Cumlodden Lochfyneside and Lochgair
Charity No. SC016097
Minister:
Rev. Dr. Roderick D. M. Campbell
Morning Service in Lochgair Church at 10 am
Glenaray and Inveraray
Charity No. SC016665
Morning Service in Inveraray Church at 11.30 am
All Welcome

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 (SCO002876)



All the sides who competed.

Kids on the Run move indoors

KIDS on the Run moved indoors for its latest session because of bad weather.

Lewis was a welcome new member and the other runners explained why they do a warm up before running.

The group then tried the beep test. This involved short sprints over 15m getting faster and faster as the runners raced for the line before the beep sounds.

Group leader Fi Corner said: 'Lewis did amazingly well for his first session, as did Aray and Ewan. Some folks ran much longer than I think they thought they would, like Gill and Ewan. Special mention goes to Erin. That girl has some stamina.'

The last three to run were Eilidh, Ewan and Archie. Ewan and experienced runner Archie gave Eilidh a good run for her money, but she was last woman standing.'

Runner of the week went to Eilidh Cameron for her stamina and high standard of running. Eilidh Gill and Erin competed at athletics competitions at the weekend with Eilidh coming first in her under 11s race. Tilly took part in the 5k Canter Round the Castle on Sunday.

2004s test themselves in battle of the Argylls

WITH Storm Gertrude forcing several senior games to be cancelled last weekend, the youth sides proved their mettle once again.

2004s teams from Campbeltown, Lochgilphead, Dumbarton Riverside and Arden-capple (Helensburgh) enjoyed a lively after-

noon of seven-a-sides in Lochgilphead.

Each team played five games in relatively good conditions on the 3G pitch at Lochgilphead Joint Campus.

The Pupils Youth 2004s thank Bruce West of Lochgilphead 2004s for organising the afternoon.



Conner McMurchy in action against Dumbarton Riverside 2004s.

Young shinty stars of the future gear up for second tournament

NEW SHINTY teams from Inveraray will head to Dunoon this weekend for their second tournament, but the newly-appointed coach wants even more kids to get on board.

Inveraray Primary School teams, led by new manager Ross Griffin, will go head-to-head against Dunoon, Kyles and Bute at the tournament at Dunoon Grammar School on Sunday.

Three teams, P3 and under, P5 and under and P7 and under, have been formed by Ross, 32, after he took over from coach of 30 year Norrie Campbell in January.

Last year the town didn't have any primary school clubs and Ross feels the time is right for him to lead the development.

He said: 'I have four boys and my eldest is six so it was a good time for me to stand in. I played with Inveraray's second team until two years ago



From left: Kayden MacKinlay, Bryce Griffin, Ally MacIntyre, Connor Griffin, Archie Stewart and Alexander McKinlay are in the P3 and under team that played in Rothesay. a06shinty01no

and have always played shinty.

'Just now we seem to have an influx of P1 and P2 pupils, but we are still struggling with the older categories. We have boys and girls

coming to training, but the girls, in particular, aren't coming for games and we want to get to the bottom of why.'

Ross has been in talks with the club and parents about how to get

the numbers up and get more children playing the sport.

Transport

He said: 'We have been talking about the difficulties people face, possibly with transport

and getting to games at the weekend. As a club we are working with parents to get as many young ones interested as possible.'

The P3 and under team played Kyles and Bute

in their first tournament January 23.

The youngsters came away with two wins and two defeats from four games played in Rothesay.

Ross said: 'That was their first time experiencing competitive shinty and they did really well for their first time.'

A team of 12 coaches work on rotation at sessions held every Tuesday evening at Inveraray Primary School.

Training for children in P1-P3 is from 5.30pm until 6.15pm with the P4 to 7s taking part from 6.15pm till 7pm.

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advertiser.co.uk

Swimmer of the month and new gear for Mid Argyll Dolphins

MID ARGYLL swimmers received new caps and celebrated swimmer of the month last week.

Junior and senior members of Dolphin Swimming Club, based at Mid Argyll Community Swimming Pool, were delighted to have new blue caps, donated by sponsor Landcatch.

During the same session nine-year-old senior swimmer Aileen Barr was awarded January's swimmer of the month cup. Aileen managed to shave 23 seconds off of her time for the 200m freestyle swim in the January trials.

It was the most improved time in the club.



Dolphins proudly wear their new caps.



Aileen Barr, nine, was swimmer of the month.

Invergarry shepherd leads the way

A GREAT Glen man and his dog were a nose ahead of the rest when they won the second Kintyre Nursery Sheep Dog Trial.

Despite a lowly fifth place, with 58 points in the first trial last Saturday, Mike MacNally and his dog Tarrf scored 85 points in the day's second event.

Just beating second placed Kieran McCulloch and Pip by three points.

The trials were held at Ronachan Farm with permission from Lorne Clark.

The course was quite testing but the mule hogs ran well on the day.

Full results from the first trial 1 judged by Jessie Main were as follows: 1 John MacKillop - 80 points (pts) with Sam, 2 Peter Clark - 72pts with Spot, 3 Kieran McCulloch - 64 pts with Pip, 4 Alex MacCuish - 59 pts with Glen, 5 Mike MacNally - 58 pts with Tarrf and 6 Jane MacDonald - 57 pts with Nell.

Results from the second trial judged by Andrew Ronald Senior were: 1 Mike MacNally - 85 pts with Tarrf, 2 Kieran McCulloch - 82 pts with Pip, 3 Alex MacCuish - 80 pts with Glen, 4 Peter Clark - 78 pts with Spot, 5 Jane MacDonald - 77 pts with Nell and 6 Brian Strachan - 56 pts with Jim.

Opening day shinty fixtures:

Saturday March 5

Marine Harvest Premiership
Glenurquhart v Oban Camanachd
Kingussie v Lochaber
Kinlochshiel v Newtonmore
Kyles Athletic v Fort William
Skye v Lovat

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Fort William v Beaully
Lovat v Skye
Newtonmore v Kinlochshiel
Strathglass v Kingussie

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Aberdeen University v Inverness
Boleskine v Kilmallie
Caberfeidh v Lewis
Lochaber v Lochcarron
Strathspey v Glengarry 1.30pm

Marine Harvest National Division

Glasgow Mid Argyll v Ballachulish
Inveraray v Bute
Inverness v Beaully
Kilmallie v Caberfeidh

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Aberdour v Kyles Athletic
Lochside Rovers v Inveraray
Oban Celtic v Col Glen
Taynuilt v Strachur

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Bute v Oban Lorn
Dunoon v Glasgow Mid Argyll
Tayforth v Aberdour

SPOT THE BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1350

LAST WEEK'S BALL WAS HERE...



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

J McNair
Davaar Avenue
Campbeltown

J Martin
Burnside
Isle of Gigha

All you have to do

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

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

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

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

Easy to enter

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

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The company's decision will be final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any persons otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



Name.....

Address.....

Tel No.....

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

Please tape your £1 coin here (if posting)

**Football results
and fixtures**

LAST Saturday's result: West of Scotland Cup, 4th round – Oban Saints 3, New Farm Loch 1. All other games involving Argyll teams were cancelled due to the weather. In fact the only game played in the SAFL was the Oban Saints v New Farm Loch.

Next Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup, 5th round – Stirling City v Oban Saints; Premier Division – Campbeltown Pupils v Goldenhill; East Kilbride RR v Shawlands; Inverclyde v Finnart; St Joseph's v Alba Thistle; Premier Division One – Dunoon v Motherwell Thistle; Neilston v Lochgilphead Red Star; Premier Division Two – Tarbert v Rosehill Star.

Lottery numbers

THERE were no winners of this week's £700 jackpot at Inveraray Shinty Club's lottery draw. The numbers were 4, 7 and 17. Next week's total to be won will be £800.

Kilmory Camanachd Club's weekly lottery draw had no winners. The numbers drawn were 2, 19 and 20. Next week's jackpot will be £1,000.

Tarbert Football Club's lottery numbers drawn this week were 5, 13 and 16. There were no winners, therefore next week's total for the taking is £300.

**Do you have
sports news
from the Mid
Argyll area?**

IF YOU have sports news, we want to hear from you. Telephone the news desk at 01546 602345, email editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk or contact us via the Argyllshire Advertiser Facebook page.

Red Star gaffer decides to hang up his boots

ALLAN WEIR has stepped down from his position as manager for Lochgilphead's Red Star football team.

The Lochgilphead man dedicated nine years to the club and spent the last six and a half as manager.

He stood down following a 5-0 defeat against Drumchapel on January 23. He says he has been disappointed by the struggle to get players this season.

He said: 'We've been struggling for bodies. We have some really good young players just now, but I know most of them have plans to go on to further edu-

cation and it's going to get tougher. It's hard to get players to commit – and it is a big commitment for them, especially those who are self-employed and have to work weekends.

'I just felt that it was time I left to make way for someone new to come in with new ideas for the team.

'I've been with some of the boys since they were five years old and they are probably sick of hearing my voice by now.'

Allan's personal highlight was winning the Coronation Cup in 2012 in Cambuslang. He said: 'We had three coaches

come down to Glasgow full of supporters and won 3-2 against Whitehill. It was just a brilliant day.'

Allan has dedicated 20 years to youth sports in Mid Argyll, including time with the Soccer Centre and coaching teenage football teams.

Chairman of Red Star Douglas Moore, assistant manager Sandy Crawford, and vice chairman Duncan MacLean will take over from Allan until the end of the season.

The club will host its annual general meeting sometime in May and invites anyone wishing to get involved

with the club to attend. Mr Moore said: 'I was upset that Allan decided to call it a day. When he started with myself in 2007 it was only supposed to be for six months until the end of that season.'

'Thankfully we had the pleasure of him as our assistant and club manager for almost nine years, sharing so many great memories – from cup wins to league promotions.'

'On behalf of the club I would like to take this opportunity to thank Allan for the last nine years and wish him all the very best for the future.'



Allan Weir has decided to hang up his boots after nine years as manager of Red Star.

08_a17vandal01

Top ten finish for promising Lochgilphead swimmer

A PROMISING young athlete became a top-10 swimmer for Scotland at the weekend.

Jilly Lefebvre, 11, has only been swimming for 18 months. After qualifying for the Scottish Schools Championship in December went to Glasgow for the final on Saturday.

The swimming contest, held at Tollcross Swimming Baths, welcomed clubs from around Scotland.

Jilly was the only individual to take part and the only swimmer from Mid Argyll.

The event she competed in was the Under-12s 50 metre Butterfly (Fly), which saw her swim one length.

The Lochgilphead school pupil thrashed through the water to come in ninth, a fantastic achievement for the youngster.

Jilly said: 'I am now ninth best swimmer in the Under-12s Fly for Scotland. I am pleased. I wasn't expecting to do so well. I had said before that I would be delighted to come in the top 10, but I was just being positive. I didn't actually think that I had a chance.'

Based

Jilly started swimming with Dolphins Swimming Club based at Mid Argyll Community Pool in Lochgilphead.

Despite her achievement, Jilly is unsure whether to dedicate herself to swimming. She also competes in athletics, gymnastics and karate.

She said: 'I don't know what I want to do yet. I don't feel ready to decide what I want to focus on. I am still enjoying it all.'

'I'm going to take part

in smaller meets this year – these are basically gala events, so are somewhere between practise and competitive. The ones I will be taking part in include club's from around Scotland, so there is an element of competition, but it's got a more fun aspect.'

Jilly travelled to Glasgow on Saturday with mum Lizzie and dad Christophe. The trio were faced with hor-

rendous weather conditions and had to drive through hailstones and blizzards.

Jilly said: 'It took ages and it was really scary, especially coming back, but it was worth it.'

The P7 pupil will head to Glasgow's Emirates Arena later this month for the annual Schools Pentathlon athletic event. Jilly is set to take part in the high jump, long jump, shot put, 800 metre run and hurdles.



Jilly after a session with Dolphins at MACPool.

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