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Turning point for Mid Argyll?

REPORT By COLIN CAMERON
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MUCH-NEEDED public money is heading in the direction of Mid Argyll.

The announcement of a £3 million investment in the region was one ray of sunshine among a mixed budget agreed last Thursday at Argyll and Bute Council's Kilmory headquarters.

The Mid Argyll area has had to stand by and watch as other parts of the local authority area have benefited from investment in recent years, but last week the council announced an allocation of £3 million 'for regeneration and economic stability on the Lochgilphead and Tarbert areas'.

The budget agreed by councillors was presented by the council administration, and one of its members, Councillor Donnie MacMillan – also vice chair of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands (MAKI) area committee – is hopeful that the news will help breathe new life into communities across Mid Argyll.

'Now this money has been made available we can start developing ideas for projects, likely two or three, which will be able to create jobs and grow the population,' explained Councillor MacMillan.

'Involvement of the community will be key in this. We want projects which are matched to what the community wants. Lochgilphead's front green has been of interest for some time. We will certainly be looking into options to redevelop that area.'

'This is about regenerating towns from the ground up, having a conversation with the community, taking into account ongoing initiatives such as the Crinan Canal design workshop, with everyone working together towards the same outcome – a sustainable economic, social and environmental future for our area.'

Leader of the council's SNP group, Councillor Sandy Taylor, said: 'It was good to see a commitment to future in-



vestment in Mid Argyll (Lochgilphead and Tarbert), something which [Councillors] Anne Horne and myself, Dougie Philand and Donnie MacMillan have been pressing for these past four years and more.

'It has been difficult watching the large sums of expenditure on all the other large towns of Argyll and Bute whilst we watched the 'shine' come off our local towns.

He qualified his sup-

port by adding: 'But we have lost services and jobs, freeing up money for this and other investment.'

Tarbert will also benefit from an investment of £170,000 towards improving the village sports pitch.

These planned investments fall under the new Argyll, Lomond and Islands Rural Regeneration Initiative – also announced at last week's budget meeting – which will encompass all strat-

egies and plans relating to the council's plans to increase the Argyll and Bute population.

The overall council budget, agreed at an occasionally ill-tempered meeting on Thursday February 11, sets out to close a funding gap of £10 million. To meet this, services will be cut and the equivalent of 82 jobs lost, on top of hundreds of voluntary redundancy requests already clogging the in-trays of council chiefs.

Read the full budget story - good and bad - on pages 4 and 5

Hundreds of residents left in dark

SPARKS flew in Lochgilphead last weekend – and it was nothing to do with a closing time stramash in one of the local hosteleries.

The resulting blackout saw hundreds of people left in the dark. **Full story on page 2.**



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Fire cuts off homes and businesses

Blackout as crews battle blaze at electrical substation

HOMES and businesses in Lochgilphead were cut off after a big bang at an electricity substation.

Local people reported hearing 'an explosion' and seeing blue electrical flashes on the night of February 13.

Scottish Fire and Rescue, Police Scotland and Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) were all called to the blaze.

SSE confirmed a fault occurred and a spokesperson said: 'We had around 150 customers off supply but had them all restored by 11.32pm that night. The fault was caused by a small piece of equipment in the substation and we cut power until it was safe.'

Fire crews from Lochgilphead and Tarbert attended after being called out after 8pm and the

first arrived on the scene after just seven minutes. Scottish Fire and Rescue spokesman Mark McGeever said: 'We had a few calls about the electrical fire and people could see blue electrical flashes.'

The local fire crews were able to get the fire under control by isolating it.

Many people reported their power flickering or going off for just a couple of seconds. One person said it was like 'a ghost playing with the electrics.'

The power loss also provided a dramatic ending to a concerto being performed at a classical music concert at Kilmory Council chambers as the place went dark for a few seconds while the musicians played.



Above: Blue flashes and smoke were visible.



Right: Police and fire services were called to the scene.

Police files

Purse theft

A PURSE was stolen from an unattended trolley at Lochgilphead Co-op between 10.10am and 11.10am on February 4.

A 56-year-old woman was traced and charged with the offence. A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

Careless driving

A VEHICLE hit another vehicle which was waiting to turn right on the A816 at Achhabrec Cemetery, Lochgilphead.

The offence happened at 11am on February 10 and the 51-year-old driver was charged, given a £100 fixed penalty and three points on his licence.

Driver injured

AT 12.10PM on February 11, a vehicle struck the rear of a stationary vehicle on the A83 at Furnace.

The 73-year-old driver suffered a leg injury and was later charged and issued with a £100 fixed penalty which also carries three penalty points.

Breach of the peace

POLICE investigated a noise complaint at Oakhill, Tarbert, at 5am on February 13.

A 20-year-old man was issued with a £40 fixed penalty fine for abusive behavior.

Drug possession

AT 5.30AM on February 13, at Oakhill, Tarbert, a 20-year-old man was found in possession of a small quantity of cannabis.

A recorded police warning was issued.

Funding clarification

IN last week's *Advertiser*, it was stated that funding for the MS Centre came from the Alliance, a group of 11 MS charities. Funding, in fact, comes from the Long Term Condition Alliance – which is now, somewhat confusingly, also known as the Alliance. The two organisations are understood to be entirely separate.

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Integrating health and social care in spotlight

BOARD members at NHS Highland are to hold an extraordinary meeting with Argyll and Bute's strategic plan for integrating health and social care top of the agenda.

After holding a consultation it was decided some changes should be made to the draft strategic plan published last year. During this meeting the board will discuss these proposed changes and approve a final draft.

A report on the plan will be given

by Christina West, the chief officer for health and social care.

The final draft will also need to be approved by Argyll and Bute Council and the Integrated Joint Board.

Also on the agenda for the meeting is the Highland Partnership's joint strategic plan.

The meeting will be held at Assynt House, Inverness, on February 23 at 3pm and the meeting is open to the public.

FyneHEAT

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Scottish Salmon director shortlisted

CRAIG Anderson, managing director of the Scottish Salmon Company, has been shortlisted in two categories in this year's Institute of Directors Scotland, Director of the Year Awards.

Craig, who joined the Scottish Salmon Company in 2013, is a finalist in 'Director of the Year of a business with a turnover over £15m', as well as the 'Edinburgh, Lothians and the Borders Director of the Year' award.

The Scottish Salmon Company has marine sites in Loch Fyne, Loch Striven, Gigha and around Mull. The firm operates a main processing centre at Cairndow on Loch Fyne.

The awards celebrate the top business leaders in Scotland and recognise individuals whose creativity, leadership and responsible business practices have led to success for their organisation and the Scottish community.

Humbled

Craig said: 'I am humbled to have been shortlisted for such a prestigious award and to be named alongside such exemplary business figures.'

'The Scottish Salmon Company is really proud of the role it plays in supporting the Scottish economy and the remote and rural communities in which it operates.'

In total, 42 Scottish business leaders have reached the final stages of the competition and will compete across nine main categories and six regional categories.

David Watt, executive director of the Institute of Directors Scotland, said: 'Quality leadership is the very definition of success within our businesses, civic institutions and third sector organisations and the Director of the Year Awards celebrate the very best of Scotland's directors.'

The awards take place at Glasgow's Crowne Plaza Hotel on Thursday March 17.

Librarians removed in budget cuts

EVERY school librarian in Argyll and Bute will be made redundant after Argyll and Bute Council passed the administration's budget.

Despite a campaign against the cuts, which culminated in a petition of more than 770 signatures being given to the council, it will go ahead.

During the planning our future consultation several schools, parent teacher councils and individuals voiced con-

REPORT By EALA MacALISTER
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cerns that it would adversely affect children's education.

It will now be up to individual schools to decide on how and when libraries will be supervised and how books will be checked out and returned, explained a council spokesman.

Children's writer Debi Gliori had backed the campaign in support of

Argyll and Bute School libraries.

She said: 'This is a dreadful cost-cutting exercise.'

'In the same authority as the new trident missiles will be located, it's unbelievable that at one end of Argyll there will be billions spent on weapons of debate-able usefulness and at the other there will be a

clawback of an essential resource which has time and again proven to be of life-changing value. We are living in the age of stupid.'

A spokesperson for national campaign, Save Scotland's School Libraries, said: 'We are utterly astonished that the council is going through with the cuts.'

'The decision from Argyll and Bute Council to remove all 10 school librarians is utterly dis-

graceful. There will be an enormous impact in schools and it is undoubtedly pupils who will suffer most from this outrageous decision.'

'It is completely unfair that the pupils of Argyll and Bute will now be educationally disadvantaged from their peers elsewhere in Scotland.'

'The decision to remove all school librarians yet keep open 43

public conveniences and continue to display hanging baskets throughout the region shows a complete and utter discord between local councillors and their constituents.'

There was some good news for mobile libraries, although the service faces a cut of £50,000.

One mobile library will remain on Islay and Mull and Tiree will have a community library service.

An empty seat for Alasdair

THIS year's Inveraray Highland Games will go ahead without a formal convener in place, following the recent death of Alasdair Chrystal.

The Advertiser understands the decision to leave the seat vacant was taken by the games committee primarily as a mark of respect to Mr Chrystal, who held the position at the time of his passing and was a long-standing supporter of the event.

Mr Chrystal passed away last month after a short illness.

A new convener will be in place before the 2017 games.

A spokesperson for the Inveraray Games committee said: 'Alasdair worked tirelessly for the games and strived to make them better each year during his office for the last 10 years, which he achieved. We miss him greatly.'



Alasdair Chrystal, right, at the opening of the event in 2014 with the Duke of Argyll, Chieftain of Inveraray Games. 06_a30inv18

Classroom spotlight on seafood

PUPILS from Tarbert, Clachan and Skipness primary schools recently found out how seafood is caught and gets to their plates.

There were two workshops for the 35 children during the afternoon. Marine Scotland provided a spread of seafood and explained how the seafood is caught as well as what Marine Scotland does.

Catriona Frankitti from Fish for Health provided a 'Come Dine With Me'



Children learned about seafood.

workshop so children eating fresh seafood is could learn about how good for health.

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Council budget round-up...council budget round-up...council budget round-up

An 'unprecedented challenge' – Walsh

'A GOOD budget, given the circumstances' was how the council leader described the outcome of the 2016/17 budget process, agreed at last Thursday's meeting of Argyll and Bute Council.

Opposition councillors, meanwhile, accused Council Leader, Dick Walsh, of indulging in 'old politics' and 'pulling rabbits out of the hat' in revealing his budget plans only once the budget meeting had begun.

After months of debate, consultation and anxiety over a widely trailed service-slashing budget, council members approved a one-year plan proposed by Councillor Walsh's administration.

In anticipation of having to bridge a funding

gap of around £10 million from a £237 million funding pot for 2016/17, the council initially published a series of around 150 'service choice' options aimed at cutting spending and raising more money for the authority.

In the end, the administration dropped 23 of those savings options, equivalent to £1.4million.

Savings

In place of these measures, Councillor Walsh found £1.7 million-worth of savings from various sources, including councillors' expenses (£150,000 saving), staff travel budgets (£235,000) and vacancy savings (£310,000). The council also predicts an increased income from council tax due to more people pay-

ing the tax (£200,000).

Councillor Dick Walsh said: 'This is a time of unprecedented challenge for local government. Drastically reduced funding means we had a savings target of over £10 million in 2016/17 alone. This means change.'

'Where we have taken savings, we have focused on innovation and efficiency, not least by reducing the elected member budget by £150,000. We will pursue management savings as part of our transformation journey.'

'We are doing all possible to keep unavoidable job losses to a minimum, and will use our tried and tested methods to ensure, as much as we can, that there is a place for everyone who wants to continue working for

Argyll and Bute Council.'

The council confirmed this week that, in addition to 82 redundancies resulting from the approved budget, more than 450 staff members have expressed an interest in voluntary redundancy. A spokesperson for the local authority said: 'We hope that all of those who may be made redundant can take up the posts of those employees wishing to leave voluntarily.'

Councillor Walsh continued: 'Our children and grandchildren deserve the chance many of us have had, to grow up and live their lives here in Argyll and Bute. That needs a vibrant economy.'

'We have ensured therefore that we are in a position to invest in creating economic growth. Our package of measures will see an investment, from our financial reserves and capital funding, of some £75 million, designed to attract more people to live and work here, securing employment and prosperity for our area.'



The Kilmory council chamber ahead of the budget meeting. 06_a08cuts_chamber01

Motions, amendments and openness – the reaction

OPPOSITION council groups tabled two alternative budget proposals at Thursday's meeting, both of which were rejected in favour of the administration budget.

The SNP group, led by Sandy Taylor, proposed an amendment calling for greater devolution of spending decisions to local areas through area committees.

The second amendment, from the Reform group led by Michael Breslin, was published online weeks ahead of the budget meeting. In it, the group proposed

greater use of technology in a bid to slash council expenses, and also favoured a delegation of power closer to the people.

In the end, the administration motion received 19 votes; the SNP amendment attracted nine; and there were three votes for the Reform group's amendment.

Following the decision, Councillor Taylor told *The Advertiser*: 'Thousands of people were deeply worried about the administration's proposed cuts in education and community services. Hundreds of council employees feared for their jobs.'

'This went on for months.'

'At the budget meeting, the administration said they never had any intention of making many of the cuts they proposed.'

Reduced

'What the administration budget delivered, was the end of the mobile library services and reduced front-line jobs in our education service, including clerical assistants, librarians and music instructors and reduced school budgets, funding for early years education, for citizen advice services and for community.'

He continued: 'In recent times I have worked

collegiately, openly and collectively with the council leader and deputy leader. This, however, was an example of old politics, of rabbits pulled out of a hat at the eleventh hour.'

'The current administration leadership has to act in a co-operative manner, not just talk about it.'

Argyll First member, Councillor Dougie Philand, said: 'Dick Walsh was always going to produce something nobody had seen. It's not really a way to work.'

'I think we could have come up with something a lot better in a difficult situation if the administration had worked better with other groups.'

'As it was, I don't think we got a proper opportunity to question the administration's budget, having just been handed it during the meeting.'

There needs to be some serious re-think by the SNP group about some form of opposition to Dick Walsh and his Lib Dem/Tory/independent administration,' was the view of Councillor Breslin.

He added: 'I feel for the staff losing their jobs and for those who, for many weeks, were left with the stress and worry over losing theirs only to find the threat lifted in a cynical show at the budget meeting.'

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GRADUATION



Sisters, Carlyn and Ashleigh MacMillan, graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University, both with BSc 2/1 Hons, Carlyn in Accountancy and Ashleigh in Management. Daughters of Calum and Laura MacMillan, and granddaughters of David and Janet Johnson, and James and the late Teenie MacMillan. Carlyn is now working in Gillilands Chartered Accountants in Glasgow.

Council budget round-up...council budget round-up...council budget round-up

Staff feeling the pressure

TRADE union officials set up shop outside the main entrance at Kilmory from 8.30am on the day of the budget meeting, leaving council members and officers in little doubt of the strength of feeling.

Elaine Dougall, a Glasgow-based equalities officer with the Unite union, said: 'I'm here to show strength and solidarity with Argyll and Bute Council workers. We want no redundancies, no job losses and first-class services for first-class workers, for first-class communities.'

'This budget process should be about using imaginative ways to save money and to mitigate against redundancies.

For us it's about making sure that, whatever happens, front line workers are not left bearing the load.

She added: 'Morale in the workplace is really low. I think a lot of staff members still don't realise what's about to happen, not thinking about the big picture. The union, however, has been trying to raise awareness through community activity.'

'We've seen a massive upturn in our members presenting to us with poor mental health, stress and anxiety. This is not just down to workplace issues, but the stresses at work do play a big part.'

'We are at our work

longer than we're with our loved ones, so we want to make sure that every workplace is healthy, safe and that employees' welfare is being protected.'

In a statement, Argyll and Bute Council outlined its position: 'The council has a range of support methods in place, which includes a free and confidential counselling service, training sessions on recognising and coping with the symptoms of stress, a dedicated team to advise on redundancy and provide pension quotes, an advice line and individual HR officers to provide advice on procedures and general support to staff.'



One of the union protestors, Elaine Dougall of Unite, outside Kilmory last Thursday. 06_a08cuts_union01

Selected items from the 2016/17 Argyll and Bute Council budget:

Funding to early year providers – £553,000 cut.

Removal of school librarians – £191,000 cut with 10 job losses.

Year round parking charges introduced, and charges increased to £1. Christmas lights fund-

ing coming from the revenue budget for the next three years.

Three-weekly bin collection for general waste – £457,000 saving. Burial charges rise

from £488 to £604, and cremation charges by 14 per cent.

Remove rose and shrub beds – £58,000 cut.

Less frequent grass cutting – £18,000 cut.

Maintenance of schools libraries and social work premises to be prioritised – £123,000 cut.

Non-statutory music tuition fees to rise by 44 per cent.

Energy saving street lighting introduction – £25,000 saving.

Remove budget for footpath maintenance – £5,000 cut.

Also within the budget, £60million will be invested in roads, schools and historic buildings over the next two years, as well as an additional £12.5million to support regeneration, business growth and inward investment through the newly-created Argyll, Lomond and the Isles Rural Regeneration Initiative.



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THERE was much talk about 'working together' in the council chamber last week.

Looking on, and remembering other budget meetings over the past decade, the Argyllshire Advertiser can exclusively reveal that this is simply not going to happen.

Old habits die hard and, sad to report, there were those in the chamber who could not resist the odd lengthy political speech, point-scoring jibes or plain old insult-throwing.

And once again, as many predicted, the council leader out-foxed and blindsided his opponents in the chamber, pulling yet another of his famous financial rabbits out of his political hat.

While all this fun and games has been going on at Kilmory, there has been needless worry for council staff and the public.

During the 'service choices' process, the need for severe cuts and increased charges was repeatedly emphasised – with consequential job losses.

Right up until the start of last Thursday's Kilmory meeting, this threat was hanging over staff and the public.

Then, miraculously, a whole chunk of threatened cuts to services and jobs disappeared from the administration's proposals as they were unveiled.

This allowed claims of 'saving services and securing jobs'.

Was this a case of that old political tactic of 'tell them it's going to be worse than it's going to be, then when it's not as bad claim it as a triumph'?

We'll never know, but as for working together – forget it until we have a new set of faces around the council chamber.

Or unless they see a worthwhile reason to stop the petty bickering.

who's who at your advertiser

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opinion

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l LETTER

EU referendum

Sir,
I am very disappointed that the SNP Scottish Government has such low regard for the people of Scotland. They don't believe that we can cope with two different elections that may be six to seven weeks apart. They seem to indicate that we can't work out the different issues for both events.

The first will be to elect new members to the Scottish Parliament on May 5. The second will be the referendum on in or out of the European Union (EU), probably in late June. Two very separate things. There is no need to delay the vote on the EU and further compromise our economy any longer than necessary.

So please respect the people of Scotland by not insulting our intelligence by asking for any delay in the EU vote.

Ursula Craig
Cove

Conservatives beating Labour

Sir,
The Scottish Conservatives are beating Labour in Scotland in the latest YouGov survey putting Labour at third place in Scotland.

With the Labour Party both in Scotland and the rest of the UK falling to pieces and fighting with itself, more and more voters north of the border are rightfully turning to the Scottish Conservatives as the true Unionist party. Labour have continued to betray Labour supporting unionists by allowing Labour MSPs and councillors a free vote on independence in a future referendum, Labour have also betrayed our military tra-

dition and risk our security by voting to scrap trident. The Scottish Conservatives have more and more former Labour supporters joining every day and I would encourage others to do the same. Don't waste your vote on Labour and their republican leader Jeremy Corbyn, instead help protect our union and our trident deterrent by voting for the Scottish Conservative and Unionist party. While Labour these days seem ashamed of their part in protecting our union during the Better Together campaign the Scottish Conservatives are so proud of our unionism that it's in our party name.

Alastair Redman,
Islay

Response to Hilary Taft

Sir,
To answer Hilary Taffs's question (Advertiser Feb 5), the board of NHS Highland is accountable to the SNP Government through the cabinet secretary for health and wellbeing. The chair and each of the non-executive directors are appointed by the cabinet secretary.

The SNP Government sets NHS Highland's budget and the health board is being forced to make cuts of £28 million, about £1 in £20 of their spending. This is obviously extremely worrying.

Also of great concern is that the planned increase in spending on mental health is only £10 million for the whole of Scotland. The share of NHS cash spent on mental health has been falling for years, and this £10 million simply isn't going to deliver the step-change that is so desperately needed.

Another worry is that the number of GP training places filled across Scotland fell from 336 in 2010 to 241 in 2015. Many rural areas already find it difficult to attract GPs. With far fewer being trained and many due to retire during the next few years, we are facing a crisis.

Our MSPs should be raising these issues at Holyrood and demanding action. I certainly would.

Alan Reid,
Dunoon
Lib Dem candidate
for Argyll and Bute

School inspectors

Sir,
Information obtained by my party's spokesperson on young people, Liz Smith MSP, confirms that only 66 school inspectors are now employed across Scotland compared to the 80 who were employed when the SNP first came to power. This will be an issue of real concern to parents across Argyll and Bute and comes on top of the revelation that just 137 of the country's 2,543 schools were inspected last year. This appears to be yet another example of the SNP letting down local parents badly. The Scottish Conservatives have consistently argued that school inspections are extremely important because they provide parents with the necessary information to make informed decisions about the schools in their area. Our forthcoming manifesto will also contain the very positive policy proposal of re-establishing an independent inspectorate, outwith the arms of the Scottish Government, so parents and the community can know with confidence

that inspections are as rigorous as possible and are conducted by a body separate from those who set overall education policy.

Donald Cameron,
Ardrishaig
Conservative candidate
for Argyll and Bute

Life after stroke awards

Sir,
After the devastating moment when a stroke strikes, the healing process can be a labour that takes a lifetime. It takes mettle, tenacity and patience, not only from the survivor but a legion of family, friends, medical professionals to reassemble the fragments of yourself.

The life after stroke awards are an opportunity to recognise the courage of stroke survivors and their supporters everywhere. I would like to urge anyone who knows an undaunted stroke survivor or a remarkable carer to nominate that person for a life after stroke award today.

There are around 121,000 stroke survivors living in Scotland, which means there are a lot of unsung heroes who deserve recognition and celebration. Nominations for the awards are open until April 30 2016. For more information, go to www.stroke.org.uk/lasa.

Andrew Marr,
London

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Personal recollections of Mòd Dalriada

Following last week's news that the Mòd Dalriada was no longer going ahead, Inveraray resident Niall Iain MacLean sent in some of his memories of the Mòd and the people who helped make it a success.



Niall Iain MacLean. 06_a30inv10a

I WAS saddened to read of the end of Mòd Dalriada and felt I would like to tell you of just some of the people who made it quite a musical festival in years gone by.

My mother, Jenny B Currie, Ford, was the first secretary, away back in 1922.

The following year, 1923, she won the Mòd gold medal in Inverness. She also conducted a choir at Ford and was prominent at ceilidhs and concert in Mid Argyll for many years.

She married my father, Neil MacLean, in 1927.

He had won the Mòd gold medal in Glasgow in 1921 and the Oban and Lorne war commemoration medal in 1920, the first ex-serviceman to win this medal, known today as *The Oban Times* medal, The Oban and Lorne Society (Glasgow based) having folded some years ago.

Both became household names in Gaeldom and further afield, but that's another story.

Another great supporter of Mòd Dalriada and friend of my mother's was Madge Campbell

Brown, also a Mòd gold medallist, whose family owned the Argyll Hotel and the Jubilee Hotel in Lochgilphead, as well as, later, the Lochgair Hotel.

The Argyll was sold to the county council and today it is HQ for ACHA.

The Jubilee was named Argyll Hotel and is still with us.

Another Mòd medallist was Hugh McInnes, a Ballachulish man and town clerk of Lochgilphead.

Tutored

I believe he was tutored by both my parents when we lived at Ballymenoch by Kilmartin. He became seriously ill with tuberculosis and was treated at Robroyston Hospital and survived, although his singing career was curtailed.

Belle Campbell, Lochgilphead, who with a group of friends would hold forth in the back room of the Comm of a Saturday night with much singing of Gaelic songs, was a lovely person and won the Oban and Lorne medal in later life.

Today she would have been a contender for the traditional gold medal at the Royal National Mòd, but that competition did not exist then.

Catrina Fair, still with us and singing beautifully, belonged to Skye but lived in Lochgair, married and has lived at Cairnbaan for years.

A Mòd medallist and conductor of Coisir Og Dalriada, she must have memories of Lochgilphead Mòd too.

And Willie Galbraith, Carradale, owner of Auchendarroch estate

and the lodge next door at Ardrishaig, conducted the Ardrishaig Gaelic Choir, whilst Jenny Crawford conducted the Lochgilphead Gaelic Choir – both with considerable success at national Mòds over many years.

I'm sure I'm forgetting many contributors to Mòd Dalriada, not intentionally but age can do this. Some other readers might feel like writing in with their contributions to a way of life sadly passing away completely.



Lochgilphead Gaelic Choir through the years



The Golden Jubilee Programme. a08Mod01



Lochgilphead Gaelic Choir

This photograph of Lochgilphead Gaelic Choir is from the 1950s.

Do you have any memories of Mòd Dalriada you would like to share? Get in touch on 01546 602345 or email editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk.

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Pantomime pranks packed into Clachan Village Hall

MANY a farmer might wish for a cow like the star of this year's Clachan Calamities pantomime which produced milk ready bottled.

The two-person animal also had a tidy line in giving squirry cream ready packaged.

It was all part of the fun in a two-hour-20-minute production of

Jack and the Beanstalk, which played on Friday and Saturday last week with a special preview night on Thursday.

Director Lesley Keen introduced the action by telling the audience: 'If you are looking for trouble you came to the right place.'

Central characters included Margaret Hen-

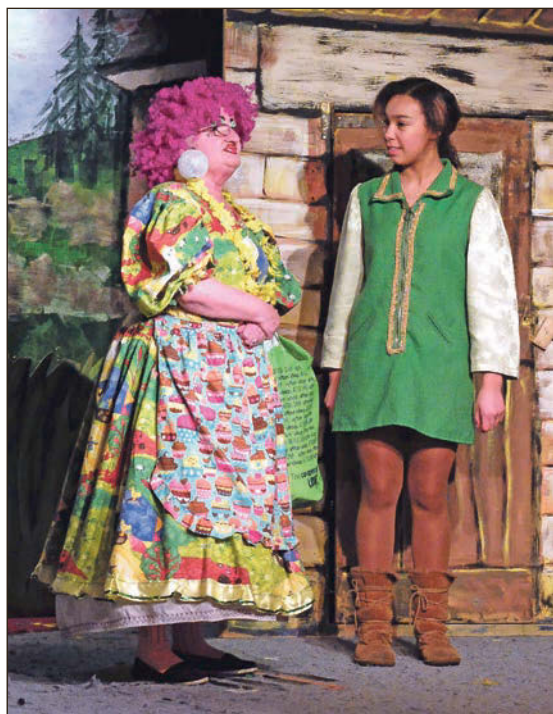
erson as Dame Dottie Trott, who continued the milking theme with the memorable tongue twister: 'If there's one thing that turns Trotty Dotty it's a dirty dairy.'

One of the funniest scenes was a projection of her holiday snaps showing Daisy the cow, who starred as herself being led through the streets of Clachan and into the service station.

None of the stars of the show dominated proceedings and it was clear that everyone had a chance to join in the hilarity including, in good pantomime tradition, plenty of audience participation.

Slapstick abounded, particularly memorable was Viv Watt's fall, in her role as the Queen of Argyll, Queen Davina, which showed plenty of underwear and had the audience in stitches.

In addition to the dairy scenes there were many references to current events including a brief appearance by a David Bowie-fashioned starman.



Dane Dottie and Jack. 25_c07panto100



The opening chorus line. 25_c07panto04

It may not have been intentional to leave radio microphones turned on in the interval but the audience enjoyed hearing a voice say: 'Ok, that's the end of the first half we are getting there.'

The group will perform the play at Tarbert Village Hall tomorrow, February 20, at 7pm.

Trudy and Ali as fairies Blossom and Tiddlytonks.

25_c07panto02



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Members of the twinning group with guests. 08_a08malawi01

Malawi twinning group

A Mid Argyll group, which is twinned with Malawi, held a recent successful coffee morning.

The group is a joint project by Presbyterian churches in Mid Argyll and aims to get to know more about the country and the people there.

As well as home baking there was a display of photos and souvenirs from Malawi which gave the guests an idea of what the country is like.

Members of the twinning group hope to go to Malawi and are asking for donations of old spectacles to take with them.

Janet Jardine, from the twinning group, said: 'On the last visit it was evident just how much people there appreciated getting a pair of glasses to improve their vision.'

Big target

'This time we've set ourselves a big target of 1,000

pairs of glasses. We hope people in the local community can help us get as many glasses as possible.'

Handed in

Any spare glasses can be handed in to the Argyll Book Centre on Lorn Street, Lochgilphead or to any of the churches involved.

Twinning group chairman David Logue said: 'It has much more to do with getting to know Malawi and the peo-

ple there than giving charity although we have donated bibles and are donating more glasses.'

At the coffee morning were Rev Kenneth Ross and Dr Malawi Ngirya.

Rev Ross is a minister who has recently been awarded an OBE for his work for the Scotland - Malawi partnership.

Dr Ngirya is a professor at Glasgow Caledonian University and is a member of the Scotland - Malawi partnership.

Coffee morning for Syrian charity

A COFFEE morning has been held at Lochgilphead's MS Centre for a charity supporting people in Syria.

Hand in Hand For Syria was the chosen charity for the coffee morning held by the McCurry family on February 13.

There was the usual array of home baking and tea to enjoy.

There was a Valentine's theme to some of the fundraising games as well as a nail bar and

face painting. The event was attended by Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara who took his turn taking money at the door.

Queuing

He said: 'I can't believe how busy it is. People were queuing even though there were no more seats left.'

Other fundraising games included a guess-the-name-of-the-teddy - his name was Patches - and finding the right key



The McCurry family with MP Brendan O'Hara and volunteers. 08_a08mscentre03

to win a bottle of prosecco. Hand in Hand for Syria supports people in Syria by distributing humanitarian aid.

It is one of the few charities operating in Syria and it can get aid into hard-to-reach places, like behind front

lines and into besieged cities.

The event raised £700 to help the charity continue to do this.



The kids take a break from dancing. 08_a08ceilidh01

Little ceilidh, big success

MANY pre-school children and their parents enjoyed a mini ceilidh at Lochgilphead community centre.

The event on February 13 was run by children's Gaelic group Little Gaelic Voices, Guthan Beaga, to give the children a chance to hear traditional music and learn some dances.

The music was provided by Tarbert duo Cora Lark, Naomi Stanesby and Naimh MacKaverney, who also play in local traditional band Na Seudan Ur.

The youngsters enjoyed taking to the floor to learn some dances including favourites, the Canadian Barn Dance and Strip the Willow.

Interested

It was hoped this would get the children interested in traditional music and the group would like to hold more musical events in the future.

Guthan Beaga hold weekly bilingual bookbug session for under fives at the Lochgilphead Library on Wednesdays from 10.30am.



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Victoria Hall, Campbeltown

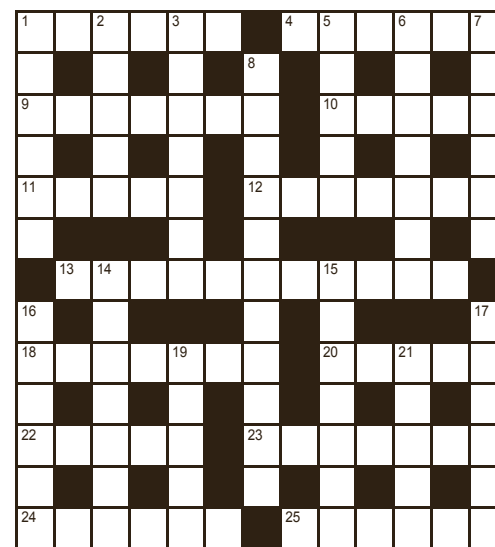
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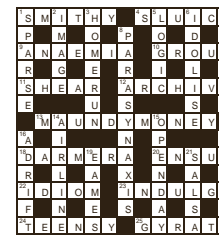
Across

- 1 Decline (6)
- 4 Buy in a hurry (4,2)
- 9 Moan (7)
- 10 Lazy sounding speech (5)
- 11 Rummage (5)
- 12 Floating hazard (7)
- 13 Overcome difficulties with ease (11)
- 18 Old term for one affected by the moon (7)
- 20 Microscopic hairs (5)
- 22 Where mail arrives (2-3)
- 23 Dense bushes (7)
- 24 Draw (6)
- 25 State in Eastern Africa, capital Kampala (6)

Down

- 1 Aspect (6)
- 2 Shake cushion (5)
- 3 Very cold (7)
- 5 Elbow (5)
- 6 Level out (7)
- 7 Soft animal hair (6)
- 8 Give back equally (11)
- 14 Dignify (7)
- 15 Engraved drawing (7)
- 16 Combines three strands (6)
- 17 A repeated slogan (6)
- 19 Poisonous (5)
- 21 Compare (5)

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Shop window for Highland cattle

OBAN played host to the 125th anniversary show and sale of Highland cattle, and the two-day event attracted a significant audience from both the UK and Europe.

Proceedings got under way on a bright, cold Sunday February 14 as exhibitors, enthusiasts and more than a few potential buyers lined the ringside to watch a show of fine quality Highland cattle.

The spring show and sale at Caledonian Marts' Oban Livestock Centre is a highlight of the year for the breed; the show providing an ideal shop window for breeders hoping to sell their cattle for good prices at the following day's sale.

Augmented

Judge Donald MacNaughton of the Rannoch fold cast his steady eye over the beasts

in front of around 25 German buyers, augmented by others from Italy, Denmark and many other European countries. Catherine McKechnie of France Farm, Gartocharn, made a great job of judging the young handlers' competition.

The trophies and prizes were presented at a ceilidh in the Royal Hotel on Sunday night, then it was on to the main event – Monday's sale.

A right royal champion

WINNING the title of overall male champion on Sunday was a two-year-old Highland bull from Her Majesty the Queen's 130-strong fold on the Balmoral Estate.

Coirneal of Balmoral came out on top in a tight contest, with sec-

ond-placed reserve champion going to Campbell of Tilbouries, from Aberdeenshire breeders J and L Fraser.

And it was the reserve champion that secured the day's top price at Monday's sale, as Queenie Strickland

shelled out 9,000 guineas to add this strapping lad to her Cladich fold.

Cameron Ormiston, farm manager at Balmoral, was delighted to take home the laurels for the best male Highlander in Oban – though the bull was shown by Cam-

eron's brother, Fearghus.

Coirneal of Balmoral was male champion at the Stars of the Future competition at Stirling last year and was shown at Oban.

Cameron, also known as 'Dochie', said: 'I've been at Balmoral for nine years, and this is the first time we've produced a bull of our own and brought it here to Oban, so I'm very pleased.'

'We have done very well this year. We've been to nine shows and had Highland cattle champions at them all, including breed and inter-breed winners.'

At the sale, Coirneal of Balmoral sold for 7,000 guineas, purchased by Mr Tom Nelson, Glen-gorm Estate, Mull.



Male champion Coirneal of Balmoral with stockman Fearghus Ormiston, Kath McMahon from sponsors MacPhee and Partners, judge Donald MacNaughton and farm manager Cameron Ormiston.

Day of ups and downs for sale with international flavour

IT WAS a day of highs and lows at Oban's annual spring Highland Cattle auction, when one animal reached 9,000 guineas, but almost a quarter failed to sell.

On Monday, inside Caledonian Mart, cattle breeders who have worked months or years for this one moment guided their hair-brushed beasts around the selling ring. Above them rapid-fire auctioneer Alastair Logan's sharp eye picks out buyers' bids of imperceptible nods and flashes of numbered card.

Behind them, in the vast warren of pens, breeders

of bulls, cows, heifers and steers such as Donald Dempster of Taynuilt's Ichrachan Farm and his daughter Mhairi, carried out final grooms before leading their beasts by nose-rope into the arena.

'A thousand each would be nice,' Donald hoped, 'but it's not a flying trade. Prices are down, and there's a lot of unsold cattle. There's just not a lot of money around. A lot of farmers in Scotland haven't had their single farm payment yet.'

While a German buyer bought one of their yearling heifers, Fraoch, for 800 guineas, the oth-

er, Banarach, was sold to a Dane for 2,000. A surprised Mhairi was trying not to smile in the ring: 'I was so nervous. I'm chuffed. Dad's happy as well.'

After selling their two-year-old heifers, Highland Show prize-winning breeder Alec Smith of Balnabroich near Strathardle wasn't as delighted: 'We sold everything, but prices aren't great. Beef prices are bad. We got what we needed: we're breaking even, but not getting the icing on the cake.'

Highland Cattle Society vice president, Tom

Thomson, added: 'It's been a very successful year for the breed, but we're never pleased. The glass is half-full, and we could do with a top up.'

'The trade has been affected by people not having their single farm payment: only 40 per cent of farmers in Scotland have had 75 per cent of the payment.'

'Overall there's been a lot of interest from abroad because Highland cattle thrive in areas where others won't – many are going to the Alps.'

But it was a local breeder who paid the highest price for the reserve



Archie McArthur with Susan 19th of Ormsary, receiving his prize from Nicky A

Latest in a long

MID ARGYLL was represented at the show and sale, and Ormsary Estate general manager Archie McArthur had a fine selection of cattle in Oban.

Ormsary had a successful couple of days, with in-calf heifer, Susan 19th

of Ormsary, scooping the champion female rosette before going on to make 5,000 guineas through the sale ring on Monday.

Speaking on Sunday, Archie, who looks after the estate for the Lithgow family, said: 'We

have four in-calf heifers here today - three from Ormsary and one, a black heifer, from the Lithgow fold of Inver on the Isle of Jura.

'The winning heifer is one of the Susan family, and is from a champi-



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A feather in Margaret's cap among the cattle

'My sister was a Highland dancer and the feathers were part of her outfit'

SPLENDIDLY coiffured as the beasts were at Sunday's Highland cattle show, Oban Livestock Centre was not, in truth, over-supplied with glamour of the human variety.

This was a cattle showing, not a Paris catwalk. Warm coats, good boots and a bunnet were called for. Sartorial statements were muted – though it has to be said that the Italian contingent could be spotted in the crowd; their jackets matched their trousers.

There was, though, an exception to this somewhat conservative dress code.

Margaret Allan stood out in more ways than one, with her eight-inch long plumage adorning a stylish hat.

'I just decided to wear it because I like it, and it's a bit of fun' said Margaret.

'My sister was a Highland dancer and the feathers were part of her

outfit. They originally belonged, though, to my mother, and I think they came from a black grouse – though it was a long time ago.'

Margaret was at the show to support her two nephews, Cameron (Dochie) and Fearghus Ormiston as they prepared to show Highlanders from the Balmoral Estate, belonging to Her Majesty the Queen.

Nursing sister

Margaret is remembered as a nursing sister in Mid Argyll, who, together with her husband, ran a motorbike business in the area.

Now aged 74, Margaret lives in Lesmahagow and has recently joined a running club in Strathaven. She has been training for 5km runs and clearly has a lust for life as well as an undimmed sense of style.

And she is never one to grouse.



line of winners

on bull we bought here in Oban five years ago for 5,800 guineas, Callum 2nd of Goldenberry.

Bred to survive

Explaining that the heifer's bloodline stretches back to the herd's establishment in 1947, Archie

continued: 'There are about 20 breeding females on Ormsary and about 18 on Jura. The Highlanders on Ormsary are kept very naturally, out on the high ground. We never need to touch their feet and they are bred to survive.'

Archie was keen to give credit to the Ormsary Stockman for the past 18 years, Alan Bosomworth.

'Alan was responsible for bringing out the heifers for the show, said Archie, 'and he's done a great job.'



The future's bright – the future's Highland

THE YOUNG handlers' competition was won by 10-year-old Emily Armstrong from the Isle of Tiree.

Judge Catherine MacKechnie said of her winner: 'She was in here first thing this morning washing and grooming her cattle, and I was impressed by the way she handled her animal. Everyone, though, has done very, very well.'

Emily did a very capable job of han-

dling yearling bull Seamus Dubh of Balemartine round the ring.

In just her third outing as a handler, this was Emily's first win, adding to her second and third places in previous competitions.

Proudly showing off her prize of a grooming kit, Emily told *The Argyllshire Advertiser*: 'I feel happy. I've been doing it for about three years now and I really enjoy it.'

Joining Emily in the ring was her six-year-old sister, Eva. Leading a calf taller than herself, this budding handler made it look easy, and is sure to be vying with her sister for the silverware before too long.

Young handler winner Emily Armstrong with Bron Campbell of sponsors Allflex (centre) and judge Catherine MacKechnie.

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Fun and games as Cairndow earns its charity stripes

MS Centre benefits from annual quiz

GENEROUS quizzers in an Argyll village have raised more than £1,000 for good causes in just a single evening.

The annual Cairndow charity quiz, now in its 16th year, draws people from far and wide to the village hall by the shores of Loch Fyne. Under the firm – but fair – guidance of quizmaster Roddy McDiarmid, 22 tables of four highly knowledgeable quiz enthusiasts set to their task, with suitable lubrication, of course.

Among an astonishing 118 raffle prizes were two Irish-made toy zebras, each worth £250 and kindly donated by neighbours of Roddy in Cairndow.

The event, held last Friday and sponsored by Audi Scotland, had plenty of assistance from co-organiser May MacPherson and many others behind the scenes.

‘There are two reasons I am still doing this,’ said Roddy.

‘I want to make as much money as I possibly can, and I want people to have fun.

After a testing evening, and early morning, of hard thought and almost-as-hard social lubrication, the winning team, from Strachur, comprised John and Celia Fleming, Isobel McGladdery and Alastair Macrae. An Inveraray table captained by Willie Mather came second, with a Lochgilhead team third.

The event raised a total of £1,370 for two beneficiaries. Keeping aside £200 for the St Andrew’s Hospice in Airdrie, the remainder of the cash was donated to the MS Centre in Lochgilhead.

Roddy and May vis-



Presenting the cheque, left to right, Claire Cameron, MS outreach worker; Karen McCurry, MS Centre manager; Diane Frame, deputy manager; Roddy McDiarmid; Maggie Dodd, centre administration assistant; and May McPherson. 06_a08cairndowquiz05



One of the fantastic zebras – earning their stripes raising funds. 06_a08cairndowquiz01

ited Lochgilhead on Monday to present a cheque to MS Centre manager, Karen McCurry, who said: ‘We would like to thank everyone involved in raising this money, particularly in this, our 20th anniversary year.

‘We need to raise 50

per cent of the funding for the centre ourselves, so donations like this one from Cairndow are massive. This money is enough to keep our hyperbaric chamber going for six months, so it is much appreciated.’

But, more importantly, who won the zebras?

Well, the winners wish to remain anonymous, but suffice to say that two well-known forestry contractors now have another, environmentally friendly, way of getting to work if the pick-up lets them down.



Bob Adams gets his priorities right – beer first, quiz second. 06_a08cairndowquiz03



Kick-starting the grey matter are, left to right, Jeannie McKechnie, Laura MacPherson, Irene MacPherson and Diane McNair. 06_a08cairndowquiz02



Set for a good night, left to right, Leon Kobiela, Jana Kobiela, Maggie Adams and Bob Adams. 06_a08cairndowquiz04

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Quintet lights up Kilmory

THIS classical concert, the penultimate in the Mid Argyll Arts Association's winter programme, was given by the Northern Lights Wind Quintet – one each of flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon – in the council chambers, Kilmory.

The well-crafted programme was in two halves, with each centred on an original composition for wind quintet, and filled out with a mix of shorter and generally lighter arrangements – a format which worked really well.

The group started with Suite 1 (Debussy, arr Hallam).

This was an arrangement of three piano pieces, including the familiar *Golliwog's Cake-walk*.

This was followed by a Quintet by French flautist/composer Taffanel written in the late 19th century.

The three movement piece is a fine example of the French composers' skill at writing for wind instruments and was well delivered.



Northern Lights Wind Quintet. 08_a08concert01

Charming

The first half of the concert ended with Poulenc's charming *Novlette in C* and a truly zany Polka by Shostakovich – great fun. Piazzolla's *Milonga sin Palabras* followed the interval. Although well played, it seemed to lack the bite of the traditional Argentinian instruments.

Then followed the meat of the second half – the first two move-

ments of Nielsen's Wind Quintet.

Written as a set of portraits of wind-playing friends, it is a witty conversation between the various instruments. An arrangement of Elgar's much-loved *Salut d'Amour* was followed by two light-hearted and amusing pieces, the latter – *Les Animaux*, by Jim Parker – included farm-yard vocals and tap-dance.

The evening ended

with the clarinet dismembering her instrument in *The incredible Shrinking Clarinet*. Throughout the evening's wide repertoire, Northern Lights ably demonstrated their dedication to this genre. Their obvious technical skills were matched by great sensitivity and crisp ensemble playing – even when the lights went out momentarily.

The well-deserved and rapturous applause

was proof-positive that the large audience had thoroughly enjoyed the performance, returning home with smiles on their faces. Mid Argyll Arts Association is indebted to Argyll and Bute Council for allowing it to use this fine venue, and, for once, giving its valiant audience a warm environment in which to enjoy a wonderful evening's entertainment.

Philip Bowden-Smith.



Gigha is for sale for a bargain price.

Sale price of island cut by £100,000

AN ISLAND off Kintyre is now available to buy at an even cheaper rate after the price was cut by £100,000.

The isle of Gigha, which is 15 miles as the crow flies from Paul McCartney's Mull of Kintyre estate, is now available for the knock-down price of £450,000.

The 19-acre island was put on the market for £550,000 in summer 2015 but has failed to sell.

It has a modern house with private beaches and a private jetty for

getting on and off Gigha, which can be accessed by getting the ferry to Gigha then a private boat.

There is only one house on the island, Gigha House, which has three bedrooms and a large sitting room.

£450,000 would buy you a three bedroom ground floor flat in Edinburgh's upmarket Merchiston area. In London, the slimmest house in the city – just 99 inches wide – was recent put on the market for £450,000.

The game's a bogie! Town set to reinstate popular race

PLANS are afoot to resurrect the bed race that took place in Lochgilphead and was very popular.

But to get over the problem of there being fewer hospital beds than before, organisers want people to build themselves a bogie to race down the hill instead.

A team of five will be needed for each bogie, with four pushing and one inside the bogie steering. Organisers are encouraging people to come in fancy dress.

The event will take place in June, so there is plenty of time to get planning and building. Application packs will be available from the end of February.

To raise money for the event, there will be a prize bingo night on February 27 in the Masonic Lodge in Loch-



A bogie race from years past.

gilphead. Anyone who can donate a prize or wants more information can get in touch via the Facebook page or contact Liz Miller (Perkins).

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Do you know the story of Charlie Townsley?

ALOCHGILPEAD man is appealing for help in tracking down information on a young man he believes was part of his wife's family.

Not a single soul remains who was old enough at the time to remember when Charles Townsley died.

It was November 1914 and the Great War was four months old when Charlie, a member of the travelling community, was found dead beside the road between Port Ann and Lochgair – the highway now known as the A83.

REPORT By COLIN CAMERON
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

A folk memory remains among local people of the young man being discovered by the roadside, frozen to the spot according to some accounts. There is also talk of a dog being by his side when he was found. But nobody really knows.

What is for sure is that people wanted the boy to be remembered. A wooden cross was made and put at the spot where Charlie was

found, and beside that cross grows a Rowan tree, a tree bound up with meaning.

The simple cross bears a small, plain brass plaque with the inscription:

CHARLES
TOWNSLEY
28TH NOV 1914

There are some people still around who keep the memory alive – a brand new cross was recently placed at the spot, replacing an



The Rowan tree and cross by the lonely A83 – fresh flowers have been laid. The old cross can be seen leaning against the tree. 06_a03cross04

earlier weather-beaten memorial.

Connection

Now Sandy Cameron from Lochgilphead, a traveller himself, is appealing for information, because he believes he has a family connection with the dead man.

Sandy said: 'Charlie Townsley was my wife's grandfather's brother; that's what I was told.'

Mother

'My wife, who has passed away now, was Isabel Townsley from Kilmacollm. Her father was William Townsley and her mother was Nancy.'

The brass plaque with a straightforward inscription, coins placed atop the cross for luck. 06_a03cross02

Sandy tells the tale from 1914, just as he was told it: 'There were two Townsley cousins from Campbeltown who were going round the farms. They were working shawing neeps at Asknish Farm at Lochgair.'

'They were only about 16 or 17, but they went to Lochgair and had a bit to drink. After that they got separated, and that was that.'

'It was probably some of his own folk that first put up the cross.'

Sandy added: 'I'm not sure about the Rowan tree, because it doesn't look that old. But you never know.'

Planted

'The Rowan was meant to keep away evil, so it might have been planted.'

The cause of death and burial place of Charlie Townsley is not known.

As to who made the new cross and placed by the roadside, that too remains a mystery.

Do you have any information connected to the sad tale of Charlie Townsley, or do you know who put up the new cross in his memory?

Tell the Advertiser by emailing editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk or calling 01546 602345.



Unique opportunity for pupils to get artwork seen by thousands

SCHOOL pupils in Argyll and Bute are being asked to design a poster for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

As well as having their artwork displayed as part of the festival's poster, the winners will also get a cash prize for themselves and their school.

Last year 116 entries came from pupils in Argyll and Bute, with Tarbert Academy's Sara Sinclair winning the regional prize.

Kath Mainland, Chief Executive of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society said: 'The com-

petition is a fantastic way for students aged five to 16 to get creative in the classroom and inspires engagement with the arts.'

'It's really exciting to launch this competition as it marks the start of the run up to the 2016 Edinburgh Festival Fringe season. Thanks to the support of Virgin Money, the successful poster design is used across Edinburgh and beyond to promote the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The winning entry, along with the runners-up and regional winners' designs, will form an exhibition

on display in the centre of Edinburgh throughout the summer for the public to enjoy.

'It really is a unique opportunity for schoolchildren to get their artwork seen by thousands of people.'

'This year we're hoping for another huge response from schools in Argyll and Bute.'

Each year, the winning design is transformed into the official poster for the Fringe, and there are prizes of up to £750 for the top three prize-winners and their schools.'

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Angling champ Tom nets the big one

A CHAMPION angler with strong Mid Argyll links has hooked the most prestigious award in salmon fishing.

Tom Buchanan, from Barrhead near Glasgow, was awarded the Malloch Trophy after a panel of 11 judges unanimously decided that a massive fish caught by him last April was the best salmon caught by fly and released in Scotland during 2015.

Despite his success, retired engineer Tom has never forgotten his angling roots in Mid Argyll. 'I caught my first salmon in Stronachullin Burn, between Tarbert and Ardrishaig, as a very young man,' said Tom, who also spent a lot of time on the River Add in years gone by.

He continued: 'My mother and father had a flat in Ardrishaig above the Crinan Canal during the 1960s and 1970s, and we still regularly spend my holidays in Lochgilphead at Ar-

REPORT By COLIN CAMERON
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

gyll Caravan park. And I visit my brother-in-law John Mackenzie and his wife Osvalda who live in Ardrishaig.

'I still meet and fish with my long-time friend Dugald Magilp from Lochgilphead, who is one of the finest anglers that I have ever had the privilege to fish with.'

Sister

On a sadder note, Tom said: 'Jean Mackenzie from Ellary, John's young sister, was my beloved first wife who sadly died in 1985 after a long battle with MS.'

'My older brother Jimmy, now deceased, lived in Ardrishaig with his wife Maureen and family during the 1950s and 1960s when he worked in the county yard in Lochgilphead.'

The tale of Tom's champion salmon just has to be told.

'It was caught in the

Rock Pool of the River Lyon, a tributary of the Tay,' he said. 'I caught it on my 12ft Daiwa WTF Whisker Salmon/Grilse rod on a Monkey fly of my own tying.'

Tom's wife Mary said that she would come down to the Rock Pool with him in case he caught a big one – and luckily she was quick with the camera when it happened.

Tom continued: 'The big salmon took my fly on the first full cast in the pool with an explosive take, and right away I knew I was into a really big fish.'

'I held on, with my rod bent double for 20 minutes with me looking very much like the underdog and just praying the hook held as I could see the fly right in the front of the salmon's mouth.'

'At the last minute I managed to lead it gen-

tly into a wee sandy bay where I beached it and laid it on the grass next to the river. When I put my hand into its mouth the fly virtually fell out in my hand and the hook was straightened.'

It was clearly more than 30 pounds – later confirmed at 35 pounds in weight, and 45 inches in length.

Photos

'Mary quickly grabbed my digital camera from my pocket and captured the amazing photos which I didn't know at the time would prove to be crucial evidence in winning me the biggest trophy in salmon fishing,' he recalled excitedly.

Ceremony

Tom received the Malloch Trophy at a special ceremony at the Hilton Dunkeld Hotel on January 15.

He was also presented with a box of valuable fishing flies, a silver replica Malloch Trophy and a £250 voucher - but the biggest prize for him is to see his name on the trophy.

'It's something I've always admired,' concluded Tom, 'but I never thought I'd ever get near it.'



Above left, Environment Minister Dr Aileen Macleod who presented Tom Buchanan, second right, with the trophy; Hamish Rae, head keeper; and Tom's wife, Mary.



What a whopper – Tom Buchanan with his prizewinner before releasing the monster.

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Upturned boat bus shelter proposed

A BUS shelter with a difference is being proposed for Craignish.

The proposal from Tom McCardell Associates, architects based in Tarbert, includes using an old boat as the roof. The proposal said: 'There is a long tradition in coastal communities of using tired old boats as a roof for a shelter, shed or even house. Ardfern is often thought of as being a bit quirky (to say the least) and we feel that this approach would fit the bill for our community.'

Craignish Community Council received the proposal and is looking to find out what the

community think of the idea and will make a final decision based on this. The bus shelter will be near the fire station at Craignish. The side walls will be made of wire mesh to which flotsam and jetsam can be attached to decorate the shelter.

Local artist Hannah Toft, who often works with children, will take charge of this.

Any comments on the proposals can be made to the community council by emailing craignish_cc@yahoo.co.uk or leaving a note in Ardfern village store addressed to the community council.

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

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
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16/00235/PP	Formation of access track	Land South East Of Auchadaduie Glenbarr Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Tayinloan
16/00415/PP	Demolition of ruin, erection of new dwelling and installation of sewage treatment plant (renewal of planning permission reference 12/01888/PP)	Former Ruin Tullochgorm Minard Argyll And Bute	Mid Argyll Area Office
16/00418/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, garage, formation of vehicular access and installation of sewage treatment plant	Plot 4 Achnabreck Lochgilphead Argyll And Bute	Mid Argyll Area Office

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>
The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.
A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.
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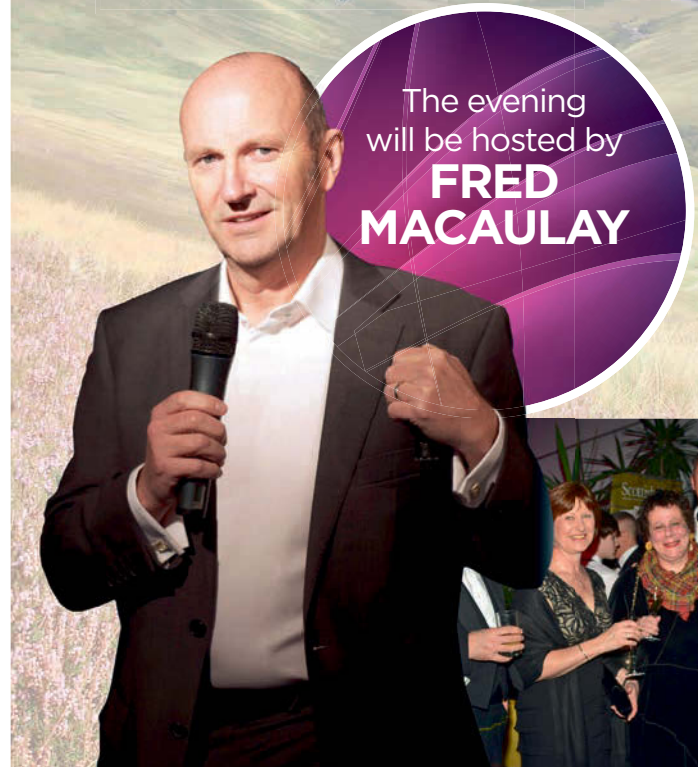
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Vacancy: 1 x Full Time Freshwater Operative

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We are currently seeking candidates to take on the position of Freshwater Operative at our Ardtaraig Hatchery, Argyll. As part of a small team, they will assist their colleagues in building strong key relationships and ensuring a safe working environment for all.

The Role:

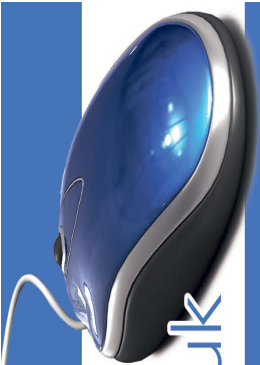
The successful candidate will find themselves reportable to the Freshwater Manager for Ardtaraig.

Qualifications/Skills required but not essential as full training can be given:

- 2 years' experience working in a Freshwater Hatchery environment
- Ability to participate in an 'Alarm Duty' rota system
- Good understanding of the aquaculture industry
- Candidate must be flexible with regard to hours worked, weekend working will be required
- Be a good team player but have the ability to work alone when required
- Inter-personal and excellent communication skills
- Clean UK driving licence

The ideal candidate will be committed to achieving the best results in a challenging environment and delivering the highest standards of performance possible. In return, we offer a highly competitive salary, employer pension contribution, company bonus scheme and salary sacrifice programmes.

If you feel you have the necessary attributes to successfully fulfil this position and contribute to a progressive, results orientated company, then please send your covering letter and CV to vicci.laird@cookeaqua.com by 24 February 2016.



Grieg Seafood is recruiting for the following position:

Area Manager – Dunvegan, Skye



The Company

Grieg Seafood is a leading producer of quality farmed salmon, with a proven track record of achievement. The company is the one of Scotland's largest producers of Scottish salmon with an annual production of 20,000 tonne.

The Role

The Area Manager will be based in Skye. Reporting to the Production Manager, the position would initially entail:

- Prioritising and planning all day to day work on 3 salmon farms in Loch Dunvegan
- Looking after the health and welfare of all fish farm staff and contractors employed within the area
- Monitoring financial and biological performance of the area against budget and identifying and reporting deviations
- Oversee the prompt and accurate reporting of production figures for all sites within the area
- Preparing and submitting operational and capital budgets for the coming year

While the successful candidate will have intra-company support in their position, due to the distance between the Dunvegan area and the head office based in Shetland, they will need to be organised and self-reliant.

Requirements

The successful candidate will have several years of experience within a sea based aquaculture environment. They will also have previous experience in a management role. While formal qualifications in relevant subject areas are advantageous, they are not a requirement. The successful candidate will be self-motivated, hardworking and a good personnel manager with a strong focus on health and safety.

A salary of £50,000 per annum is available for this position. Performance and loyalty based bonuses and a company vehicle are also available for the successful candidate. For an informal discussion regarding the post, please contact Grant Cumming on 01595741804 or e-mail grant.cumming@griegseafood.com. To apply, please contact Suzan Roberts by e-mail or telephone at the address below.

**Suzan Roberts, Grieg Seafood, Gremista, Lerwick,
Shetland ZE1 0PX Scotland (UK)**

Tel: 0044 (0) 1595 741800 Fax: 0044 (0) 1595 741806

E-mail: suzan.roberts@griegseafood.com

<http://www.griegseafood.no>

Closing date will be Monday the 29th of February 2016.



Freedom Food Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the RSPCA, set up to administer the Society's farm assurance welfare labelling scheme and is looking for an assessor to undertake salmon and trout assessment work in the Scotland, with an occasional requirement to travel to other parts of the UK and overseas.

The main responsibilities of the post include arranging and carrying out on-site assessment of compliance with the RSPCA standards for animal welfare of salmon and trout hatcheries, freshwater and seawater farms, hauliers and abattoirs for both new applicants and existing members of the Freedom Food scheme.

Successful applicants should have GCSE English and Maths or equivalent qualification together with NVQ level 3 or relevant equivalent qualification in aquaculture. 5 years proven practical experience of commercial fish production together with a knowledge of the food production industry (livestock) and legislative requirement are considered essential attributes for the post. Direct experience of farm assurance schemes and auditing skills is desirable.

Applicants require excellent verbal communication skills at all levels, the ability to plan and organise their own workload, and to work both independently or part of a team as necessary. A full, valid driving licence will be essential.

An application form and job description can be requested from: Anna-Louise Sales, Freedom Food Ltd, Wilberforce Way, Southwater, West Sussex, RH13 9RS or anna-louise.sales@freedomfood.co.uk. We do not accept CVs.

Please send your completed application form to the above address/email by the closing date of Friday 4th March 2016.

The RSPCA offers excellent benefits, including private healthcare, defined contribution pension scheme, childcare vouchers and employee assistance programme

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Grieg Seafood is recruiting for the following position:

Assistant Area Manager – Dunvegan, Skye



The Company

Grieg Seafood is a leading producer of quality farmed salmon, with a proven track record of achievement. The company is the one of Scotland's largest producers of Scottish salmon with an annual production of 20,000 tonne. Environmental awareness and sustainability are at the heart of our business.

The Role

The Assistant Area Manager will be based in Skye. Reporting to the Area Manager, the position would initially entail:

- Assisting in the prioritising and planning all day to day work on 3 salmon farms in Loch Dunvegan
- Looking after the health and welfare of all fish farm staff and contractors employed within the area
- Monitoring and maintaining the security and effectiveness of all equipment
- Oversee the prompt and accurate reporting of production figures for all sites within the area
- Identifying and rectifying any problems which might affect fish health or security

Requirements

The successful candidate will have previous experience within a sea based aquaculture environment. While formal qualifications in relevant subject areas are advantageous they are not a requirement. The successful candidate will be self-motivated, hardworking and a good personnel manager with a strong focus on health and safety.

A salary of £30,790 per annum plus overtime is available for this position. Performance and loyalty based bonuses are also available for this post. For an informal discussion regarding the post, please contact Grant Cumming on 01595741804 or e-mail grant.cumming@griegseafood.com. To apply, please contact Suzan Roberts by e-mail or telephone at the address below.

**Suzan Roberts, Grieg Seafood, Gremista, Lerwick,
Shetland ZE1 0PX Scotland (UK)**

Tel: 0044 (0) 1595 741800 Fax: 0044 (0) 1595 741806

E-mail: suzan.roberts@griegseafood.com

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Director's Personal Assistant
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 For more information and an application pack please email sue@kilmartin.org or phone Sue Creech on 01546 510 278. Closing date 11th March 2016, interviews will be held on 21st March 2016.



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For application pack contact: dee@homestartmajik.eclipse.co.uk
Closing date: Friday 4th March 2016 at 5pm.

The Auchindrain Trust Visitor Services Worker
 The museum at Auchindrain has a vacancy in its Visitor Centre.
 The post is seasonal from mid-March to mid-November, but may be made permanent after six months - a limited amount of winter work would then be available.
 The post is one of two which between them operate the Visitor Centre seven days a week from April to October: this averages out to 28 hours a week.
If you are interested, please contact us on 01499 320272 or email info@auchindrain.org.uk.
Closing date is Monday, 7 March 2016.

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To apply, contact lynnoflorne@mckenziecare.com or call Home Manager Louise Glasgow on 01631 720278.
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 You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.
 A shift pattern will apply and this will normally consist one week on, one week off.
 Ideally you will live within daily commuting distance of Gigha but a relocation package may be available to the successful candidate.
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 Interviews for this position will be held in the Gourock area during the week commencing 14th March 2016.
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 You will be responsible in providing a strong Leadership approach that motivating team members to deliver quality and values driven services in accordance with legislation, regulatory standards and contractual requirements. You will also be responsible for ensuring that the needs and aspirations of the people we support are being met and that this can be evidenced.
 The successful applicants will be registered with SSSC or be willing to meet the requirements for SSSC registration as a manager. Some management experience in supported living services or experience in managing support for individuals with support needs is desirable.
 For all enquiries please contact the Oban Office – **Affinity Trust, Queens Building, George Street, Oban, PA34 5RZ Telephone – 01631 571 511 Email – adminoban@affinitytrust.org**
 We will be having an open day at the office in Oban on Wednesday 2nd March between 4pm & 6pm, if you are interested in this please contact us on the number above.
Closing date – Thursday 10th March 2016


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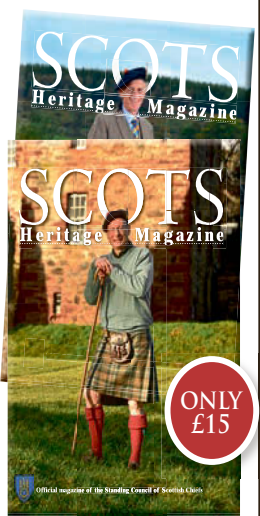
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THANK YOU

Catherine Barbour would like to thank everyone for all the cards, telephone calls, flowers, baking and visits received following her recent accident. Grateful thanks also, to all doctors and staff at Southend Medical Practice and Campbeltown A&E.

THANK YOU

I would like to publicly record my sincere thanks to the Manageress and all staff at Ardfenaig Care Home in Ardrishaig. My mother Mrs Betty McLean passed away last week at the home where she has been receiving care for the last four years and seven months. The level of personal care has been exceptional from every member of staff and I offer them my most heartfelt thanks.
 Graham McLean.

THANK YOU

Ian and Jean Teesdale would like to thank their neighbours and many Campbeltown friends for all cards, visits and enquiries while Ian was in hospital here and in Glasgow, also the staff and doctors in the Acute Ward for their help and care. Jean is most grateful for all the offers of help and support she received while Ian was away. What a great place Campbeltown is!

THANK YOU

May I thank my family and friends at home and away for the beautiful presents, flowers, cards and good wishes on my birthday. Thanks to the Royal Hotel for our delicious lunch, served by very friendly, patient waitresses. Thank you everyone.
 M Sweeney.

Happy 50th Birthday Peter

Lots of love from Hester & Robert xxx



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Thought for the Week
with Marilyn Shedden



'HOW ARE you Jimmy?' Catriona enquired when we met Jean and Jimmy in The Cafe.

'Well, I am fine apart from my legs,' replied Jimmy, 'They're pretty sore, but then they have covered an awful lot of miles.'

I thought about this for a while and wondered about the journeys in Jimmy's life.

I thought of all the miles he must have covered as a wee boy, then a young man, throughout his working days and quietly into his retirement.

I also thought of all the miles he must have covered throughout his life in his own church.

How many miles would add up Sunday by Sunday as Jimmy came to worship?

How many miles did he clock up going round his district, looking after his people?

How many miles in God's service?

I am not surprised his legs are sore by now.

This is a time of journeying for Christians as we go on a spiritual journey with Jesus Christ and remember both the pain and the glory he encountered.

This is a time of journeying.

Our spiritual legs may get sore and we might feel that the journey is just too tough.

We might stumble on the way and not feel we can get up again.

We might want to get to the destination, but not want to travel the road that leads to it.

How many miles will we do in God's service?

A wise person once said: 'The only journey is the one within.'

So if our legs get tired and we slow down a bit, we are still on a journey.

We are on the greatest journey of all when we travel our personal spiritual journey in the company of Jesus.

He does not care how young or old our legs are, for when we get tired, he will carry us and take us with him.



INVERARAY

Here comes the sun. Taking advantage of a welcome break in the wet winter weather last Friday, Inveraray farmer Brian Walker, of Carloonan, feeds his gimmers amid bright sunshine and, for once, without squelching through mud. 06_08brianwalker08

Kids on the Run

INVERARAY Kids on the Run headed outdoors for the second time in a row to hold its latest session.

The theme was pancake day and relays were run with frying pan and pancakes in hand. Leader Fiona Corner said: 'Not all the pancakes survived the experience!'

'Quick relays like this are good for agility and co-ordination, with or without the pancakes.'

The group then moved on to weaving, where one runner has to run from the back of the moving group to the front.

This was Aray and Lewis' first attempt at this activity.

Runner of the week was Dillon Conn who got the most number of points in the relays and became the 'pancake champion'.

STRACHUR

Tuition for young fiddlers

THERE will be a chance for young Strachur fiddlers to get expert tuition when a junior fiddle workshop is held in the village.

Tutors for the day include Finlay Allison, senior tutor from Glasgow Fiddle Workshop, Graham MacKenzie, Cowal school tutor, Mairi Voinot, an up-and-coming young musician, and Kathryn Baillie, a Strachur tutor.

Players aged between eight and 18 with at least one year's playing

experience are invited to attend the workshop on March 13.

Cost for the day is £10 and registration is in Strachur Memorial Hall from 10.30am to 10.45am. The workshop will run from 11am until 3pm.

CRAIGNISH

Village hosts performance of Dead Stations

A NEW performance from Mike Vass and Mairi Campbell will be performed in Craignish Village Hall.

Dead Stations looks at what happens when

a passenger alights at a unused train station in a forest.

The performance uses live and recorded music as well as animation.

During the performance, Mike plays violin and guitar and Mairi plays viola and sings songs that Mike has written especially for the performance.

Dead Stations takes place at Craignish Village Hall on February 28 starting at 3pm.

Following the show there will be a song and instrumental workshop lead by Mike and Mairi, beginning at 5.30pm.

FURNACE

Eyes down for school bingo

FURNACE Primary School is hosting a bingo session in Furnace Village Hall to raise money for the school.

The event begins at 7pm and will last until 9pm on February 26.

Bingo cards will be 30p each and refreshments will be available.

As well as fun bingo prizes there will also be a raffle with some great prizes to be won.

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TEXT FOR THE WEEK

Jesus said, 'Peace be with you' (John 20:21).

BIRTHS



ANDERSON

Chloe and Jake are delighted to announce the arrival of their baby brother, Ollie, born January 15, 2016. Special thanks to the midwives at Campbeltown Maternity Unit and the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

ENGAGEMENTS

WATSON - KENCH - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Rhona, daughter of Moira and William, Limecraigs, Campbeltown, and Nick, son of James and Val, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire.

DEATHS

BLACK - Peacefully at home, Tangy Farm, Campbeltown, on February 11, 2016, Katharine Blue (Kate), in her 88th year, dearly beloved wife of the late Archie Black, loving mother of Jamie, Alison, Joanna and Lorna and a much loved grandmother.

DAVIDSON - Peacefully, at Ardfenaig Residential Care Home, Ardrishaig, on February 15, 2016, Hetty Davidson, née MacGillp, aged 83 years, formerly of 2 Ross Crescent and 75 Highbank Park, Lochgilphead, treasured wife of the late John (Jock) Davidson, loving mother of John, Kenny and Sandra and a much loved gran of Debra, Kirsty, Lisa, Stuart, Kara and Andrew. Funeral service will be held today Friday, February 19, 2016, at Lochgilphead Parish Church, at 12.00 noon, thereafter to Achnameac Cemetery. Donations if desired, to Ardfenaig Residential Care Home, Ardrishaig.

LEWIS - Agatha Temple Lewis, died peacefully at Ashgrove Care Home, Dunoon, on February 9, 2016, aged 102, much loved aunt, great aunt and great great aunt to many. Funeral at St Columba's Church, Poltalloch, at 11.00am on Thursday, February 25. No flowers please, but donations to the RNLI and St Columba's Restoration Fund welcome.

SCOBIE - Peacefully, at Oban Hospital on February 12, 2016, Kenneth (Ken) Chalmers Scobie, of Caledonia, Tarbert Road, Ardrishaig, in his 80th year, dearly loved husband of Jane, a dear brother to Ruth, a much loved uncle of Lorna and Duncan and great uncle, and a very good friend and neighbour. Funeral service was held at Cardross Crematorium, on Thursday, February 18, 2016. Sadly missed.

SCOTT - Peacefully, at Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, on February 15, 2016, Sandra Scott, née Jackson, aged 68, dearly beloved wife of Harold Scott, much loved mother of Rachele, Karen and the late Mark, dear sister of Victor and Christina, loved mother-in-law of Richard and Ted and a dearly loved granny of Chloe, Murray and Jude. Service will take place in Tarbert Parish Church, on Friday, February 19, 2016 at 12.00 noon, funeral thereafter to Carrick Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. Family flowers only please. A retiral collection will be held in aid of MIND.

SMITH - On February 8, 2016, peacefully at Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, Roida Joan Smith, née Berry, in her 80th year, beloved wife of the late Norman Smith and a dear aunt of all the family. Funeral service at Tarbert Free Church, tomorrow Saturday, February 20, at 11.00am, interment thereafter at Carrick Cemetery, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Flowers welcome.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MCSPORRAN - The family of the late Charles McSporran would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for all their cards, flowers and expressions of sympathy on the sad loss of Charles. Special thanks to all the staff at the Campbeltown Hospital, including district nurse and paramedics, for all their wonderful care of Charles over the last few months. Particular thanks to Maggie Wilkieson, Macmillan nurse, for all her care and support. Thanks also to Rev William Crossan for a lovely service, to Alasdair and Kenneth Blair for their professional services and to the Ardshiel Hotel for their excellent purvey. Thanks to all those who paid their respects in church and at the graveside. A retiral collection in respect of the Sunshine Room raised the amount of £493.82.

ORR - John and David would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind words and many cards and expressions of sympathy following the sad loss of Sandra. Special thanks to Rev Sandy McCallum and Rev Dr Roddy MacLeod for their words of comfort and guidance, to the medical staff at Lady Margaret Hospital Millport, to the paramedic team who responded so promptly and to Robert Rarity and staff for caring and dignified funeral arrangements. Thanks also to the crew of Caledonian MacBrayne in Largs who provided additional ferries to accommodate the funeral. The sum of £1,120 was collected for Cumbrae and Inveraray Primary Schools, in Sandra's memory.

SELFRIDGE - The family of the late David (Davy) Selfridge would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and colleagues for their kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards and letters following their sudden unexpected loss. Special

thanks to West Coast Motors staff, ambulance service, staff at Mid Argyll A&E Department, GPs, Dr Ward and Dr Phillips, Air Retrieval Team and staff at the Golden Jubilee National Hospital for all care received. Thanks also to the Rev David Carruthers for a respectful and comforting service, to Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for an exceptional and professional service, to the Grey Gull Inn for an excellent purvey. Finally, our thanks to all who attended at the church and graveside to pay their respects to a wonderful man. Retiral collection on behalf of CHSS and Mid Argyll A&E Department, raised a total of £380.

IN MEMORIAM

DURANCE - In loving memory of Beryl, a dear wife, mother, granny and sister, who passed away on February 16, 1998. Loved and remembered always.

- Willie, Sharon, Martin, Ian, Duncan and Jean.

ROBERTSON - In loving memory of a dear wife, mother and nana, Cathie, who passed away February 18, 2001. Loved and remembered every day.

- Callum, Catriona, Roy and all the family.

CHURCH NOTICES

St. Kieran's Scottish Episcopal Church
Argyll Street, Campbeltown
St Kieran Episcopal Church:
Campbeltown
Scottish Charity No SC023277
Sunday 21st February
Second Sunday of Lent
Holy Communion 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

SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNESIDE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 21st February 2016
Skipness Service 10.00am Marilyn Shedden
Tarbert Service 11.30am Mr Tom McKay Guild meets
Monday 22nd February 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

Highland Parish Church

SCO02493
Sunday 21st February 2016
The service will be held in the church at 11.15 am and will be conducted by Mr Matthew Ramsay
Tuesday
Junior Badminton Club meets in Kirk Street Hall
6.30-7.30pm: P1-5
7.30-8.30pm: P6-7

LORNE AND LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH
Scottish Charity Number SCO11686
Sunday 21st February
Service 11.15am
Next Generation Triple C Creche
Rev P Wallace
Tuesday 23rd February
Tiny Tots New Hall 9.45am
Boys' Brigade
Anchor Boys 6.00pm
Junior Section 7.15pm
Church Hall
Thursday 25th February
Choir 7.30pm
Friday 26th February
Lunch Club 12.00 noon

Campbeltown Corps
Church and Community Centre
Registered Charity No. 214779 and in Scotland SC009359
Burnside Street, Campbeltown
01586 552046
Saturday 20th February
Coffee Morning
10.00am - 12.00 noon
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

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH

75 Longrow, Campbeltown
Sunday 21 February 2016
11.00am Family Communion Service
Mr Kelvin Moller, Clachan
Tuesday 23 February
10am - 12 noon
Coffe Morning
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
SCO14646

CHURCH NOTICES

ST MARGARET'S R.C. CHURCH
LOCHGILPHEAD
Holy Mass Sunday 10am
ALL SAINTS, INVERARAY
Holy Mass Sunday 12.30pm
STKIERAN'S CAMPBELTOWN
Saturday 5pm Fr. David Connor
01546 602380
All Welcome (SCO002876)

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GLASSARY KILMARTIN and FORD PARISH CHURCH
Sunday 21st February 2016
Morning Worship
Kilmartin 10.00am
Mr J MacLellan
All welcome
Annual Stated Meeting
Tuesday 22nd March,
7.30 pm Kilmartin Church Hall
The operation of the Unitary Constitution will be the major item on the agenda.
SCO 02121

LIVING STONES CHRISTIAN CENTRE KILMARTIN
Sunday 21st February 2016
11.00am
Worship Service for all ages followed by a light lunch
SPEAKER: Graham McLean
'The Tapestry of Life'
THURSDAY 25th February 2016
7.30pm
Prayer, Word and Sharing
All Welcome

Lochgilphead Baptist Church
All Welcome
Pastor Rev Derek Gibson
All Welcome
Sunday 21st February 2016
Morning Service 11am
Monday 22nd February
Ladies Meeting 2.30pm
Dr Mairead Brailsford
mainly music
Tuesdays at 10.15am
Jumpstart
Fridays from 10am
Scottish Charity SC015187

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH
Charity Number SC001002
Sunday 21 February
Tayvallich Church
Prayer meeting 10:30 am
Morning Worship 11:30 am
Saturday 20 February
CAFE CONNECT 10:30 am
Achnamara Hall
Monday 22 February
Tayvallich Church
Prayer meeting 10:30 am
All welcome
Enquiries 01546 606926
www.argyllcommunities.org/nknapplecofs

free church of scotland
George Street, Campbeltown
Sunday 21st February
11.15am Worship Service
Rev David Meredith
Wednesday 24th February
12.30pm
Bible Study and Prayer
All Welcome
www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SC009980

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES
"It is good to sing praises to our God"
Sunday 21st February Services
in
Ardrishaig at 11:00am
Achahoish at 12:30pm

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

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH
Sunday 21st February 2016
11.00 am WORSHIP SERVICE
Rev. Hilda Smith
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

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND WEST LOCHFYNESIDE
Sunday 21st February 2016
Cumlodden Lochfyneside and Lochgair
Charity No. SC016097
Minister:
Rev. Dr. Roderick D. M. Campbell
in Cumlodden Church at 10 am
Glenaray and Inveraray
Charity No. SC016665
Morning Service in Inveraray Church at 11.30 am
All Welcome

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,
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Walking football in Mid Argyll

WALKING football is coming to Mid Argyll with a taster session at the Mid Argyll Sports Centre, Lochgilphead.

The slowed down version of the sport has proved popular and there are already teams established in Oban, Rosneath and Campbeltown.

Graham Gillies, senior duty manager at the sports centre said: 'In Mid Argyll, a number of groups and individuals have expressed an interest, so we decided to hold this taster session where people can come along to find out more and to have a go.

All ages

'The great thing about walking football is that it suits all ages and fitness levels and improves general fitness, both physical and mental.'

Although the first session is taking place indoors there is the possibility of using the outdoor all weather pitch in the future.

Anyone over 18 is welcome to come along between 1pm and 2.30pm. Dress is casual clothes and trainers – no need for special kit or football boots.



The Rusty Mustangs play the Tayvallich Inn. 08rustymustangs01

Rusty Mustangs to play Tayvallich Inn

LOCAL band the Rusty Mustangs are to play the Tayvallich Inn.

Since their appearance at MAMAfest in 2014 the band have regularly played in Achnamara Village Hall.

The band, Patrick Harvey, Lochgilphead on drums, James Livingston from Achnamara on bass guitar and David Garner, Ford and Kevin Williams, Tayvallich, on

guitar and vocals, have an eclectic mix of musical styles to play during the concert on February 20.

Most known for their rhythm and blues, soul and rock they will tackle more or less any kind of music that takes their fancy. They even throw in the odd country or reggae number to add to the mix of styles they can call on.

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Lochgilphead primary school got into the Easter spirit at last year's event. 08_a13lochgilpheadmamf01



Ardrishaig Primary school choir won the Ardrishaig Primary PTA shield at last year's festival. 08_a13ardrishaigpschoir01

Mid Argyll tunes up for annual music festival

MID ARGYLL Music Festival is looking forward to welcoming competitors in a range of music competitions.

The festival takes place in Lochgilphead Joint Campus and Ardrishaig Public Hall and North Hall between March 14 and 19.

There are a high number of competitors registered this year and most competitions are for children, although there are some adult singing competitions.

There are competitions for singing, woodwind,

brass, violin and fiddle, all of which are sure to be hotly contested during the festival.

Competitors are reminded that own choice pieces, titles and music for the official accompanist must be submitted by February 21 for competitors to be eligible for a mark from the adjudicator. This is so the accompanist has time to learn the songs.

Last year's winners are asked to return trophies to Karen Welch or Fiona MacDonald by February 21.

Stuart McKeown trio at accordion and fiddle club



Alec got the night started. 08_a08club01



Young accordion player Myles entertained. 08_a08club02

DALRIADA Accordion and Fiddle club hosted its regular night of traditional music in the Argyll Inn recently.

Local accordion players Alec and Myles got the club off to a good start with a mix of tunes from each.

Guest band for the club night on February 16 was the Stuart McKeown Trio – Stuart on accordion, Rae Denny on keyboard and Iain Armstrong on drums.

The band provided a good mix of tunes which got toes tapping. As well as old favourites, many had been composed by Stuart himself.

After a break for

drinks and sandwiches Alec and Myles again provided a few tunes to get the second half started before the Stuart McKeown trio began again.

A slightly more energetic second half eventually saw a few couples get to their feet for a Gay Gordons followed by a less energetic waltz. Again there was a nice variety of tunes during the second half and Stuart showed his ability as a composer as well as player.

As the evening drew to a close, Stuart commented that while he has been touring accordion and fiddle

clubs, he has noticed less folk than there used to be and hopes this is not a sign of the clubs' demise.

After an energetic set the crowd were reluctant for the band to stop and managed to persuade them to play one more tune without too much difficulty.

The accordion and fiddle club is always looking for local musicians to play.

The next session is in the Argyll Inn, Lochgilphead on March 15 at 7.30pm. Guest artists will be the Sileas Sinclair Trio. Members of the public and supporting musicians are all very welcome.

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Trio selected for Special Olympics

THREE sporty Mid Argyll people will play for Scotland West in the Special Olympics Great Britain event, set to go ahead next year.

The trio of competitors will form part of a team of nine to battle for the boccia title, a version of bowls, played in a sitting position, for people with special needs.

Iain MacDougall, already with a gold med-



Coach John Gillies, right, with Iain and his medal haul. 06_a07olympics 02



Campbell plays his shot, watched carefully by Flora. 06_a07olympics 01

al to his name, will be joined by Campbell Ferguson and Flora Currie to take part in the sporting event to be held in Sheffield in August next year.

The Mid Argyll trio are being trained by John Gillies, who is coach for the Scotland west team.

John travels the country to bring the team together and he has special events lined up ahead of

the Special Olympics.

John Gillies revealed that the three players were set to compete but would need to carry out fundraising to secure their positions.

John said: 'The three boccia players, Iain, Campbell and Flora, have taken part for the past three Special Olympics, and we are delighted that they are involved once again.'



Budding shinty players competed to play in a national competition. a08kidsshinty01

Primary school shinty tournament

YOUNG Mid Argyll Shinty teams played for the chance to compete against the top primary school shinty teams in Scotland.

Primary five and primary seven teams from Dunadd, Inveraray and Kilmory competed to take part at a Scotland-wide competition to be held in Fort William.

Primary three teams played to get some experience of competitive shinty at the event on February 13 at the Mid Argyll Sports Centre.

The primary three teams played first with Kilmory coming out on top. The team is for children from primary one to three and aims to get children playing as soon as they start school.

The primary 5 qualifying game between Kilmory and Dunadd saw the competitive experience Dunadd have gained in Oban over the last few months paying dividends as they won 9-0.

Bragging rights

The primary 7 game between Kilmory and Inveraray saw bragging rights go to the Lochgilphead team. Inveraray were rusty having not had much recent competitive experience and they lost the game 7-2.

The teams took the opportunity to play another few games and Inveraray warmed up to come within two goals of victory.

This extra practise should serve Kilmory primary sevens and

Dunadd primary fives well for travelling to Fort William on February 27.

Shinty regional development officer west Euan McMurdo said 'Thanks have to go to all the coaches, parents and players involved

for making this such an enjoyable and competitive day. I would hope that both teams could work closer together going forward to improve Dunadd, Kilmory and Inveraray teams and the standard of shinty in Mid Argyll.'

Scottish AFL results and fixtures

LAST Saturday's results: West of Scotland Cup, 5th round - Oban Saints 1, Colville Park 2; Jimmy Marshall Cup, 2nd round - Drumchapel Amateur Colts v Campbeltown Pupils, postponed; Motherwell Thistle 3, Dunoon 0; Coronation Cup, 1st round - Port Glasgow v Dunoon Athletic, postponed; Premier Division One - Busby v Lochgilphead Red Star, postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils v Alba Thistle; Oban Saints no game; Premier Division One - Kilbowie Union v Dunoon; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v FC Clydebank. Jimmy Marshall Cup, 2nd round - Lochgilphead Red Star v Finnart; Coronation Cup, 1st round - Dunoon Athletic v East Kilbride YM.

SPOT THE BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1450

LAST WEEK'S BALL WAS HERE...



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

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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.



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Please tape your £1 coin here (if posting)

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Bronze medal for young athlete

A PROMISING young athlete from Mid Argyll has won bronze at a national athletics event at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow.

Eleven-year-old Jilly Lefebvre, a member of Mid Argyll Athletics Club, competed in the pentathlon at the Scottish Indoor Combined Events Championships.

It was a long day with the five events spread over five hours.

Perfect start

Jilly got off to a perfect start getting the winning height of 1.36 metres in the high jump.

The next event was the 60 metres hurdles which

she ran in 12.06 seconds.

After a break it was the long jump in which she leapt out to 3.89 metres but marginally fouled at over 4 metres. Next it was the shot putt, which is not her favourite event, but she threw a respectable 5.95 metres to gain 268 points.

The final event was the 800 metres, which was almost six hours after the first event. Jilly ran an excellent 2.50.2 seconds which was the second fastest in the competition and gained her an impressive 462 points and secured third place overall in her first

national athletics final.

The gold medal winner was Amy Kennedy from Cumbernauld AC on 2,206 points with Rosie Sharples from Falkirk Victoria Harriers coming second on 1,895 points and Jilly third only 41 points behind on 1,854.

Another Mid Argyll athlete Jodie Robertson, competed in the under 15s pentathlon the following day and completed four events with respectable marks before an injury sustained in the long jump forced her to withdraw from the last event, the 800 metres.



Jilly, right, on the podium.



Teams fight for the ball during a throw up.

08_a08shinty01

Narrow loss for Dunadd Ladies

DUNADD shinty team took on Lorn Ladies in a pre-season friendly at the all-weather pitch in Lochgilphead.

Dunadd made the best start going 2-0 up before Lorn fought back to lead 3-2 at half time.

The sides were evenly matched which made for an exciting game as play quickly switched from end to end.

A further seven goals in the second half entertained the small crowd that had gathered. Lorn Ladies won the hard-fought match 7-5.

There was good play from both sides and they will be ready for the beginning of the season on March 13.

Dunadd player of the match was Iona McNicol.



A close game led to some fierce tackling. 08_a08shinty06

Red Star 2007s

A RED Star youth team travelled to Campbeltown to play seven-a-sides with Campbeltown Pupils.

There was nice weather for the 2007s trip and both teams enjoyed the games.

Red Star and Pupils are both hoping to make this exchange a regular feature to help with player development.



Pupils and Star youngsters in seven-a-sides.

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