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INSIDE THIS WEEK



BRIDE GUIDE

Fighting to save Argyll Gaelic from oblivion

By COLIN CAMERON
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

THE RACE is on to save the native tongue of Argyll before it disappears, forgotten, into the mists of time.

One man has set out to revive the language and he has appealed for anyone with memories or knowledge of Argyll Gaelic to come forward.

Àdhamh O'Brian is a Glaswegian who spent much of his childhood in the Cowal village of Tighnabruaich. He fell in love with the region and its heritage and is now on a mission to revive the dying embers of the Gaelic language spoken until not so long ago in Mid Argyll and Cowal - a dialect known as Dalriada Gaelic.

The 37-year-old has taught himself the language over the past

decade by listening to recordings and studying written records. He also tracked down 84-year-old Lochgilphead man Robbie MacVicar, whom Mr O'Brian believes to be the last native speaker of Dalriada Gaelic.

Mr MacVicar was brought up on a Lochgair farm speaking the tongue of his forebears and his memory of it persists to this day.

Since 'finding' Mr MacVicar, the road to Lochgilphead has become a familiar one for Àdhamh O'Brian, who makes regular trips to have a blether in the language, learning and recording dialect words, phrases and intonations that might otherwise be lost.

'Tighnabruaich and Argyll always felt like home to me,' said Mr O'Brian.
'I went back there when I was 25 and it just felt right. I was interested in the Gaelic

Continued on page 4

culminated in August 2015 when £10,789 was raised to enable the recording and promotion of the dialect and to begin digitally reproducing the handwritten notes of Swedish linguist Nils Holmer who came to Argyll in the 1930s and '40s to set down words, phrases, stories and songs he collected from that last generation of fluent speakers.

The clear passion that Àdhamh O'Brian has for Dalriada Gaelic was ignited during childhood visits to Cowal but burst into action after returning to the area as an adult.



Love is in the air . . .

Lochgilphead MS Centre staff are sharing the love as Valentine's Day approaches. Just in for a loaf of bread, Sandy MacDonald was surprised to leave Lochgilphead Co-op with a rose, courtesy of Claire Cameron and Karen McCurry. Full story, page 10. 08_a06roses02



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Flood of complaints about ‘accident waiting to happen’ on A83 at Erines

THE COMPANY managing the A83 trunk road says it will investigate drainage at a notorious flooding black-spot between Tarbert and Ardrishaig.

Water gathers on the road at Erines, four miles north of Tarbert, during periods of rainfall – primarily coming from the hillside above the road. The flood-prone stretch is close to a blind bend where the road narrows, and is considered to be a potential danger to motorists as vehicles are forced across to the opposite lane to avoid the pool of water.

A spokesperson for trunk road management company BEAR Scotland said: ‘We are aware of concerns regarding flooding on this section of the A83, and we plan to carry out drainage investigations with a view to determining what a long-term solution would be. In the meantime, our teams will continue to monitor the location and carry out works as required to alleviate any excess water.’



The flooding gets much worse than shown in this picture, taken at Erines in November 2015. 06_a49flooding01

LAST Saturday, after prolonged overnight rainfall, the Argyllshire Advertiser posted a simple question on social media: **‘How is the A83 at Erines after the rain?’**

The question elicited the largest response from followers of the ‘All things Tarbert’ Facebook page after the Advertiser’s post was shared.

A selection of responses:

Dawn MacDougall posted: ‘Worst I have ever experienced and I drive it twice a day.’

Alexis Prentice wrote: ‘I go to work in the dark and drive home in the dark it’s an accident waiting to happen, and whatever they have done before the bridge just past the narrow bit – it floods at first sign of rain.’

Stewart Maxwell said: ‘It’s a bit easier for locals, we know what to expect, but visitors have no chance.’

Kenneth MacNab replied: ‘The way it always is after rain – a disgrace.’ He added: ‘I heard the Northern Lighthouse Board are coming to buoy the channel.’

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Police files

Possession of drugs

A 40-YEAR-OLD man was stopped and searched at around 2.45pm, on Monday January 30, at Kil-mory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead.

He was found to be in possession of a small quantity of cannabis and was charged.

A report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Failure to stop after collision

AT AROUND 11.30am on Wednesday February 1, on the Lochgilphead to Oban road (A816) at the junction with the road to Ford (B840), a dark-coloured car

collided with a white Vauxhall Antara. The dark car failed to stop and continued north towards Oban.

Breach of order

AT A house in Furnace, on Friday February 3 at around 9.50pm, a 55-year-old man breached a non harassment order imposed by the court by contacting a woman.

The man was arrested, held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

No insurance

A DRIVER, 25, was stopped by police for a routine check on the A83 near Inveraray at around 9.50am on Sunday February 5. Checks revealed that there was no insurance in force for the vehicle and the driver.

The man was charged with the offence and the vehicle was seized. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Anyone with information in relation to the above, or to any incident, can contact their local police office on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Housing plan 'builds on progress'

A FIVE-YEAR local housing plan, which aims to tackle 'significant issues', has been tabled.

Argyll and Bute's Local Housing Strategy was recently submitted to the Scottish Government for ministerial approval. Developed in partnership with the Scottish Government, registered social landlords, local housing associations and other groups, the document also reflects a wide consultation over the past couple of years.

Councillor Robin Currie, the council's policy lead for housing, said: 'This milestone in strategic planning is the result of an ongoing and very productive collaborative process between the council and its partners. Good quality housing, along with appropriate housing support and related services, has a vital role to play in the social and economic wellbeing of Argyll and Bute, and the council's new housing vision for the next five years seeks to recognise this.'

The main aims of the housing strategy are to ensure:

People can access sufficient, suitable and affordable housing.

People can access an effective, personalised housing options service to meet their housing need.

People are enabled to live independently in their own homes.

Communities are regenerated by improving the quality, condition and energy efficiency of housing.

Councillor Currie added: 'Despite very positive progress over the past five years, we clearly still have some very significant issues to tackle, so it is vital we have an appropri-

ate strategic document to guide us through the next five years.'

'This strategy is based on a comprehensive assessment of housing needs and demand across Argyll and Bute.'

'I would encourage local communities and individuals to engage in this by providing feedback.'

'All the feedback we receive will help to influence the ongoing implementation and annual updates of the strategy and therefore the direction of future housing activity and housing investment in Argyll and Bute.'



Betty Rennie contemplates a sizeable meringue, while Jean Sayers enjoys her baked tattie at the Drop In Café on Wednesday. 08_a06lunch01

Ladies who lunch in Lochgilphead

A POPULAR meeting place every Wednesday is the Drop In Café, run by Lochgilphead Parish Church.

Held in the parish church hall, there is delicious homemade tea, coffee and light lunches to enjoy, with all proceeds going to the Church Project Fund.

Concern as dental services come under pressure

DIFFICULTY filling a vacant post has left dentistry services at Mid Argyll Hospital under pressure.

Patients registered at the Lochgilphead practice have received letters explaining that as NHS Highland has failed to recruit a replacement dentist, the Mid Argyll Hospital practice is struggling to meet demand.

The letter states that 'a locum dental officer has taken up post at Mid Argyll Hospital and will continue to see emergencies, child patients, those with orthodontic appliances and patients within the

high risk categories with medical issues, physical and mental impairment until a more permanent solution is reached.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership commented: 'We have been actively trying to recruit for the vacancy in Lochgilphead but have so far been unsuccessful.'

Enclosed with the letter is a list of alternative surgeries in Tarbert, Campbeltown and Oban that are offering registration. In December, a spokesman for Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Part-

nership told the *Advertiser* that patients had 'not been told that they must travel elsewhere for treatment' but that they were being 'made aware of other options which may assist them in getting treated quicker'.

But some patients are still concerned. Speaking to the *Advertiser* back in December, Lochgilphead resident Malcolm Crooks, who is signed up with the Mid Argyll Hospital practice, said: 'This is ridiculous. How can I get to Tarbert or Oban on the bus? I am disabled so this is virtually impossible for me.'

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JEWSON

Fight to save Argyll Gaelic from oblivion

Continued from Page 1
language then, but I soon became hooked. I've been back constantly since, seeking out the oldest local people I could find and talking to them.'

He continued: 'From Craignish through Lochaweside, Kilmartin and Kilmichael into Knapdale, from Lochfyneside across to Cowal and down through to Bute, the same dialect of Argyll Gaelic was spoken.'

Mr O'Briain, who describes himself as a Scottish Gaelic consultant, tutor, translator and singer-songwriter, has brought up his own children speaking Dalriada Gaelic

since the day they were born. Now Caoimhe, nine, and seven-year-old twins, Lachann and Saorsa are comfortable in the language and will be able to pass it on to others.

'This precious language has to be passed on or it will continue to slide quietly and ignominiously out of existence,' he said.

'I would be overjoyed to hear from anyone who thinks they might know a person who still speaks a smattering of the dialect, especially people who may have left Mid Argyll or Cowal a long time ago for work in the cities or abroad and never returned.'

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for Gaelic, Councillor Robin Currie, said: 'It is really good to hear about someone involved in the preservation of Argyll dialects and something I support wholeheartedly.'

'As a native Islay Gaelic speaker, I'm acutely aware of how important it is to keep one's dialect alive and indeed thrive.'

He added: 'We would encourage Mr O'Briain to engage with the Gaelic Forum and share the valuable information that he has gathered more widely across Argyll.'

If you would like to help save Argyll's

Dalriada Gaelic dialect, contact Àdhamh O'Briain by email at dalriadagaelic@gmail.com. Find out more on the www.dalriada.scot website or via Facebook and Twitter.



Àdhamh O'Briain believes there is still hope - Dochas - for the local Gaelic dialect. 06_a06Gaelic02

A native's view...

THE EFFORTS of Àdhamh O'Briain to preserve our native Argyll Gaelic dialect is to be applauded.

To all intents and purposes, he is an outsider, yet he has taken on the challenge. Often it takes a perspective from elsewhere to appreciate what others who are closer cannot see.

I should offer a little of my own background by way of context. I am from Loch Fyne-side - with ancestry from both sides of the loch too long and complicated to explain.

My maternal grandfather, Duncan Sinclair, was born in 1907 and farmed at Brenchoille near Auchindrain until 1946, when he moved to Glensluain Farm, Strachur. I recall him saying that he spoke nothing but Gaelic un-

til he went to school, at which point it was actively discouraged. His folks wouldn't speak Gaelic to the children at home in case they couldn't speak English and 'wouldn't get on' in life.

By the time he passed away in 1988, he had remnants of the language - occasionally used to rebuke unruly grandchildren, and regularly deployed in one-sided arguments with Margaret Thatcher, who was - fortunately for her - behind a TV screen. What he did remember clearly, however, were songs.

We grew up knowing even less, just the odd word and phonetically-learned songs, but that was it. What was stronger was the culture that was as much a part of our heritage as the language.

These days I see working populations falling across Argyll, people from other parts moving in, shiny clubs struggling for players and our wider cultural heritage becoming ever more diluted. An increasingly homogenised 'culture' is perhaps an inevitable consequence of the modern, social media-driven world.

But that does not mean the culture that existed for the previous 1,500 years or more should be forgotten. It is ever more important today to remember from where we have come.

Which is why I would encourage anyone who has knowledge of Argyll Gaelic, no matter where they might be in the world, to speak to Àdhamh O'Briain.

Colin Cameron.

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Argyll volunteers wanted to give charity wings

A FORCES charity needs people from Argyll to support its work in the area.

The Royal Air Force Association provides welfare support to all generations of serving and ex-serving RAF personnel and their dependents and is looking to enlist a volunteer caseworker and befriender in the area.

Association volunteer manager Katharine Montgomery said: 'The caseworker role is fairly complex one, but it offers great rewards in return.'

Duties

'Duties could involve anything from helping a disabled client submit an application

for home alterations to giving information about breaks at the RAF Association's Wings Breaks Hotels. Full accredited training will be provided.'

Katharine added: 'We would love people to come forward. As a caseworker, people get a lot of fulfilment from helping others.'

Befrienders

If you have a little spare time, the Royal Air Force Association is also on the lookout for Argyll people to volunteer as befrienders.

Katharine explained: 'This is a similar role to that of a caseworker, but less complicated. You would be involved

in helping people who perhaps are lonely, providing a bit of company and reinforcing links between individuals and local social groups.

Visit

'It's often just simply a case of giving a quick visit to make sure they're okay. Again, full accredited training will be provided.'

With around 400 branches and a worldwide membership of more than 65,000 people, the Royal Air Force Association also needs for fundraisers to support the on-going Wings Appeal.

So if you can shake a collection tin...

'We couldn't func-



Could you help RAF personnel and their families?

tion without our volunteers,' concluded Katharine. 'We have 3,500 active volunteers in the organisation around

the world and every one of them makes a real difference to the lives of the people we help.'

If you would like to help support the work of the Royal Air Force Association in Argyll and Bute, contact vol-

unteer co-ordinator Donna Hutchinson at donna.hutchinson@rafa.org.uk or call 01334 838812.



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Persistent flooding

THE FLOODING between Ardrishaig and Tarbert – and not just at the longstanding Erines problem area but also in other parts of the A83 – has to be addressed with urgency.

The talk of a major project to improve the road at Erines has faded recently, which might mean that it is being reconsidered.

We are pressing Transport Scotland on this one.

But what can't be denied is that until the road is upgraded the ongoing flooding is extremely dangerous.

There has to be a way of taking that water on to the shore quickly and efficiently before it gathers on the road surface.

Sooner or later there is going to be a serious accident, and the old chestnut of 'an accident waiting to happen' – so often used when people talk about the Erines stretch – is very apt.

Communication problems

WE WERE hit by problems with technology this week at our offices in Lochgilhead.

On Tuesday morning we suddenly lost internet and email communication.

It was a disaster. It's a truism, but we don't realise how dependent we are on technology until it is not there.

Problems with broadband and associated infrastructure are a constant pain around Mid Argyll, and it doesn't seem to be improving much, despite promises from all sides.

Anyway, we struggled through this week at the paper, and though there are subjects that may need to be deferred we hope the difference is not too noticeable.

who's who at your advertiser

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opinion

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l LETTER

Fears over siting of fish farm

Sir,

Having joined fellow Tayvallich residents at a meeting with Michael Russell MSP to discuss the proposed fish farm at Doune on the Sound of Jura, I am encouraged to hear he too objects to the planned location.

The proposed site lies inside the new Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura Marine Protected Area (designated for critically endangered skate), inside the Knapdale National Scenic Area, and is only 5km from the mouth of the River Add, one of few remaining rivers between Tarbert and Fort William with a good population of wild salmon and sea trout.

My concerns are that adult wild fish swim through Dounie bay on their way to the Add and rivers further north, while juveniles coming down the Add also use the area. They would pick up potentially lethal infestations of parasitic sea lice from the 1.1 million caged fish. Sea lice are a growing problem for salmon farms, especially in Argyll. Despite the use of toxic chemicals soaring in the past decade, sea lice infestations are more common than ever. They could wipe out the River Add's popular and economically valuable salmon and sea trout fishery.

This is the first proposal for a new fish farm in-

side a Marine Protected Area. Its outcome will show whether these areas are more than just 'paper parks' when it comes to protecting the animals for which they were designated.

Many of the area's businesses rely on the sustainable use of the sea and on Knapdale's great natural beauty. People whose jobs depend on these things are concerned that their income will suffer. In compensation for the damage it would do, the fish farm would produce four full-time and two part-time jobs, at most.

It would block a popular anchorage used by local boats and by yachts passing through the Crinan Canal, make the bay unavailable to creel fishermen and scallop divers, and it's in the path of the new and very popular Scottish Sea Kayak Trail.

An application has already been made to SEPA for a licence to use anti-sea lice chemicals and discharge thousands of tonnes of organic waste into the sea each year. A planning permission application to Argyll and Bute Council is expected soon. Mr Russell suggested that concerned people should write to Mid Argyll's councillors now and to the council's planning department when the planning application is announced. I agree wholeheartedly.

John Aitchison, Tayvallich.

White paper is a welcome step

Sir,

The UK's micro-business sector has been calling out for more information about how the UK will leave the EU, so the publication of last week's White Paper is a welcome step.

I believe, however, that the government still needs to go much further if it wants to allay the fears that people who run their own businesses have about Brexit.

We recently surveyed more than 700 micro-business owners across the country and found that the overwhelming majority were not happy with the result of the EU referendum.

Nearly three-quarters of them thought that Brexit would have a negative impact on the UK – with political and economic instability being highlighted as the primary concern – while 84 per cent of respondents said they didn't think they had been given enough information about the impact that Brexit would have on their businesses.

Given that micro-businesses comprise 95 per cent of the UK's total number of businesses, that's a significant section of the economy that is feeling anxious about the post-Brexit future.

Now that the government has published its plan for

leaving the EU, I hope these micro-business owners remain front of mind and are kept fully informed throughout the whole of the Brexit process.

Ed Molyneux,
CEO and co-founder
of FreeAgent.

Beavers need public backing

Sir,

The Eurasian beaver is one of four species shortlisted in the 'Wildlife Success Story' category of the BBC Countryfile Magazine Awards following its successful reintroduction to Scotland.

The Scottish Government announced in November that the species would be formally recognised as a native species, 400 years after being hunted to extinction in the UK. This makes it the first formal mammal reintroduction in UK history and a real success story for Scottish conservation.

To see a keystone species such as the beaver returned to the wild for the first time in 400 years is a tremendous achievement and one which we are delighted to see recognised by BBC Countryfile Magazine.

Since the start of the Scottish beaver trial in 2009, we have been struck by the huge public support for the species both in Knapdale and across the country,

I urge everyone to back the beaver and vote.

Barbara Smith,
Royal Zoological
Society of Scotland.

Letters to the Editor,
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PRESS POLICY

We at The Argyllshire Advertiser endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

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

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

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of no more than 200 words for publication on this page.

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

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

Scunnered with Trump? Fed up with Brexit?

EVER get the feeling we are surrounded by bad news these days?

As an antidote to the constant barrage of stories about the new US president and the ongoing Brexit saga, we thought it was a good

time to consider ways of clearing the head.

Here are a few ideas that might help soothe the weary spirit - and they won't cost the earth.

□ Take a dip in Loch Fyne and shock your-

self into appreciating the scenery around you.

□ Head to Crinan to watch a spectacular sunset.

□ Climb to the top of Meall Mhor to see how far the beauty of Argyll spreads.

□ Invite your neighbour round for a cuppa and keep the famous Argyll community spirit alive with a blether and a gossip.

□ Visit a historic site and let your imagination run wild.

□ Be adventurous and go to a coffee morning in a different village - you never know who you might meet.

□ When the next meteor shower or Northern Lights display is expected, find somewhere dark and quiet to watch from.

□ Shop local - you never know what hidden gems you might find and what wee

gems of gossip (again) you may hear. On a rainy Argyll day, don't feel guilty about curling up in front of the fire to lose yourself in your favourite book or film. Or embrace the rain, pull your wellies on and go for a boggy, muddy walk, taking time to jump in the biggest puddles.

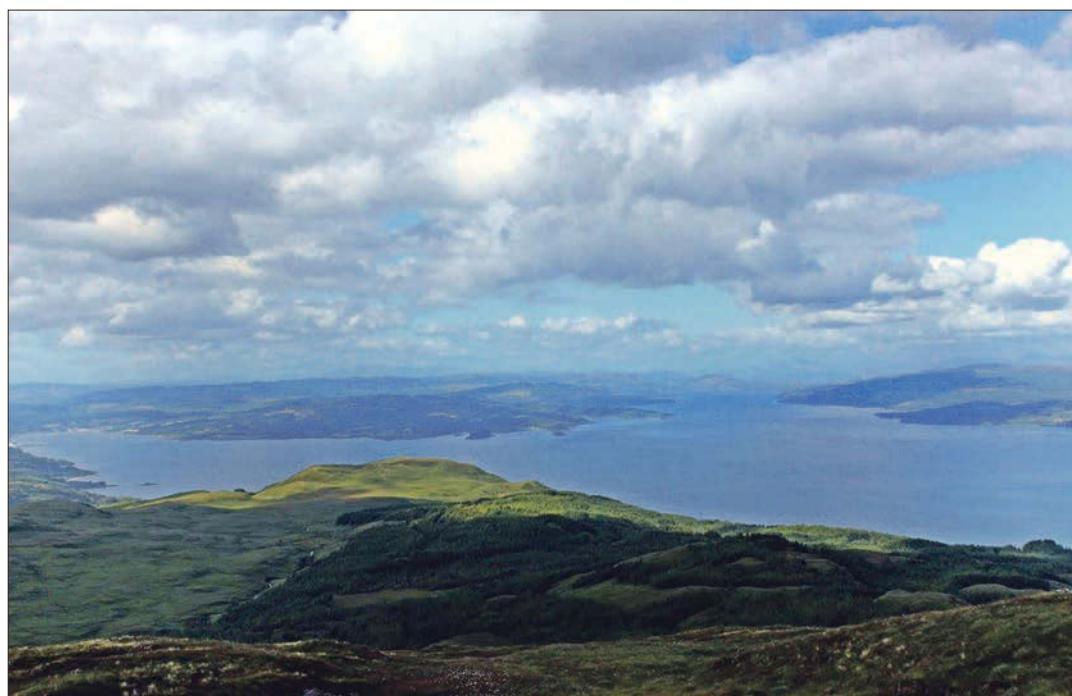
What are your top tips for re-balancing your brain and dodging the doom and gloom? Get in touch by visiting the Argyllshire Advertiser Facebook page, by emailing editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk or by Royal Mail.



Splish and splash through the puddles.



Enjoy a dramatic sunset at Crinan.



Look out to the Arrochar Alps from Meall Mhor.



Scottish Field

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Gail Porter on the joys of a day on Porty beach

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The musical medals each member received.



Sale of the Century

Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th March

Victoria Hall, Campbeltown

Doors Open 2pm Friday

- 9.00am Saturday

Auction viewing & sale of bric-a-brac

2 – 5.00pm Friday 3rd March

Auction starts 10am Saturday

- Bric-a-Brac 9.30am

Rotary Club of Campbeltown

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Sponsored by Scottish Building Society

SCDA Kintyre District DRAMA FESTIVAL

In The Victoria Hall, Campbeltown on Friday 24th February 2017 at 7.00 pm prompt

Peninver Players:

Nearly Departed by Garry Wilson

Lochgilphead Drama: Costa Del Packet by Anthony Booth

Accent Players:

The Magic Roundabout by Bob Davidson

Dunaverty Players:

Unexpected Item in Baggage

Area by Lynn Brittney

Please note: Curtain up 7pm.

Strictly no admission during plays.

Tickets: Adults £8, Primary School Children £4

From Yorkshire Building Society, Longrow South

Generously supported by East Kintyre Windfarm Trust

Cancer Research UK
Coffee Morning
Saturday 11th February 2017

From 10.00am - 12.00 noon

Red Cross Hall,

Campbeltown

Admission £2.00

Raffle, home baking, bottle stall & special Valentine's biscuits

All welcome.

Kintyre Antiquarian & Natural History Society

'A Life in Archaeology':

an illustrated talk

by Dr Clare Ellis

in the Ardshiel Hotel,

Campbeltown, on

Wednesday 15 February 2017

at 7.30 p.m.

All welcome

(non-members £2.50 at door)

PRIZE BINGO
In aid of Sheep Dog Trials

Thursday 16th February

Argyll Bowling Club

£5 includes raffle ticket

Eyes down 8pm

The Royal British Legion Scotland

Campbeltown Branch INFORMAL MEETING

Lodge 141

Recreational Club

Friday 10th February @ 1930hrs.

Dress informal.

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It pays to advertise in the Argyllshire Advertiser



Emily Carter, Niah Martin, Leila Ritchie and Myrtle Turnbull show off their medals.



The quartet with judges Owen Farr and Les Neish.



The Argyll Brass Quartet take a bow.

MID ARGYLL ARTS ASSOCIATION
(Scottish Charity No. SC006711)
ROXBURGH QUARTET
Saturday 11th February, 7.30 pm Council Chamber, Kilmory Castle £12, £10(conc) Free (school & students)

KINTYRE MUSIC CLUB
presents
Roxburgh Quartet (String Quartet)
Lorne & Lowland Church Hall Friday 10 February 7.30pm £10, Children are free

Fèis an Tairbeirt's Traditional Music Workshop Tarbert, Saturday 18th February 8-18 year olds from 10am, adults from 1.30pm. 4-7 year olds come along for a fun, music filled morning too. Check out the Fèis an Tairbeirt Facebook page or website, email feisantairbeirt@gmail.com

Design a new picnic area and win a prize

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

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



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



Located at Blarbuie community woodland, the plan is to create a picnic area around the octagon space and the enterprise company wants community groups to come up with the design. Any local group or school can enter.

The design should incorporate the seven picnic benches and eight pieces of tim-

ber-constructed adventure playground equipment that will be available.

The aim is to create an accessible picnic and children's play

How your group can enter

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

To enter on behalf of your organisation or school, email your design to grace.macleod@btinternet.com or pete.creech@virgin.net.

Alternatively, hand your paper design in at Argyll and Bute Hospital reception. Blarbuie Woodland Enterprise Ltd is offering a

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

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

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

area with a woodland theme.

Wildlife-friendly features such as bird feeders and squirrel runs

may also score well in the judging process.

So get designing and enter the picnic area competition.

Campbeltown Picture House

at the Victoria Hall

Sat 11 & Sun 12 February



Ballerina (U) Sat 11, 2pm / 89 mins

1879 Paris. An orphan girl dreams of dancing at the Grand Opera

A Monster Calls (12A) Sat 11, 4.30pm / 108 mins

Spectacular drama based on the award-winning children's fantasy novel by Patrick Ness.

T2 Trainspotting (18) Sat 11, 7.45pm / 117 mins

After 20 years, Renton finally returns home to Edinburgh and reunites with his old pals Spud, Sick Boy and the psychopathic Begbie.

Monster Trucks (PG) Sun 12, 12:00pm / 105 mins

A high school senior builds a Monster Truck from bits and pieces of scrapped cars, and gains an unlikely friend!

Passengers (12A) Sun 12, 2.30pm / 116 mins

On a routine journey through space to a new home, two passengers, sleeping in suspended animation, are awakened 90 years too early when their ship malfunctions. Jennifer Lawrence & Chris Pratt.

La La Land (12A) Sun 12, 5.30pm / 128 mins

The multi-award winning story of Mia, an aspiring actress (Emma Stone), and Sebastian (Ryan Gosling), a dedicated jazz musician, struggling to make ends meet while pursuing their dreams.

Advance booking: www.campbeltownpicturehouse.co.uk

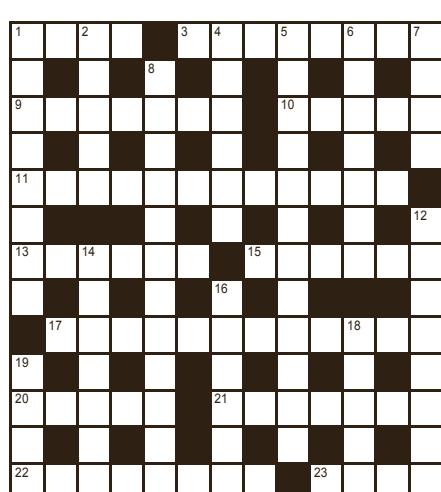
Tickets also at Victoria Hall 30 mins before screenings

Adults £6.50 Concessions: £5.00 Family of 4: £20.00

Presented by Campbeltown Community Business & Film Mobile Scotland in collaboration with The Royal Hotel

 THE ROBERTSON TRUST 

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

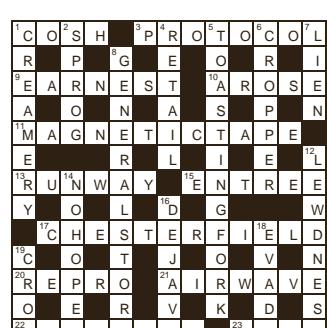


Across

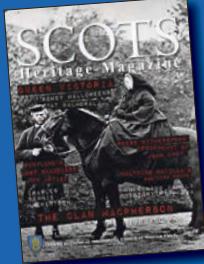
- 1 Grow dim (4)
- 3 Turn for three minutes (3,5)
- 9 Firing feathered weapon (7)
- 10 Poets' feet (5)
- 11 Causing anxiety (5-7)
- 13 Undisturbed (2,4)
- 15 Barely make (3,3)
- 17 Insincere (12)
- 20 In suspense (5)
- 21 Farewell (7)
- 22 Gatherings (8)
- 23 Land in sea (4)

Down

- 1 Dark movie (4,4)
- 2 Unit of Middle East (5)
- 4 Trifle (6)
- 5 Insensitive (5-7)
- 6 Token (7)
- 7 Attack (4)
- 8 Forgetful (12)
- 12 Instrument for ear examination (8)
- 14 Japanese therapy (7)
- 16 Breakfast holder (6)
- 18 Tropical seedpod vegetable (5)
- 19 Ski lift support (1-3)



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD sponsored by



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MS Centre says it with roses

INSPIRED by a widower in Dumbarton, staff from the Multiple Sclerosis Centre Argyll have been 'sharing their love'.

After hearing about Stuart McWilliam, a widower who hands out a rose a day in memory of his wife, MS centre staff were moved to do some-

thing similar and hand out roses to unsuspecting Argyll residents.

Centre manager Karen McCurry said: 'We've been giving some randomly to people we felt looked like a rose would cheer them up, others to people we knew were not feeling well and a couple as a thank you to

people who support us.'

As part of the 52 Weeks of Kindness Campaign - a mental health initiative encouraging people to carry out acts of kindness throughout the year - staff will be giving out roses throughout February.

On Monday January 6, Karen McCurry and Claire Cameron caught some Lochgilphead Co-op customers - and a guide dog - off guard, handing them a rose as they left the shop.

Some were visibly touched by this simple act and Claire commented: 'It is amazing to see people's reactions. It's such a simple thing we are doing but to get such a positive response from people and to just see them smile feels great.'



Smiles were brought to the faces of staff at the Advertiser when they received a rose through the letterbox. 06_a06roses02



Big smiles from Fiona Kalache and Lynn Johnstone as they are surprised with a rose each.

08_a06roses03



Zooby the guide dog all set to take his rose home. 08_a06roses01

FORCE 9 ENERGY

AIRIGH WIND FARM PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Force 9 Energy would like to invite you to a second Public Exhibition for the proposed Airigh Wind Farm (formerly called Carse Wind Farm), located in South Knapdale, approximately 8.4km south-west of the village of Tarbert.

Friday 24th February 2017
1pm – 7.30pm
Templar Arts and Leisure Centre
Harbour Street, Tarbert, PA29 6UD

The Exhibition will provide an opportunity to outline the revised proposals and highlight how local feedback and ongoing environmental studies have helped shape and inform the proposed wind farm.

Two (identical) presentations will also be held during the Exhibition, at 2pm and 5:30pm.

The presentations will provide an opportunity for Force 9 to provide further context to the information on display at the Exhibition and an opportunity for you to ask questions. Force 9 will also provide an overview of the financial and other benefits that the wind farm could bring for local areas, if constructed.

Comments forms can be completed on the day or returned as per the details below, and should be returned by no later than **10th March 2017**.

For further information, please contact **Steven Park** via email steven@libertyonecomms.co.uk or write to Airigh Wind Farm, Liberty One Communications, Unit 1, Burnbank Business Centre, Souterhead Road, AB12 3LF

Please note that comments made will be to the prospective applicant, not the planning authority. There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the planning authority upon submission of an application.

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Mail Order: If you wish to order by telephone, please contact us on **01546 602345** For mail order, the total cost is £8.50 including postage and packaging.

argyllshire advertiser

Highland Cattle Society set for spring show and sale



This year's show will see 106 animals exhibited in front of veteran judge Mr Jimmy Laing.

THE HIGHLAND Cattle Society hosts its 126th spring show and sale at Oban Livestock Centre, Oban, this weekend (February 11-13).

The iconic nature of the Highland breed continues to generate great interest.

Despite the challenges facing the agricultural industry, recent reports have indicated changing customer trends demanding smaller portion sizes and therefore smaller carcasses, favouring the native breeds and the Highlander in particular.

Breed secretary Sian Sharp said: 'There is constant pressure within the industry to lower input costs and maximise outputs and this is where the Highland breed comes to the fore, with the females being the ideal suckler cow for today's market. Our breed is a traditional breed that meets modern requirements.'

The weekend begins on Saturday (February 11) with the annual general meeting at The Royal Hotel, Oban, at 5pm. This is followed by a drinks reception sponsored by the Provost of Argyll and Bute Council at 6.30pm to welcome new members, existing members, vendors and buyers to Oban.

The show is held on Sunday February 12 at 10am at Oban Livestock Centre where 106 animals will be exhibited in front of veteran judge Jimmy Laing.

There will be 34 bulls forward with excellent

bloodlines from proven stock, nine yearling bulls who will be eligible for full registration from the age of 14 months of age onwards and 63 females who would complement any pedigree or commercial herd and would provide an excellent foundation on which to base a new fold of Highland Cattle.

The Highland Cattle Society is conscious that the enthusiastic young stock men and women are the future of our breed and a young handlers' class will be held prior to the female championship class.

This year the young handlers will be split into two age groups – Under-12 and 12-18 years of age. The senior competitors will battle to win The Woodneuk Cup, presented by William and Margaret Thomson of the Woodneuk Fold, and the juniors will compete for the Thistle Fold Shield, presented by Mrs Annie Perkins of the Thistle Fold.

Judging the young handlers is Miss Helen Laing. Trophies will be presented at the society's dinner and ceilidh at The Royal Hotel on Sunday evening, for which tickets are still available.

The finale of this weekend is the premier sale to be held on Monday February 13 at Oban Livestock Centre, Oban, at 10am.

Buyers from near and far will congregate to bid for their chosen beasts.



126th SPRING SHOW & SALE OF HIGHLAND CATTLE OBAN

Oban Livestock Centre, Oban, PA34 4SD

Show – Sunday 12th February 2017, 10.00am

Sale – Monday 13th February 2017, 10.00am

34 Bulls, 9 Yearling Bulls & 63 Females



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 CASE 795 TRACTOR C/W LOADER - NEW GRAIPE

IMPLEMENT

TRACTOR SCRAPER (2014), HI SPEC 2000 GALLON SLURRY TANKER 800 WIDE FLOATATION TYRES (2011), TAARUP SILO KING DIET FEEDER DUO 14 CU (2009)
 LELY FRONT MOWER CONDITIONER - 2.8M (2013)
 LELY MOWER CONDITIONER - 2.8M (2012)
 MARSHALL 11 TONNE SILAGE TRAILER (2005)
 TEAGLE FERTILIZER SPREADER (3 YEARS OLD)
 JARMET SPRAYER 800 LITRES (3 YEARS OLD)
 WEST DUNG SPREADER (NEW ROTOR 4 YEARS OLD)
 REDROCK BUCKRAKE (2006), RECO C230 ROTOVATOR - 2.3M (2009),
 MALGAR SLURRY PUMP, FRASER 5 TON TRAILER, FLAT TRAILER
 HERRON FEED TRAILER, 9 FT FLEMING TOPPER
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INPUTS WELCOME PLEASE CONTACT JIM BENNET 07775 754885
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Management to buy United Auctions

A MANAGEMENT consortium has agreed terms to acquire the entire issued share capital of United Auctions, Scotland's leading livestock auctioneers, for an undisclosed sum.

The deal includes all auction markets within the group, including the property holding at Stirling Agricultural Centre.

The seven-strong team – comprising George Purves, John Roberts, Christopher Sharp and Donald Young, backed by fellow directors David Brown, Donald Morrison and Matt Stevenson – assuming operational responsibility for the business was announced in August 2016 as part of the group's succession planning programme.

George Purves, managing director of United Auctions, said: 'This is a big step in the evolution

and continued planned progression of the company and we are deeply proud to be sharing the responsibility of taking the business forward for the next generation.'

Former owners Robin Tough, Neil McLean and David Leggat, who stood down from the management team in December, will each continue to have non-executive, advisory roles with the company.

Outgoing executive chairman David Leggat said: 'We feel that this is the right time for us to take a step back and allow the next generation to take the business forward. We have the utmost faith and belief that the next team will continue to build upon the foundations and success the business has had to date.'

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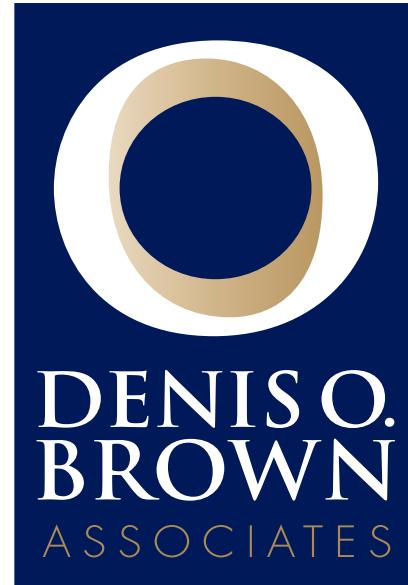


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With stunning views across the Sound of Jura, the small grassy area of foreshore near

BY COLIN CAMERON
editor@aylshireadvertiser.co.uk

Tayvallich has long been a popular and well used area for visitors and locals to enjoy.

Now its future has been secured following

its successful purchase by Tayvallich Community Company.

The open area of grassland between the road and the beach at Carsaig has been used

for as long as anyone can remember for relaxation, picnics and wild camping. At one time it was also the scene of the annual Tayvallich Weekend, full of sports activities and fun. It has been such a favourite spot that bench seats have periodically been placed here by families in memory of departed loved ones. Part of the area also forms a vital bus turning area for the scheduled daily service to Lochgilphead.

Future

The green's future became uncertain when, in late 2016, Carsaig Estate was put up for sale in various lots, one of which was Carsaig Green.

Community company director Kevin Williams said: 'There were fears that, following its sale, the green would be enclosed by the new owners preventing the traditional free access.'

Such was the strength of feeling that a public meeting was held on November 1 last year, at which the 71 villagers present decided unanimously to seek to purchase the land on behalf of the community. It was agreed that the best organisation to pursue this would be the Tayval-

lich Community Company, which was set up around five years ago to purchase the village shop and coffee shop when it was threatened with closure. Under the chairmanship of Peter Burrell, the company sought pledges from the community and beyond with a view to negotiating with the vendors of Carsaig Green.

In the event, more than £20,000 was pledged by members of the public.

Kevin continued:

'The response to the pledges was outstanding, and though the owners declined to negotiate privately on the matter, Tayvallich Community Company was finally able to

make a substantial offer for the land when the sale went to a closing date on November 24. In the event the offer was accepted and, to mark this, a celebratory party and barbecue was held on the green at the winter solstice on December 21.'

The entry date is today, February 10, when the land will formally pass into community ownership.

'We want it to continue to be used as before,' added Kevin, 'as an area for people to visit and enjoy.'

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Tayvallich locals join community company directors and canine companions to celebrate the purchase of Carsaig Green. 06_a06carsaig02

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Pupils recite Burns poetry.



Miss Rona with the haggis.

Minard primary pupils celebrate the Bard

**By P J Cogan, P7,
Minard Primary
School**

A HIGHLY enjoyable Burns supper was held at Furnace Primary on Wednesday January 25 with all the Minard and Furnace pupils and staff.

Lots of parents and members of the community came along to celebrate with us too.

All the pupils were involved in one way or another. P.J and Marie from Furnace were the MCs for the afternoon. The chair of our parent council, Mrs Hay, gave us a rendition of *Willie Wassel*. Tyler and Antoni said The Sel-

kirk Grace, all the boys gave the Toast to the Lassies – we were allowed to be a wee bit cheeky – and the girls gave a Reply to the Lads.

Jessica, Jack and Sandy recited the poem *A Dug*, the P6 and P7 pupils recited Address to the Haggis and Chloe gave the vote of thanks.

We finished with *Auld Lang Syne* accompanied by Wilf Stout on the piano.

Huge thanks to Miss Rhona for the fantastic haggis, neeps and tatties, and thanks to everyone who came along.

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THE BRIDE GUIDE

Despite the stresses and financial strains that the current economic climate has brought us in recent years, there is one major life event in which people are still happy to spend money – a wedding. The UK's most popular wedding website hitched.co.uk surveyed thousands of newlywed couples last year to reveal an industry worth £10 billion. According to *Brides Magazine*, the average figure for the cost of a UK wedding is a whopping £24,000.

But remember, this is just the average cost, not a target for what you should splash out – many people spend less (or more). Almost a quarter of people surveyed spent less than £5,000 on their wedding. This just goes to show the vast differences in budgets – which means there is no one-size-fits all solution. When it comes down to it, it is a lot of money to spend on a single day, but totally worth the lifetime of memories you will have from it!



Highland romance

ON THE beautiful west coast of Scotland, couples are spoiled for choice when it comes to fabulous wedding venues. Each year, more than 1,000 lucky couples choose the West Coast for their special day, and since there are no residential qualifications for getting married in Scotland, it is a popular wedding destination for people from all over the world.

According to the Provost of Argyll and Bute, Councillor Len Scouller, anyone choosing to have their wedding here is assured of the warmest of welcomes.

'Whether you already stay in the area or are thinking about coming here for your big day, you can rest assured that you will find the ideal location for your ceremony,' he said. 'We have romantic old castles, breathtaking mountains, beautiful lochs, thousands of miles of stunning coastline, sunny sandy beaches, and

much more.'

Couples can opt for a religious or civil ceremony that is conducted by an authorised or assistant registrar. Either way, you will need to contact the Argyll Bute registrar's office to complete the necessary paperwork. Marriage notice forms can be downloaded from the registrar's office, and should be submitted at least six to eight weeks before the proposed wedding date. The sooner you book, the more likely you will be able to get your preferred date, as there are a limited number of registrars available, especially on weekends.

'The couples who entrust us with their special occasions always remark on how warm, friendly and helpful our registrars are', Councillor Scouller said. 'Their dedication and commitment, combined with the plethora of perfect locations, makes for a truly memorable day. Argyll and Bute

really can offer it all – come and visit us, and see for yourself.'

Many venues are licensed, meaning they are pre-approved by the council. Licensed venues, whether a hotel, castle or garden, usually offer total wedding packages, so can be an excellent choice for couples who prefer to have all the details taken care of by a knowledgeable and professional staff. In addition, there are many experienced florists, jewellers, outfitters and caterers in the area that can take care of everything you need.

DIY weddings at alternative locations, such as a beach, a loch side or a barn are also a popular option; however, the registrar will have to visit the venue beforehand and approve it.

Outdoor weddings are very popular, especially May through August when the weather is at its best, but Scotland's variable

climate necessitates a wet weather alternative- registrars are not authorised to conduct weddings during inclement conditions. This is where a licensed venue can come in handy, as they often have both an outdoor and indoor location, so there is no panic if the skies cloud up on the big day.

Engaged couples can find out more on Argyll Bute Council's website at argyll-bute.gov.uk, or contact the register directly at registrars@argyll-bute.gov.uk. Check out their online Civil Ceremonies guide, which is packed with information, venues and ideas for the perfect wedding day.

Historic wedding

The West Coast boasts dozens of castles, manor houses, chapels, abbeys and cathedrals that will transport the happy couple and their guests into a fable as king and queen of their own castle. Even picturesque

ruins or hill forts can provide a storybook backdrop for that special day. For those with a sense of whimsy and drama, everyone can turn out in ancient Viking or Medieval dress- how fun!

Country wedding

Pastoral cottages offer an intimate wedding experience, complete with accommodations for all the guests and home cooked fare. For an epic affair with hundreds of guests, consider a barn dance wedding- add hay bale seating, fairy lights and a horse drawn carriage for a rustic atmosphere.

Island wedding

Whisk guests off to one of the islands for a destination wedding, where scenic hills provide a picture-perfect backdrop against the stunning coastlines. The guests will get to enjoy an exotic holiday

before or after the big event.

Outdoor wedding

Get married on the high seas in a chartered boat, or arrive at a loch side ceremony in a rowboat. Or choose one of the west coast's many gorgeous gardens, and tie the knot amongst a fragrant profusion of rhododendron and rose blossoms. Barefoot seaside weddings are also very popular, given the plethora of sugary beaches here.

Theme weddings

Highland-themed affairs are, of course, a popular choice, especially for brides or grooms with ancestral connections to the area. A ceilidh dance is a must for a traditional Highland fling, with the couple and guests twirling and leaping into the wee hours as the natives have done for generations. A whisky-themed wedding at a distillery is another very Scottish option for a memorable day.

See The Bride Guide Part Two (next week) for church wedding inspiration!

WYVEX MEDIA PRESENTS...

The Oban Times
WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Highland Wedding Show

Are you planning a wedding?

Brides, Grooms and their families are invited to this fabulous free event to meet, greet and discuss all things wedding-themed with local specialists. Our visitors can look forward to a glass of fizz on arrival, goodie bag, bridal fashion show, beauty tips and advice and a prize draw not to be missed!

Sunday 2nd April
11am - 5pm.
Corran Halls, Oban



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	BUDGET	ESTIMATE	AMOUNT SPENT	COMPANY
PLANNING				
Wedding planner/coordinator				
Bridal binder/planning book				
Wedding inspiration magazines				
TOTAL				
STATIONERY				
Invitations				
Save the date cards				
Reply cards				
Thank you cards				
Postage				
Ceremony programme				
Reception menu cards				
Place cards				
Guest book & pen				
Map & directions				
Seating plan display				
Other				
TOTAL				
PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO				
Engagement photography				
Wedding photography				
Videography				
Photo prints for bride & groom				
Photo prints for				
thank you card enclosures				
Photo album(s) for bride & groom				
Photo album(s) for parents				
Other				
TOTAL				
BRIDAL ATTIRE				
Wedding dress				
Wedding dress alterations				
Veil/headpiece				
Jewellery and/or accessories				
Shoes				
Garter				
Lingerie and hosiery				
Manicure and/or pedicure				
Hair styling				
Makeup				
Going away outfit/wardrobe change				
Other				
TOTAL				
GROOM'S ATTIRE				
Tuxedo or suit				
Tie or bowtie				
Accessories (watch, cufflinks)				
Other				
TOTAL				
FLORAL				
Bridal bouquet				
Bridesmaids bouquet				
Groom's button-hole				
Groomsmen button-hole				
Parental button-hole/corsages				
Flower girl petals/bouquet				
Ring bearer button-hole				
Altar arrangements				
Reception table arrangements				
Cake table arrangements				
Head table arrangements				

WYVEX MEDIA PRESENTS...

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**Highland
Wedding Show**

Sunday 2nd April 11am - 5pm. Corran Halls, Oban

Are you
wedding
special
BOOK
STA

	BUDGET	ESTIMATE	AMOUNT SPENT	COMPANY
Toss bouquet				
Deliver and set-up				
Other				
TOTAL				
WEDDING RINGS				
Bride's ring				
Groom's ring				
TOTAL				
CEREMONY				
Marriage license				
Church/venue fee				
Officiant fee/church donation				
Ring pillow				
Ceremony music/musician				
Other				
TOTAL				
TRANSPORTATION				
Car rental for bride & groom				
Car rental for bridal party				
Transport for out-of-town guests				
Car decorations				
Fuel				
Taxi services				
Other				
TOTAL				
RECEPTION				
Venue hire				
Table and chair hire				
Reception meal and service				
Room decor				
Wine/Fizz				
Non-alcoholic beverages				
Cake				
Cake serving set				
Cake topper				
Late night snack/buffet				
Reception musician,				
DJ and/or entertainment				
Dance floor sound system				
Wedding favours/giveaway				
Lighting				
Special occasion permit				
Liability insurance				
Decorations				
Centerpieces				
Other				
TOTAL				
FAVOURS & GIFTS				
Bridesmaid gifts				
Groomsmen gifts				
Ring bearer gifts				
Flower girl gifts				
Other				
TOTAL				
OTHER				
Rehearsal dinner				
Hotel accommodation				
Hen night				
Stag night				
TOTAL				

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Please get in touch with Nicky on 01631 568000.
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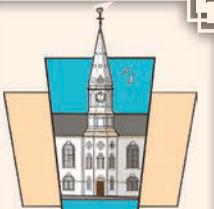
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Photo: LJF Photography

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Oban Times Highland Wedding Show on Sunday 2nd April.**

Sparkling outcome for 'tea' to raise funding for Bloodwise and Maggie's

THERE was a nasty rumour going round that the promise of a glass or two of Prosecco might have had something to do with it, but Lochgilphead Parish Church Hall was jam-packed for a special charity event.

In truth, the reason people came from near and far was in support of two causes close to the heart of a well-known Lochgilphead woman.

Now settled in Edinburgh, Aileen Lamb is an ambassador for Bloodwise, the main UK charity supporting

people with all of the 137 identified blood cancers, including leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

Aileen, 44, arranged the Prosecco afternoon tea on Saturday February 4 not only to raise cash for Bloodwise but also for Maggie's Centres, a service offering free practical and emotional support and advice to people affected by cancer, and their families.

Aileen explained: 'Both of these charities have been fundamental in my journey since being diagnosed with

an aggressive blood cancer, acute myeloid leukemia in September 2015. I was unwell for only a couple of weeks before receiving the shock diagnosis of leukemia. I underwent four rounds of intensive chemotherapy, spending almost three months in isolation due to high risk of infection, which was successful.

'Late in 2015, I was told that my best chance of a lasting cure was a stem cell transplant using a donation from someone matched with me. An

18-year-old UK male – that's all I know about my donor – selflessly provided me with that chance, and on February 19 last year I underwent a stem cell transplant and began my new chance of life.

'Without the research undertaken by Bloodwise, the emotional support provided by Maggie's and the unfailing love and encouragement of my family and friends I would potentially have had a very different outcome to the one I have today.'

Aileen is now back



A group of very happy Mid Argyll ladies enjoy their afternoon supporting charity. 06_a06bloodwise02

working in her job with Scottish Enterprise, promoting Scotland's tourism industry.

'After 12 months' leave and a phased re-

turn process, I'm now working full-time,' Aileen said. 'I am now able to travel again; I've been in Spain, will shortly travel to the USA and

Africa, and have many other plans.'

She added: 'Fundraising for these two charities allows recipients like me to give something back so that others who will follow in our footsteps can have the same amazing care and support we had.'

Helping on the day to raise the grand total of £1,330 were, among others, were Margaret MacDougall, Shona MacDougall, June Graham, Eilidh Graham, Kay McGhee and Lindsay Caulfield.

'Thanks to everyone who helped make the day such an enjoyable one,' Aileen concluded.



Aileen MacDougall, centre, with friends from Oban, Isabel Gibson and Fiona Campbell. 06_a06bloodwise03



Aileen's mum Margaret sells raffle tickets with hard working helper Eilidh Graham. 06_a06bloodwise04



Cheers! Anne MacNicol and Moira Shaw enjoy their afternoon. 06_a06bloodwise01

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Mains

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Planning System Consultation 'Step In The Right Direction' - SPF

A CONSULTATION on proposals to reform Scotland's planning system is a "step in the right direction", according to the Scottish Property Federation (SPF).

Housing Minister Kevin Stewart recently launched a consultation paper which sets out 20 proposals to revamp the system.

David Melhuish, director of the SPF, said the property industry needs the planning system to 'show strong leadership, support appropriate development and welcome new investment in our built environment'.

He continued: 'The launch of the consultation is a welcome step in the direction of giving our planning service a platform for improvement.'

The property industry is increasingly reliant on global capital and if we are to drive local economic growth, jobs and investment we must have strong public leadership and an efficient and aspirational planning service.

The recent set of quarterly statistics published by the Scottish Government demon-

strated a notable trend of reducing numbers of major planning determinations that continue to take longer to achieve.

'We need the planning system to show strong leadership, support appropriate development and welcome new investment in our built environment.'

In addition, Mr Melhuish said the SPF welcomes and supports a 'more aspirational and visionary future role for the planning service'.

Mr Melhuish said: 'The development in-

dustry fully supports the aspirations expressed in the consultation paper on co-ordination of investment programmes and working with existing agencies and is keenly interested in seeing the recommendations of the Independent Panel of the need for an Infrastructure Agency and an Infrastructure Fund taken forward.

'This should offer the opportunity of greatly improved infrastructure delivery that will unlock development while at the same time retaining the viability of development projects.'

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Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



PLANNING

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

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

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

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
17/0022/LIB	Demolition of ruinous stone wall and alterations to ruinous stone wall, erection of bonded warehouse including photovoltaic roof panels	Yard At Springbank Distillery Glebe Street Campbeltown Argyll And Bute PA28 6LR	Burnet Building St John St Campbeltown
17/00178/LIB	External repairs to include; slated roof works, lead work, chimney repairs, stone works, cast iron rainwater goods works, associated timber repairs and rot works. Internal works to include; opening up for access and repair with the reinstatement of finishes on completion (walls and ceilings).	11-15 Longrow South Campbeltown Argyll And Bute PA28 6AH	Burnet Building St John St Campbeltown
17/00212/PPP	Site for the erection of 3 dwellinghouses, formation of vehicular access and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land To The East Of Crinan Cottages Crinan Lochgilphead Argyll And Bute	Mid Argyll Area Office
17/00090/LIB	Installation of 4 replacement windows and one door	The Kennels Hutcheon Road Campbeltown Argyll And Bute PA28 6JR	Burnet Building St John St Campbeltown
17/00073/PP	Retention of modular building for retail use as yacht and boat chandlery	Harbour Masters Office Garval Road Tarbert Argyll And Bute PA29 6TR	Sub Post Office Harbour Street Tarbert
16/03225/PP	Removal of 2 antenna and installation of 3 antenna and ancillary development	Telecommunications Mast Tom Breac Inveraray Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Inveraray

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

Mid Argyll Young Farmers Club

AGM

7.30pm

23rd February

2017

Kilmartin Hotel

All Welcome

Lochgilphead Golf Club

AGM

Tuesday

14th February

2017

7pm for 7.30pm at the Club House

All Welcome

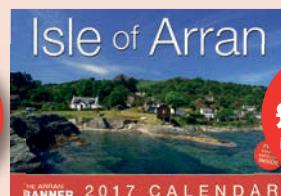
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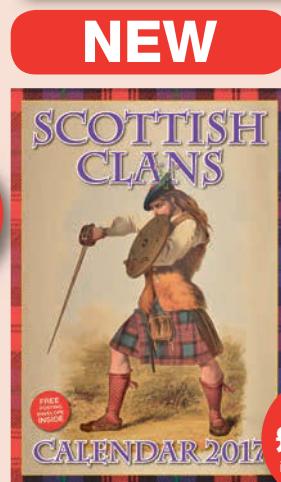
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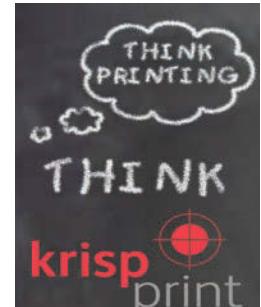
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GONE WITH THE WIND: TIPS FROM IAM ROADSMART

WITH the constant change of weather it's amazing that many of us are able to get from A to B. We would have hoped with a new year and all that Mother Nature might be kind to us but this isn't the case. This week's tips give advice on how to deal with driving and riding in the wind, from IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards Richard Gladman.

If you have to go riding in the wind choose a heavier bike. Heavy bikes with a low centre of gravity will be more stable. A fully faired touring bike will be greater affected by

side winds than a smaller machine where often the greatest surface area is the rider

Look out for those around you. Drivers should try and be aware of cyclists, horse-riders and pedestrians that can be easily impacted by the wind. If you are riding pick your position carefully so that sudden gusts of wind

don't blow you into oncoming traffic or the side of the road; a central position is often best. If you are leaning

winds on your vehicle. The faster you drive or ride the more difficult it becomes to maintain control in cross

Keep both hands on the wheel or handlebars ready to exert maximum grip if required. Make sure you take frequent breaks as it can be very tiring fighting the wind whether on two or four wheels

Plan your journey. Check the weather forecast and try to check traffic updates regularly before you set off. If bridges are closed to high-sided vehicles then take extra care even alter your route to avoid the worst areas

Richard said: "The only thing that is predictable about the British weather is its unpredictability! Slowing it down and looking ahead will serve

you well as you try to negotiate your way safely through the short winter days. If the conditions are extreme do you need to travel, certainly on a motorcycle the wind will definitely spoil the day."

into a crosswind try and anticipate where it will end (often the shelter of a high-sided vehicle will affect your course) and where it is likely to start again; bridges and cuttings on major roads can provide momentary respite but you need to be ready for the gust as you emerge

Keep the speed down to minimise the effect of high

winds and the further you are likely to stray off course. Watch out for high-sided vehicles struggling to maintain control. Use the clues in the scenery ahead – are there trees, open areas, bridges? If yes then anticipate sudden gusts of wind that might force a lorry, bus or trailer to swerve suddenly



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PERSONAL NOTICES



It's our lovely daughter Margaret's 50th birthday on Friday 10th February.

Oh Margaret, I know Friday's going to be a scunner,
Don't you worry dear, you certainly don't look half a hunner!
Love you lots, Mum & Dad
xx xx

Happy Birthday Mum
Hope you have a brilliant day!

Love you, Mum, Christopher, Hannah,
Erin & Josh XXXX

THANK YOU

To all my family, friends and neighbours for cards, flowers, gifts and birthday cake received on my 80th birthday. I had a great day and was overwhelmed.
Many thanks, Agnes xx.

Happy 60th Birthday

Sarah!

Love,
Rab xx



HAMISH TAYLOR

Would like to thank family, friends and "The Heidbangers" for the cards, gifts and telephone calls received while in hospital and since coming home. All very much appreciated.

Happy 60th Birthday

Sarah!
Love, Isobel & Judges



Thank You

To all my family, friends and neighbours for the lovely cards, gifts and beautiful flowers received on the occasion of my 80th birthday. It's very much appreciated.

Mary Clark.



ANNOUNCEMENT

DUNKLEY – LEMMON

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Arran Charles Dunkley, son of William and Victoria Dunkley, Crinan, to Caitlin Margaret Lemmon, daughter of Craig and Christine Lemmon, Port Ann.



Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Sheddell



WHEN I was a child my dad delighted in telling me about nature.

We spent my childhood summers in Millport and I loved it.

There was total freedom to explore that lovely wee island, climb the hills, cycle round the island, walk the beaches and chase the waves.

Every morning before breakfast my folks and I walked along past Keppel Pier to the Wishing Well where we tossed coins into that accepting water and made a wish.

Our golden Cocker Spaniel, Blaze, sniffed every blade of grass and chased every rabbit that passed his nose.

He never did catch one, though I suspected in his gentleness, he actually didn't want to harm anything in this perfect world.

We used to cuddle in rock pools and I was enchanted when a wonderful German professor of marine biology came to stay on the island.

I devoured the information he shared with me and he never tired of my questions.

There was a world of wonder beneath every rock and I still think of the words of George Macleod: 'Turn but a stone and an angel moves.'

We peeked in bushes quietly and whispered of the beauty of bird eggs.

At night, stars and planets danced in dark skies and occasionally a shooting star would streak across the heavens, much to my excitement.

From the micro to the macro, we live in a world of wonder.

Many angels have enchanted me since these early days and I have been blessed to share their company on occasion.

But still I remember the wise words of my dad when he saw the wonder in my eyes and told me wisely: 'Look, learn and leave.'

LOCHGILPHEAD

Tales for a dark night

LOCHGILPHEAD Library will host an evening of storytelling with Patsy Dyer on Tuesday February 28.

Patsy, who has been a writer and storyteller for 20 years, will share eerie and supernatural stories from around the world.

For more information and to reserve a seat, contact Lochgilphead Library.

HELENSBURGH

Regeneration work begins

WORK to regenerate Hermitage Park in Helensburgh starts today, Friday February 10.

The £3.3 million project includes a new pavilion; a fountain plaza; conservation of the war memorial; new paths and lights and a children's play area.

Advertiser newsdesk
01546 602345



Stewart Laing, Jim McEwan, Andrew Laing and Scott Laing toast the future.

Photo: Ralph Dunning.

Distiller tempted out of retirement

WORLD-renowned whisky distiller Jim McEwan has been appointed production director of Ardnahoe Distillery on Islay - 18 months after he retired.

The Islay-born whisky industry icon, who has 53 years' experience under his belt, has been hired by Hunter Laing & Co, the family-run Glasgow whisky company behind the first distillery to be built on Islay for more than a decade.

Ardnahoe is being built on the north-east coast of Islay and will become the ninth distillery on the island. It expects to start distilling whisky in early 2018.

As production director at Ardnahoe Distillery, McEwan is playing a pivotal role, from shaping its design and installing his preferred pieces of distilling equipment, to fine-tuning the production processes and selecting casks.

Prodigious career

McEwan retired from the whisky industry in July 2015 after a prodigious career that began in 1963.

Reflecting on his decision to come out of retirement, McEwan said: 'I had intended to ride off into the sunset, but I've known Stewart for years and

have always been impressed with Hunter Laing whisky.

'Then I visited the distillery site and it absolutely blew me away. It's an incredible spot up on a hill, overlooking the Sound of Islay out to Mull and across to Jura.'

'It felt as though the stars were aligning. The amazing location, my history with Islay, my relationship with the Laing family, their passion for the project, plus my chance to get involved with the design of the distillery for the first time in my career all made it feel it was meant to happen.'

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Argyll athletes take on the nation

YOUNG athletes from Mid Argyll travelled to Glasgow to compete against more than 100 other teams from all over Scotland in a national competition at the Emirates Arena.

Mid Argyll Athletics Club entered two girls teams and one boys team in the National Under 12s Superteams competition on Sunday January 5.

The boys team - Murray MacDonald from Lochgilphead, Callum Green from Ardrishaig, Keiran Blair from Tarbert and Roan McVicar from Tighnabruaich - finished 29th overall

out of 51 teams. Murray was the top Mid Argyll athlete with an individual points score of 50, which was only surpassed by another three boys out of a total of 204 boys.

Murray ran the 60 metres in 9.5 seconds, then recorded 3.71 metres in the long jump and rounded off an outstanding performance with 6.38 metres in the shot putt.

Impressed

Keiran impressed with 60 metres in 10.1 and Roan was only a fraction slower in 10.2 seconds.

The girls teams fin-

ished equal on points which was unexpected but well done to the younger B team, led by Eleanor Dale from Ardrishaig who impressed in the long jump clearing 3.02 metres.

The other team members were Beth Johnstone from Tarbert, Sara Bakali of Inveraray and Ruby Dunlop from Ardrishaig.

Rose MacCallum from Kilmartin was the top athlete in the A team with 10.4 in the 60 metres, 3 metres in the long jump and an impressive 5.01 metres in the shot putt.

The other girls in the A team were Holly Gilthorpe from Lochgilphead, Erin Naisby from Inveraray and Maisie Gilmour from Ardrishaig.

The boys contest was won by Harmeny AC from Edinburgh and the girls contest by Inverness Harriers.

Bill McCallum, of Mid Argyll Athletics Club, commented: 'This national competition was a great experience, not just for the young athletes competing in the big arena, but also for the parents who provided transport on the day.'



Girls team A: Maisie Gilmour, Rose MacCallum, Erin Naisby and Holly Gilthorpe.



Girls team B: Eleanor Dale, Ruby Dunlop, Beth Johnstone and Sara Bakali.



Boys team: Murray MacDonald, Keiran Blair, Roan McVicar and Callum Green made up the boys team.

Sports club lottery draws

NUMBERS drawn in the Tarbert Football Club lottery on Monday were 4, 6 and 18. There were no winning tickets so the jackpot next week will be £400.

Also drawn on Monday, the Kilmory Camanachd Club lottery draw produced no winner. The winning numbers were 6, 14 and 16 and next week's prize will be £400.

In the Inveraray Shinty Club lottery, the numbers were 15, 16 and 17. There were no winners so next week's jackpot will be £1,100.

Record-breaking swimmers

IT WAS all about new records and personal bests at the Dolphins' first time trials of 2017.

Held at MacPool, Lochgilphead, on Thursday January 26, the trials featured 40m freestyle, backcrawl, breaststroke and butterfly swims and 100m individual medley swims.

The junior group clocked up 80 per cent personal best swim times, with Cara Bangahan and Tom West achieving five personal bests each.

While the senior

group finished with 50 per cent personal best swims, Abi Gregory, Ellen Moir, Hannah Young and Johnnie Neville also made five personal best times.

New club records were set on the day by Ruth Neville in the 10/11 years individual medley; Ian Munro in the 14 years and above butterfly and Megan Danson in the 14 years and above 100m individual medley record and the 40m breaststroke record that has been held since 2015.

The current fast-

est swimmers in the club are: Ian Munro - 29.09 seconds for butterfly; Ruby Bosomworth - 31.24 seconds for backcrawl; Megan Danson - 34.29 seconds for breaststroke and 100m individual medley; and the fastest swimmer through the water is Alfie Smith - 25.12 seconds freestyle.

Jacob Potter was awarded the swimmer on the month trophy for achieving three personal best times, taking 15 seconds off his individual medley time,

nine seconds off his butterfly swim and six seconds off his breaststroke.

Head coach Arlene Green said: 'All our swimmers swam amazingly, with some great improvements being made in the individual medley swims.'

Swimmer of the month went to Jacob Potter, right.



Feathers fly at secondary schools badminton championships



EIGHTY pupils from Campbeltown Grammar School, Lochgilphead High School, Oban High School and Dunoon Grammar School took part in this year's Argyll and Bute secondary schools badminton championships held at Atlantis Leisure, Oban, on January 30.

Organised by PE teachers Denise Gemmell and Liz Clunie in partnership with Active Schools, the event was again of a very high standard this year with lots of very close matches.

The pupils were a credit to their schools on and off the court with some fantastic displays of sportsmanship.

The event is used as an area qualifier and some of the winners will get the chance to represent Argyll and

Bute in the Scottish Schools finals in Perth in February.

Under-14: Boys singles - Fergus Carmichael, Oban; runner-up - Innes Lambert, Dunoon. Girls singles - Jane Scott, Campbeltown; runner-up - Lauren MacKinnon Campbeltown. Boys doubles: Stuart Head and Neil McCracken, Oban; runners-up - Innes Lambert and Marcus Keith, Dunoon. Girls doubles: Jane Scott and Jennifer McMurchy, Campbeltown; runners-up - Jessica Ronald and Lauren MacKinnon, Campbeltown.

Mixed doubles: Jennifer McMurchy and Euan Dott Campbeltown; runners-up - Jane Scott and Andrew McMillan, Campbeltown.

Under-16: Boys singles - Angus Neil,



Prize-winners at the Argyll secondary schools badminton championships held recently at Atlantis Leisure, Oban.

Oban; runner-up - Jordan McIlkenny, Dunoon. Girls singles - Kirsty McArthur, Oban; runner-up - Susan Shaw, Campbeltown. Boys doubles - Jordan McIlkenny and Patrick Newton, Dunoon; runners-up -

Dhyllon Cox and Cameron Reid, Campbeltown. Girls doubles - Kirsty McArthur and Grace Thomson, Oban; runners-up - Susan Shaw and Nicola McKerral, Campbeltown.

Mixed doubles - Kirsty McArthur and An-

gus Neil, Oban; runners-up - Susan Shaw and Alasdair Ferguson, Campbeltown.

Under-19: Boys singles - William Goan, Dunoon; runner-up - Connor Adams, Dunoon. Girls singles - Lizzie Stirling,

Dunoon; runner-up - Isla McGarry, Dunoon. Boys doubles - Neil Littlejohn and Alasdair Ferguson, Campbeltown; runners-up - Craig MacCorquodale and Louis Reeves, Oban. Girls doubles - Lizzie Stirling and Isla

McGarry, Dunoon; runners-up - Nicole Thomson and Rhona O'May, Campbeltown. Mixed doubles - Isla McGarry and William Goan, Dunoon; runners-up - Nicole Thomson and Neil Littlejohn, Campbeltown.

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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.



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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

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Star pipped in penalty shoot-out after holding champs to 0-0 draw

RED Star played host to reigning Premier Division champions, East Kilbride FC Amateurs (EK) and, despite exiting the competition, are delighted with how they acquitted themselves on the day.

The match on Saturday February 4 was played at the Lochgilphead High School 3G in windy conditions but, despite the weather, both sides looked to get the ball on the ground as much as possible.

The hosts looked to start the match on the front foot and were able to force a succession of free kicks and corners, with Luke Naisby causing the EK defence some concern with his aerial ability.

At the other end, East Kilbride showed their

Lochgilphead Red Star	0
East Kilbride	0
Jimmy Marshall Cup – 2nd round	

East Kilbride win 3-1 on penalties

quality with some slick passing moves into their forwards. But they found the Star backline of Andy Weir, Luke Naisby, Kyle Selfridge and Connor Crawford difficult to break down.

The Red Star wide men, Ciaran McPhie and Kieran Moore, were causing EK some problems with their direct running and both youngsters went close. First of all, McPhie saw an effort turned wide by the goalkeeper before Moore had an attempt come back off the post.

Into the second half,

Star continued to try to put their premier opponents under pressure and continued to do so without creating as many clear-cut chances as they had in the first half. Manager Dougie Moore also used the second half to give his entire squad a run out and, despite a host of changes, Star continued to try to push for a winner.

The latter stages of the match saw the visitors show more of an attacking threat as they also looked to avoid a penalty shoot-out and, although they forced a number of corners,

they found Kalache to be in solid form in the Star goal and the match ended 0-0.

Unfortunately for Star, the lottery of the penalties went the way of EK, who ran out 3-1 winners. Connor Crawford and Kyle Selfridge saw their efforts saved, before Ciaran McPhie converted his. When Andy Moore's kick was also saved by the keeper, it gave the EK forward the chance to seal the tie and he did so by sending Kalache the wrong way. Despite losing the tie, Star can take heart from this performance and will look to turn their cup displays into a sustained run of league victories – starting tomorrow when they travel to play Port Glasgow OBU.



Andy Moore with a defender in hot pursuit. 06_a06redstar01

Rugby Robbie on the telly

A YOUNG Tarbert rugby player had a prominent role at the Six Nations opener at

Murrayfield. Mid Argyll Rugby Club's Robbie Herd, aged 12, was selected as a mas-



Robbie with Richie Gray as they headed onto the pitch.

cot for the Scotland team in their match against Ireland.

Led out on to the field by Richie Gray, Robbie was ready to make his voice heard as he joined in with the national anthem.

Robbie left Murrayfield not just with a Scotland kit, signed rugby ball, programme and flag but a huge grin on his face after the result (27-22 for the Scots).

Speaking after the big day, Robbie said: 'It was great. I really enjoyed it.'

And Stuart, Robbie's dad, added: 'It was a well organised day and was great to see Robbie being a part of it. And even better – we won.'

Tarbert shooters have a blast

IT WAS a full house of shooters for the February leg of Tarbert Gun Club's winter team shoot at Barmore.

Like all the previous shooting days, the weather was perfect on Sunday February 5. No wind or rain and mild, and it showed with a lot of the scoring.

With just one competition left, the 53 shooters competing were trying hard to increase their points tally.

The high-ribbed Beretta of Andrew MacDonald and Jonathon Gargan were not missing much, with Andrew pipping Jonathon for top gun. The surprise of the day was John Paton's lads in-

flicting their first defeat, depriving Roy Laird's team of a clean sweep of wins in the team event.

Results: Class A – 1

John Paton; 2= Ally McDonnell and Bob McColl. Class B – 1 Andrew MacDonald; 2 Jonathan Gargan; 3 Archie MacGilp.

Class C – 1= Andy Wilson, Jack Campbell and David Thorburn.

Class D – 1= Steve Sloan and Andrew Gall; 3 Shaun Johnson. Class E – 1 Matthew Peden; 2 Stephen MacSporran; 3 Michael Harvey



The winning team: Matthew Peden, John Cupples, John Paton and Andrew MacDonald. Not in the picture was Archie MacGilp.

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