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Mid Argyll woman left in agony after three-hour ambulance wait

A LOCHGILPHEAD woman has blasted the Scottish Ambulance Service after she waited hours for a response to a 999 call, twice in two months.

Maureen Sinclair, 49, of Kilmichael Glasary, told the *Argyllshire Advertiser* she waited for an ambulance last Wednesday December 9 for three hours because 'there were no paramedics' in Lochgilphead, according to the Scottish Ambulance Service call handler.

Maureen, who suffers from Crohn's disease, was suffering from related problems which can be extremely painful for the patient and needs medical attention.

After calling with the same complaint two days later, an ambulance responded in just 15 minutes.

On Wednesday at 4.15pm, Maureen's fiancé called 999 emergency services and was advised that the wait would be up to 55 minutes. He was also told by the call handler that there were 'plenty

REPORT By AMANDA CRAWFORD
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

of ambulances, but no paramedics in the area'.

At 6.30pm Maureen's friend went to visit her and called 999 again.

She was told someone would call her back.

The ambulance finally arrived at 7.15pm.

Maureen said: 'I asked the paramedic if he'd travelled from Oban or Glasgow he said, 'no, I started my shift at 7pm and your name was first on the board'.'

It was the second time in just 10 weeks that Maureen had experienced a slow, or no response, to her 999 call.

Unconscious

On Sunday November 11, Maureen was at a remembrance service in Lochgilphead when high winds knocked her over and left her unconscious.

Police at the scene called for an ambulance but took her to casualty in their van after waiting for its arrival.

Maureen said: 'I have to say a special thanks

to the male and female officers who helped me in November. If it wasn't for them I'd still be waiting for an ambulance.'

Following severe illness last Wednesday, Maureen was admitted for treatment overnight, but was left dissatisfied with her care. Maureen was discharged on Thursday and needed medical attention again Friday. She said: 'On Friday evening my partner had to call an ambulance again for the same symptoms after my condition worsened. This time the ambulance came within 15 minutes.'

Mid Argyll Councillor Douglas Philand has already been in touch with the Scottish Ambulance Service following the incident in November. He said: 'I think it is a system failure and not a local service issue. I think that it is being driven to the point that the service is un-workable.



Maureen Sinclair waited for three hours on an ambulance. 08_a51maureen01

'I am alarmed that this lady has experienced this twice in such a short space of time. It is a worry. How many people is this happening to? We need more people to come forward and tell us.'

A spokesman from the Scottish Ambulance Service said: 'An

ambulance was dispatched immediately to a call in Lochgilphead on November 11 but stood down after 13 minutes, while on its way, by the police. A non-emergency case on December 9 was triaged for a response of up to one hour but local demand resulted in the

patient waiting longer before being transferred safely to hospital.

'While the response time is an important aspect of pre-hospital care, the clinical expertise of ambulance teams is key to maintaining good patient outcomes.'

In November, the Advertiser reported that

staff shortages were putting pressure on the ambulance service in Mid Argyll.

A spokesman said this week that it had since recruited three people for Tarbert/Lochgilphead, who were currently in training. SAS has yet to recruit one more person for Tarbert.

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Police files

Breach of bail conditions

A 34-YEAR-old man was arrested for breaching his bail conditions at about 7.20pm on Tuesday December 8. The incident took place at Front Street, Inveraray.

Disturbance

ON OBAN Road, Lochgilphead, at 12.45am on Saturday December 12, a 35-year-old man was arrested for shouting, swearing and resisting arrest.

PPI scam

ABOUT 10.15am on Friday December 11, an elderly woman in Lochgilphead received a telephone call from a man stating he was processing the woman's PPI claim and she was due to receive a sum of money.

The caller claimed the money could not be released until she paid an admin fee of £200 via

two £100 'Pay Safe' transactions. The woman did have a PPI claim ongoing, so she believed the man and paid the £200. The man then asked for another £550 to be paid via a Money Gram through the Post Office. The woman then became suspicious and reported the matter to the police, who are investigating.

Careless driving

AN INCIDENT occurred on the A816 near Kilmartin, where a blue Peugeot estate motor car allegedly turned into a junction, across the path of a south bound Ford Fiesta motor car. As a result of the incident, a collision was only narrowly avoided.

The incident took place at 1.15pm on Saturday December 12 and police are investigating.

Vehicle defects

A VAN was stopped by police after it was sus-

pected that it had several lighting defects and an obscured registration plate near Kilmory Industrial Estate at 7.40pm on Saturday December 12. The 29-year-old driver was charged with driving offences.

Left the scene

BETWEEN Tuesday December 1 and Saturday December 5, on the A83 at Furnace, a car crashed into the garden of White Bridge Cottage. The vehicle involved, suspected to be a blue Volkswagen Golf (Mark 5) R32, left the scene without reporting the incident. The weather during this period was stormy with high winds, heavy rain and flooding on the A83. Anyone with information in relation to the above, or to any incident, should contact their local police office on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crime-stoppers 0800 555 111.

Santa visits Tarbert



Santa meets April and her two children, Caelin and Carys.



Santa gets a lift on the fire engine.

SANTA took time out of his busy schedule to pay a visit to Tarbert, delighting local children.

The event, on Saturday December 12, was organised by Tarbert Fire and Rescue and Santa hitched a ride on the back of the fire engine before meeting excited children. Children were able to let Santa know what they wanted for Christmas and even get an early Christmas gift.

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Our offices will be closed on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th December and Thursday 31st December and Friday 1st January 2016

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For the issue dated Friday 25th December - 4pm, Friday 18th December
For the issue dated Friday 1st January - 12noon, Monday 28th December

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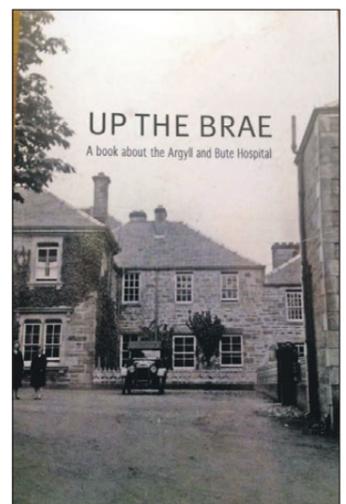
History of the Argyll and Bute Hospital

UP THE BRAE is a book about the history of Argyll and Bute Hospital or The Argyll and Bute District Asylum as it was first known.

Through documents and pictures it gives a vivid idea of what it was like for both patients and staff there.

The hospital had grounds with a small farm which was vital in rehabilitating patients and making them feel part of a community.

People involved shared memories of their experiences, with some of the happier memories being of dances that were held at the hospital. The book goes



Workers' shock at state of single mum's damp home

A SINGLE mum who has been living in damp and mouldy conditions for two years says workers from an Argyll housing association were 'flabbergasted' at the state of her home this week.

Diane Broadfoot, 36, of Foulis Road in Inveraray, could finally have a mould-free home by January after she turned to the *Argyllshire Advertiser* in desperation.

Black mould, which can be found in her bedroom, her daughter's bedroom and the living-room, as well as covering the porch doors and walls, started to appear after repair work was carried out by Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) in 2014.

Diane, who battles with multiple sclerosis (MS) as well as looking after her 11-year-



Mould in the porch of Diane's Inveraray home. 06_a50achamould04

old daughter Holly, who has autism, said she is sure that their health has been affected by the condition of the house.

She said: 'It's been depressing and I've just given up on the house. I've always had a nice house, but we [my parents and I] do not want to spend the money.

'It's affected our health. Holly always has sore throats and colds and I suffer from stress, which is a major trig-

ger for my MS. I don't doubt for a minute that our ill health over the past two years has been related to the house.

'I definitely feel that I was fobbed off for a long time because I am unable to work and I am entitled to housing benefit. Maybe if I could have withdrawn from paying my rent something would have been done sooner.

'Now I finally feel like ACHA is taking me se-

riously. It is just a pity I didn't come to the newspaper sooner. I was worried about doing that because I don't want to make my situation worse, but so far it seems to be getting the repairs department moving.

Diane has been a tenant at her home for nine years, and since ACHA carried out work to the exterior walls, the indoor porch area of her house has been damp, cold, running with water and has turned black with mould. Her own bedroom, living room and daughter's room have also been damaged by mould.

Too much

She said: 'You can deal with a little bit of dampness and easily treat it, but the damage that has been done is too much.'

Since the *Argyllshire Advertiser* contacted ACHA last Friday, a housing officer and the head of the repair department have been out to investigate the problem and remedial work has now started.

On Tuesday the walls on the indoor stairwell, front door and porch area were cleaned by the housing association and later in the week Diane is expecting someone to come out and assess the insulation.

Diane said: 'The guys that came out to clean on Tuesday were flabbergasted at the mould, and one even said he

was expecting a 'few spots'.

'I am definitely sceptical, but the work does seem to be starting and my housing officer said he'd be back out in January to see how the work went. So I think it will be finished by then.'

Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of ACHA, said: 'Work was carried out in 2014 to the access area at the bottom of the stairs in this property to insulate the external walls to reduce the coldness in this area.

'An electrical socket was also installed to allow a portable heater to be used and we expected that these measures would reduce the condensation.'

Diane and her daughter will apply for more suitable ground floor accommodation in Inveraray following advice from her housing officer.



Diane with one of her two cats. 08_a51diane01



The wall around the front door on the inside. 06_a50achamould03

Last posting dates for Christmas

ROYAL MAIL is reminding customers to post second class mail by the recommended last posting date of Saturday December 19.

Customers have until Monday December 21 to post first class mail.

Special delivery items can be posted until December 23. Customers should ensure they use a postcode when sending their cards and parcels.



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Debris drama helps A83 to be 'normal by Christmas'

NO-ONE really knew what was going to happen when the fence was lifted, allowing hundreds of tonnes of mud and rock to slump towards the trunk road.

But the A83 survived unscathed when engineers released landslide debris caught by one of a dozen stretches of protective fence at the Rest and Be Thankful - and the Advertiser was there to witness it.

The landslide, which happened in the early hours of Saturday December 5, brought as much as 1,000 tonnes down the hillside - but the netting fences did the job they were designed to do. Faced with having to clear the material, trunk road operator BEAR Scotland made the decision to lift the fence and release the debris on Saturday December 12, a week after the landslide.

Tipper lorries from McNaughton Contractors, Lochgilphead,

stood ready at the top of the Rest on Saturday morning to remove the material.

Traffic lights, in place below the bulging fences since the previous weekend, were placed at red in both directions. The fence was lifted, under the watchful eye of engineers, at precisely 1.30pm last Saturday.

With a puff of what appeared to be steam, the

mud moved and slid forward towards the road with a loud 'crump'. It stopped short, and the clearance operation was soon underway.

Cleared

A spokesperson for BEAR Scotland said: 'The nets at Phase 1, which were hit with the majority of the landslide last weekend, have now been cleared and approximately 1,000

tonnes of material removed. Blasts have taken place on the slope to clear any further loose material.

'We are now working with our specialist contractor to begin the repair of the nets today (Wednesday), and the re-erection of the protection barriers. This will allow the A83 to return to normal before Christmas.'



An aerial shot of the released debris as it starts to collapse. Photo by Niall McLean.



Climbing the fence for final preparations. 06_a51rest05a



The point of no return. 06_a51rest06a



Left: Hundreds of tonnes begins to move. 06_a51rest07a

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Popular Viking festival cancelled

A POPULAR Mid Argyll festival has been cancelled for 2016 as organisers need more funding.

The Loch Fyne Viking Festival will not go ahead, but is set to return in 2017. The decision came after organisers Hans Kok and Phil Roberston lacked funds to expand the event, which was held in June this year.

Hans said: 'We don't want to do the same thing over and over. The idea is to get it bigger and better and more exciting. We want to create more structure.'

The group is discussing how to

move forward as an established community organisation and doing so would help it apply and be considered for funding.

The festival sees traditional 'Vikings' come from all over the world and perform battle acts and archery lessons. The event is usually coupled with live music and Mid Argyll towns are transformed for a day and comes to the area the first weekend of every June and travels from town to town.

This year the weekend-long festival had scaled down on its activities and Inveraray dropped out of hosting

it. Another blow for the organisers came when the long ship, which is moored at Tarbert harbour, was set to sail to Norway to attend an acclaimed Viking festival there, and the event was cancelled.

For the 2017 festival, members of the committee do not yet know what funding would be available to them and but have said that the money they got last year was just not enough. Hans said: 'We did not have enough funding to make the most of last year's festival and Argyll and Bute council is cutting back so it didn't give us a lot

at the time. To make the festival able to continue to attract, we need more substantial funding.'

A spokesman from Heart of Argyll Tourism Alliance said: 'We supported the Vikings attempted trip to Norway late this summer, and we're looking forward, with great interest, to their plans for the 2017 event.'

'It is too early to comment on the support HoATA can give to the event in 2017, but we would, of course, be happy to discuss the next Loch Fyne Viking Festival with the organisers as their plans progress.'

Free Christmas chips for buzzin' kids



Just about first in the queue were Tarbert High School pupils 'Mac' MacFarlane, Finn Scott and Angus Morrison. 06_a51tarbchips01

LOCH Fyne Fish bar in Tarbert fried up a Christmas treat for the pupils of Tarbert Academy when they handed out free chips at lunchtime.

Despite heavy hail showers last Thursday, there was standing room only in the shop, jam-packed with smiling teenagers. Extra potatoes were ordered, and given the job of chipping them was Robert Ivanoff. Boss Raj Shamsul Islam was on the fryers, working hard to keep Andrea Ritson on the

counter supplied with the deep-fried treats. It's really exciting to get free chips,' said Tarbert High School pupil Nadia Jackson, 'and we're all just really buzzing about it.'

Her friend Cara Gorman added: 'We don't usually come here at lunchtime. It's like an early Christmas present.'

Taking a break from the annual Christmas chip extravaganza, Raj said: 'It's going really well, considering the weather. It's nice to see



Smiles all round. 06_a51tarbchips05

all the smiling faces, and I just want to make the kids happy.'



Some like it hot - festive cheer from owner Raj Shamsul Islam. 06_a51tarbchips04



The chips are down for Robert Ivanoff on the chippier. 06_a51tarbchips02



Chip bombed - Cara Gorman, Nadia Jackson and Caitie Wilkieson enjoy their chips - with Santa's little helper in the background. 06_a51tarbchips03



Andrea Ritson has her work cut out, but keeps smiling as she serves the hungry hordes. 06_a51tarbchips06



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CHRISTMAS is nearly upon us, and as we puddle about in the festive drizzle it is encouraging to see people volunteering to help others less fortunate than themselves.

The Red Cross and many other charities do great work at this time of year – and at every other time of year. And people in need of company in and around Lochgilphead will be able to go along to the Community Gathering Christmas lunch – all thanks to volunteers.

Voluntary organisations are likely to be called upon to a far greater extent than before, as public finances continue to shrink. Our public sector is under real pressure, as witnessed in the current savage round of proposed cuts. The council insists they are not proposals, but merely ‘options’. As it splits hairs over terminology, the fact is that the council is forced to make savings that will affect everyone in Argyll and Bute.

And it is hard to avoid the conclusion that lack of money is behind reported problems with ambulance response times in Mid Argyll. It is important to stress that there is no suggestion of blaming local ambulance staff for the ongoing reported issues. Responsibility lies with senior managers, and they must take note of these genuine concerns before something more serious happens.

But meantime – Argyll and Bute Council’s public consultation on its proposals (sorry... options) to cut services will close at the end of the year. We urge people to get involved by the deadline.

Please also feel free to write to us at the Argyllshire Advertiser to air your concerns. Guaranteed, you will not be alone.

who's who at your advertiser

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opinion

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 LETTER

Response to Donald Cameron

Sir,
Extending mobile phone coverage throughout Argyll and Bute is vitally important.

When being questioned by myself before the Scottish Affairs Select Committee on March 18, Vodafone promised that they would bring 4G mobile internet to Argyll and Bute once the Scottish Government has rolled out the necessary broadband infrastructure. This is required to transmit the mes-

sages.
The hold-up is not the mobile phone companies as the recently arrived Tory candidate suggested in his letter (December 11), but the SNP government. Responsibility for funding for the necessary broadband infrastructure lies with the SNP government. It should stop dragging its feet and get this vital infrastructure in place as soon as possible.

I've been campaigning for better mobile phone coverage for many years. It's always good to get support from other parties, but experience and a detailed knowledge of the subject helps.

Alan Reid,
Liberal Democrat Candidate for Argyll and Bute.

Syria airstrikes

Sir,
I congratulate Alastair Redman on securing a weekly column in your newspaper, but wish to seek some clarification from him if I may. When he says ‘we should give support to the Kurdish forces’ is he aware that NATO member Turkey breached a PKK (Kurdistan Worker’s Party) ceasefire and have launched a terror cam-

paign against the Kurdish people? The PKK being part of the only force which has militarily defeated Daesh on the ground. I would also like to ask your columnist whether he feels that the defeat of Daesh may be hastened if Saudi Arabia ceases its supply of British and American arms to this pathetic band of thugs.

James McSparran Crinan.

No cold homes

Sir,
It's that time of year when charities try to win from the additional generosity that often accompanies the Christmas spirit. It is a tough, competitive place to be, with so many good causes that could do with a little help.

But it's also the time of year to shout out about the issue of fuel poverty. Research from the charity Turn2us, as part of its No Cold Homes campaign, has shown that half of those on lower incomes are struggling with the cost of heating their home, with one in five experiencing stress or other mental health issues as a result.

It's a complex problem – one that cannot be seen through the prism of ‘cost of energy versus cost of living’ alone. Turn2us found that only 12 per cent of those struggling have spoken to their energy provider and a third haven't told friends or family. Those struggling are often the least likely to take steps to apply for support, which can add to the spiral of debt and depression.

It's therefore so important that we get the message out to as many people as possible that asking for help can make a difference.

The link between men-

tal health issues and poverty is not new, but as we go into the festive season the pressure can mount. It's not uncommon to be worried about money at Christmas, but when it impacts on your physical or mental health it's too heavy a price to pay. Find out about financial help available at turn2us.org.uk/NoColdHomes.

Alistair Campbell
On behalf of Turn2Us

Remember old folk at Christmas

Sir,
At this time of goodwill, our thoughts should be with our fellow citizens, especially our older folk.

Most towns and villages in Argyll have a Christmas dinner or raise money for gifts for our retired fellow citizens. Lochgilphead seems to be the exception.

The staff and patrons of The Comm raised money over the year to give over 120 retired people a Christmas dinner. Why can't other organisations do the same?

Many retired people in the area only have the basic state pension and are unable to have a nice Christmas meal. They just can't afford the outlay for this luxury.

I am fortunate that my family lives not far away and I spend every Christmas with them. I have also had several nights out, which the above people never get.

Francis Fleming,
Lochgilphead.

Keep your cool at Christmas

Sir,
I would like to wish your readers a very merry Christmas

and a happy New Year. For many this is always an exciting time, but in the last few shopping days it can be frantic trying to get everything ready for the big day.

I want to gently remind your readers to remember that shop workers are people as well. They will be working really hard to make your shopping experience as stress-free and enjoyable as possible.

A recent survey showed that every minute of the working day a shop worker is verbally abused, threatened with violence or physically attacked. Shop workers report that incidents are more frequent throughout the Christmas and New Year period when shops are busier, customers can be stressed and are more likely to take out their frustration on staff.

Talking to our members who work in retail, I know that verbal abuse cuts deep. Many will go home after a shift upset about an unpleasant incident that took place at work that day and worried that it will happen to them again.

That is why Usdaw, the shop workers' union, is running a Respect for Shop workers campaign, asking customers to ‘Keep your Cool at Christmas’. It's a simple message, but remembering that shop workers are working extra hard at this time and treating them with respect will mean that everyone can have a happier Christmas.

John Hannett
General Secretary
Udaw.

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New Lochfyneside minister welcomed

'Challenge is to make Christianity believable and understandable for 21st century'

MID ARGYLL'S newest minister says he's 'honoured' to be asked to serve the linked parishes of West Lochfyneside.

The sun shone and Loch Fyne was looking her stunning best on Saturday December 12, as the people welcomed their new minister.

Cumlodden church in Furnace was packed for the service of induction for the Reverend Dr Roderick DM Campbell, and the minister himself was delighted to be back in Argyll.

Originally from Glasgow, Rev Campbell had been parish minister at Appin and Lismore for six years, before heading to Sri Lanka along with his wife, Sue, for a spell.

Future

He said: 'I feel very honoured to have been asked to be minister, and it's very nice to be back 'home' in Argyll.

'My main hope for the future is that we work together with actions to match our words,' Rev Campbell continued. 'Too often in the church

there is a disjunction between what is said and what is done.

'There is a huge challenge in making the Christian faith both believable and understandable. We have to re-think a lot of the old doctrines and put them into a 21st century context. If we don't do that, I don't think we'll say very much to many people.'

Looking back at his time in Sri Lanka, he added: 'It's a completely different cultural context, but the questions



At last Saturday's service of induction, left to right, Rev Dr Kenneth R Ross, moderator of the Presbytery of Argyll; Rev Dr Roddy MacLeod; Rev Dr Roderick Campbell; Sue Campbell; Rev Robert E Brookes, preacher, Kilchrenan and Dalavich; and Dr Christopher Brett, presbytery clerk, West Cowal.



Loch Fyne was a picture of beauty to welcome the Reverend Dr Roderick Campbell and Sue Campbell to the district. 06_a51nvminister04

are still the same. If we look at the church, as Christians - do we live it? Do we share it? Is the world a better place because we're here? And sometimes, if you look at history, the answer to that is 'no', I'm afraid.

'It's not about what's built up over 2,000 years, but more about what the fundamentals were at the beginning of the Christian faith.

'It was about the way people treated each other, and at the end of the

day it's still about that.'

Before getting stuck into the task ahead, though, the Reverend and Mrs Campbell are settling into the Inveraray manse.

'We're in the manse, just,' he said.

'It's a lovely house to live in, and we haven't managed to lose or break anything out of the boxes yet.

'We look forward to being part of all the communities in this area.'

Glen Scotia's award winning malts are spellbinding

STEPPING into Glen Scotia Distillery's visitor centre is like going back in time to the days when Campbeltown was the Victorian Whisky Capital of the world.

One of the best days out in Campbeltown has just become 100 per cent better with the news that Glen Scotia's 15-year-old and Victoriana have both been given 'Gold Awards' at the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong International Wines and Spirits Competition.

In addition, the Glen Scotia Double Cask collected a silver award, a very good showing for the distillery's first competition.

In May, at the Campbeltown Whisky Festival, the single cask Distillery Edition 001 was launched and it rapidly sold out, with many visitors buying two bottles, one to keep and one to drink.

This Distillery Edition 001 gained a rave review in Jim Murray's latest issue of the Whisky Bible

picking up a 'Liquid Gold Award' and a score of 94.5 out of 100.

The good news is that, just in time for Christmas, Distillery Edition 002 has just been launched.

It is a lightly-peated single cask with just 204 bottles available - which are already proving to be popular. Most Glen Scotia whisky is unpeated which distillery manager Iain McAllister describes as 'a Campbeltown-style whisky - oily, salty and typical of the region'.

In the atmospheric visitor centre, where the warm glow of the bottled whisky adds to the ambience, Campbeltonian Shannon Brodie operates a till straight from the industry's glorious past.

There is no need, though, for crowns, guineas, old pennies or farthings to make a purchase as there is a modern card terminal tucked in next to the till.

Alongside the whisky is Glen Scotia's Heritage Range of bespoke cloth-

ing including jackets, bags, polo shirts, key rings and a bespoke Glen Scotia tweed.

Also on show in the visitor centre is a spirit safe which only recently come out of service after being replaced earlier this year during some of the Loch Lomond Group's investment in the future.

Glen Scotia has a small team compared to some distilleries, with just seven dedicated members of staff. Shannon, one of the latest recruits, says that no two days are the same. She is very keen to encourage more people in the Wee Toon to take a look beyond the door and discover where Glen Scotia is going.

Glen Scotia will be offering gift vouchers in the distillery in the run up to Christmas as well as a special offer of 10 per cent off whiskies and merchandise on December 21/22/23, as well as a free dram of Double Cask for visitors over these three days.



The intimate tasting room which reflects Glen Scotia's heritage credentials.



Bottles lined up for tasting.



Distillery manager Iain McAllister with the single cask Distillery Edition 002 released in time for Christmas



Multicultural band plays in Mid Argyll

'The band will travel to Mali to record and play festivals'

A BAND of musicians who come from different continents recently played in Ford Village Hall.

Mark Mulholland, Craig Ward, Yacouba Sissko and Hannes D'Hoine have also been recording their debut album at Craig's home, Ford House, which is a guest house.

Craig and Mark have been friends for years. Mark met Hannes, who is Flemish, while staying in Belgium. He then met Yacouba when he moved to Mali with his wife, who is a diplomat, last September. Mark explains: 'I started playing a lot with Yacouba and realised the celtic, folk music thing dovetailed beautifully with Malian traditions.'

The aim of the project is to bring different cultures together and see what comes out of it. There is funding from Creative Scotland which allows them to record in Scotland and bring international musicians

over to record. The band explained the gigs in Ford Village Hall on December 8 and in The Hidden Lane Gallery in Glasgow on December 9 were to test out the music in a live setting and see if the songs worked well.

Craig and Mark had previously recorded demos of many of the songs so they could work quickly when they all got together.

As well as the recording sessions at Ford House, the band will travel to Yacouba's homeland of Mali to record and play festivals there too.

It is a cultural exchange and the band believe it is important they all get a sense of each other's countries.

This trip will be in January which, according to Mark, is the best time of year in Mali 'It's dry and it's not too hot.' It is, he adds, easier to convince international artist to make the journey there in January,

which is traditionally a quiet time.

Mark said: 'There is an interesting mix of languages. We all speak some English or French but there are other languages too.' Languages aside, a dreich Scottish winter has Yacouba, who played as part of Damon Albarn's Africa Express project, feeling the cold.

They are hopeful that after the, doubtless warmer, sessions in Mali early next year the album will be completed next summer.

Practicalities have to take priority as Craig explains: 'The album will be ready for the summer but we'll release it later as I'll be too busy managing the guest house to do much.'

They plan to tour next winter and are hopeful of the band continuing beyond that.

'It's something we hope will continue as an ongoing project for a number of years,' says Mark.



Back, Mark Mulholland and Craig Ward. Front, producer David Odlam, Hannes D'Hoine and Yacouba Sissko at Ford House.

MSP hopes for clarity on broadband

HIGHLANDS and Islands list MSP Rhoda Grant wants it to be made clear which areas will benefit from the next stage of broadband rollout.

The Labour MSP says she gets regular complaints from individuals and businesses in the area who are unsure if they will get superfast broadband in the next

stage of the Scottish and UK government's Next Generation broadband rollout.

Mrs Grant said: 'Poor access to broadband continues to be one of the biggest issues in my mailbox. The programme, when announced, gave real hope for future improvements but, almost three years on, many people in

the area still don't know if they are going to benefit from the rollout next year. I have been contacted by two significant employers in the area, both of which are saying inadequate access to broadband has led them to consider relocating their businesses. This is exactly what we are trying to avoid.'

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Mid Argyll tunes up for Christmas

MID ARGYLL has been in fine voice with choirs performing a variety of Christmas carols and songs in the area.

The Dalriada Singers kicked things off with a concert at the Craerae Garden Visitors Centre. The concert was organised by the Friends of Craerae to raise money for the organisation.

The singers sang carols from around the world. The event, held on December 11, was attended by around 50 people and raised nearly £500.

Dalriada Singers were also in good voice at St Margaret's Church, Lochgilphead, where they entertained an almost full church with carols and readings. There was a humorous

reading of John Julius Norwich's 12 Days of Christmas, a correspondence which got many laughing.

Entertaining

Meanwhile, in Tarbert, the lady's choir A-Chaired were entertaining in Tarbert Village Hall.

As well as a beautiful sung collection of seasonal

songs, there was mince pies and mulled wine. Finally, Mid Argyll Youth Chorus and Bar None Community Choir sang in Ardrishaig Public Hall.

The audience was invited to join in with carols and songs at the event on December 13, and many did with gusto. Cakes and warm drinks were distributed at the interval.



A-Chaired ladies choir kept Tarbert entertained.



Dalriada singers sang at St Margaret's Church.

08_a51choir01



Bar None Community Choir entertained everyone in Ardrishaig Public Hall.

08_a51choir03



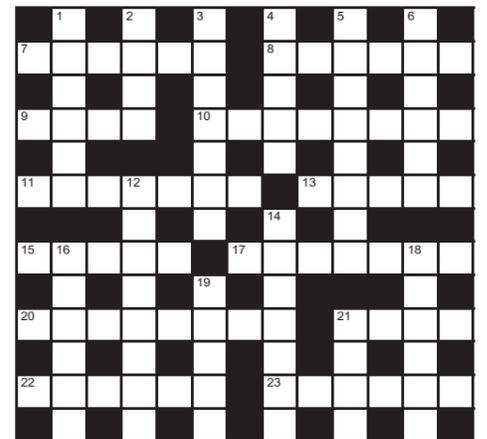
Mid Argyll Youth Chorus added actions to the 12 Days of Christmas.

08_a51choir02



Dalriada singers helped to raise money for Friends of Craerae.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



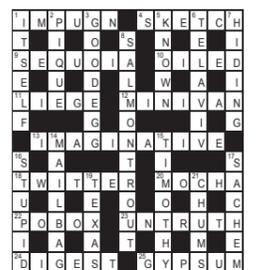
Across

- 7 Welly (6)
- 8 Receive (6)
- 9 Amplifier (4)
- 10 Prohibited (8)
- 11 Apparition (7)
- 13 Decree (5)
- 15 Stodgy (5)
- 17 Tiny organism (7)
- 20 Transferring file to paper (8)
- 21 Early morning wetness (4)
- 22 One without specialised knowledge (6)
- 23 Insignia (6)

Down

- 1 Debonair (6)
- 2 Ship of the highest standard (1-3)
- 3 V shape (7)
- 4 Sword (5)
- 5 Sailing vessel (8)
- 6 One who has temporary breathing problems (6)
- 12 Handle (8)
- 14 Curl (7)
- 16 Cry of triumph (6)
- 18 Unstraight limb (6)
- 19 Many fish (5)
- 21 Something owed (4)

Last week's solution



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SNP 'will not close Kilmory'

THERE is no plan by the Scottish National Party to close the council's Kilmory headquarters, a party meeting has heard.

The Dalriada branch of the SNP held its last meeting of the year on Monday December 7 in Lochgilphead Community Centre.

Guest for the evening, Michael Russell MSP, talked about the forthcoming Scottish Parliament elections, for which he will be the SNP candidate.

In answer to questions, he also confirmed that, contrary to recent claims by the Tories and LibDems, there was no SNP plan to close Kilmory.

He was adamant that the recent discussion was about new ways of delivering council services, and posed no threat to jobs at Kilmory and he was sure that every SNP canvasser would be spreading that message in the weeks ahead.

Mr Russell's presentation was followed by another, on practical aspects of campaigning, from Scottish election campaign co-ordinator, Fiona Stage.

Success for young Argyll writers

TWO young writers from Argyll have been accepted to work on the Scottish Book Trust What's Your Story national programme.

Katie Luxmoore, a 15-year-old novel and short story writer from



Teenage writer Katie Luxmoore.

Tayvallich, and Scott Thompson, also 15 and a short story writer from Tobermory, will work with eight other aspiring writers at a two-day creative writing conference in June 2016. It will lead to a network of young writers and online support for teenager writers across Scotland

The writers will also be mentored by an industry professional and showcase their writing at the conference.

Katie said: 'I applied to learn more about my style of writing and to see what other young people in Scotland are writing. I also wanted to meet other people who like to think the same as me about writing and have similar interests and hobbies. I also wanted to learn what I can do to improve my writing.'



Harry Samh and Karen Martin set off on their three-year trek around Scotland. 06_a50Yesvan01

Yessie hits the road on three-year trek

UNDETERRED by last September's 'No' vote in the referendum, a group of hardy independence supporters is taking to the road to promote the cause.

Karen Martin and Harry Samh are two of a group of four people

who will be on board camper van 'Yessie' for the next three years, seeking a second referendum.

'We're not to do with the SNP,' said Harry, as he gave the Argyllshire Advertiser a sneak preview of the vehicle. 'Any inde-

pendence supporter can join our Yes2 campaign. We're tapping into information and resources built up during the last referendum campaign, and we've even had support and advice from Jim Sillars.'

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Keeping up the quality in soggy Argyll

by COLIN CAMERON
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

FARMING in persistently wet weather, increasingly the 'norm' for Argyll, can be a challenge for farmers.

But one Mid Argyll farm business is taking on the elements by focusing on producing good quality stock.

Argyll escaped the worst of storm Desmond, which swept across the country a

couple of weeks back, but for persistent year-round rainfall, the region is hard to beat.

The Argyllshire Advertiser spoke to the McNair family at Stroneskar, Ford, to get their thoughts on farming through the rain.

Stroneskar runs to 1,000 acres among hills up to 1,000 feet south of Loch Awe, carrying a

suckler herd and a hefted flock of Blackface ewes.

Duncan McNair is the third generation to farm there, following in the footsteps of his grandfather - who took over Stroneskar in 1945 - and father, Alasdair, who still works alongside his son on the farm.

Alasdair's wife, Sheena, copes with the farm paperwork for the family business.

'The problem with the weather is that the ground never gets a chance to dry out properly. It can't take any more water,' said Alasdair. 'And bits that were dry in the past have become wet, and infested with rashes. You see rashes in places they never were before.'

'This last while it's been constant day after day of wind and rain,' Duncan explained.

'And cold rain is worse for livestock than snow or whatever. They just don't thrive the same when it's wet and cold



Stroneskar heifers being fed outside in the unavoidable mud. 06_a51farm_cattle

- and the wind is blowing.'

The sheep are fed supplementary feed blocks, which were not needed in the past, according to the McNairs. 'I don't think you would use them unless they were needed, because they're so expensive,' remarked Alasdair. 'But it's good for the sheep, if you can keep the deer off them,' he added.

And a new steel frame shed, built by Duncan

with help from his father and employee Robert Campbell, helps when the rain is falling. 'The shed is really needed these days with the weather,' said Duncan. 'It makes things a lot simpler and helps get cattle off the ground. We clip our sheep in here, and it is a godsend when we're calving cows, turning an awkward job at grass into an easy one.'

Duncan this year man-

aged to source a load of distillers' draff to supplement silage for his cattle. 'I had a job finding somewhere to store the size of load that arrived, but it's cheaper than conventional concentrates, so we'll see how it goes,' he said.

The focus is on producing quality, native cross and blue-grey, easy-to-handle heifers.

'We make a point of getting them used to seeing people and being

handled, so they should be easier to manage as cows,' Duncan said.

'We manage the heifers in two age-group batches, and sell them in-calf. We have some very good customers, and they seem to like what we produce.'

Duncan continued: 'It's not easy with the weather we get, but as long as they are fed well, they will do well, and that's what we try to achieve.'



Left to right: Alasdair, Sheena and Duncan McNair. 06_a51farm_stroneskar01

Dunlossit tops kilo prices at Islay sale

AT UNITED Auctions' annual Islay sale of lambs and sheep on December 7, there was a catalogued entry of 2,660 head.

All classes sold in keeping with current mainland values. A good offering of quality bred stock was on offer which resulted in 100 per cent clearance.

Lambs sold to a top price per head of £69.50 for a pen of Suffolk crosses from Mrs Bignall, Sannaigmore, and ewes from Carrabus sold to £82.50 for Suffolk crosses. Leading the prices per kilo was an outstanding pen of Blackface lambs from Dunlossit Farms, Ceannacroic which realised 163 pence.

Principal lots and prices:
Top prices per head:
Lambs:

SUFFx: £69.50 - Sannaigmore: £68.00 - Carrabus: £66.00 - Bayview and Octofad: £64.50 - Bayview: £62.00 - Islay Estates.

TEXx: £69.00 and £68.00 - Bayview: £68.00 - Carrabus: £66.00 - Carn: £65.50 - Carrabus.

CHEVx: £47.00 - Coille Farm: £46.00 - Ardfarnal.

CROSS: £51.50 - Coille Farm: £50.50 - Sannaigmore: £49.50 - Coille Farm: £48.00 - Ballychatrigan.

MULE: £58.50 - Starchmill: £56.00 - Coull: £50.00 - Ardtalla Estate.

BF: £54.00 - Kilchiaran: £53.00 - Ceannacroic: £51.50 - Carn.

Ewes:
SUFFx: £82.50 - Carrabus: £67.50 and £65.50 - Coull.

TEXx: £78.00 - Carrabus: £76.00 and £71.00 - Bayview.

CHEVx: £44.50 - Dhoidmhairi.

CROSS: £52.50 - Sannaigmore: £49.50 - Octofad.

MULE: £52.50 - Ardtalla Estate.

BF: £56.50 - Uiskentuie: £53.50 - Lossit: £49.00 - Kilchiaran.



Back row (left to right): Andrew Blaikie, David Sneddon, Stuart Douglas, Andrew Simpson, Fraser Graham, Keir Harvey Waugh, Gemma Waugh, Ruairidh MacKinnon, Stuart Patterson. Front row (left to right): Adam McGovern, Joanne King, Zara Kane, Sally Gow, Martina Bradacova, Emma Bradshaw, Mairi Dagleish, Jessica Ireland Hughes, Heather Kerr.

College students pick up prizes

ARGYLL was represented as staff, students and families came together to celebrate this year's 26 star students at Scottish Rural College Ayr campus.

Three special prizes are open to students across all subject areas, and the remainder are awarded by subject area, ranging from agriculture, applied bioscience through to horticulture/garden design and sport and recreation management.

Twenty-year-old Ruairidh MacK-

innon from Oban, undertaking a four-year degree course in agriculture, was awarded the Malcolm Cup for the best first year student in farm mechanisation.

Highlights

Deputy campus dean, David Hume, said: 'The annual awards ceremony is one of the highlights of the academic year and an opportunity to celebrate the achievement of our students following their hard work and commitment.'

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Sheena Graham Dunaverty, Woodland Drive
wishes all friends & neighbours a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
to all my relatives & friends from Margaret McGown, Machrihanish.

DAVID MCLEAN
Kilmory Road
Merry Christmas and thank you to all my carers, friends and neighbours.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all our family & friends from Jackie & June Morrison, 111 Davaar Avenue xxx.

JAMES & MATTY McCALLUM
wish all family & friends a very Merry Christmas & a Healthy, Happy 2016.

NANCY MACPHERSON
30 Lorne Campbell Court, wishes family & friends a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all relatives, friends & neighbours from John & Mary Harvey, 39 Lady Mary Row.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives & friends from Hamish McMillan, 28A Calton Avenue.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
to neighbours & friends from Emily McDonald, 15 Lochend Street.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all my relatives, friends & neighbours from Hugh Colville, Crosshill Avenue, Campbeltown.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all friends & neighbours from Ailsa Scott.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
to friends from Mary Scally, 20 Benmore Street.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives & friends from Archie Greenlees, 4 Front Row, Drumlemble.

MRS JENNY TYRRELL
would like to wish family, friends & neighbours Season's Greetings & all the best for 2016. A special thank you to Isobel & Charlie Dott.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all friends, neighbours & relatives from Dianne Brodie, Campbeltown.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all our relatives & friends from Alex & John Johnston, Stanley Place.

PEGGY WAREHAM
5 Castlehill Court, wishes family, friends & neighbours a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all my relatives, friends & neighbours from Prunella MacBrayne, 2 Crosshill Avenue.

Christmas Greetings

SEASON'S GREETINGS
to all my relatives & friends from Lorna M MacCallum, Castleacres, Campbeltown.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all our relatives & friends from Willie & Mary MacBrayne, Lorne Campbell Court.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all our relatives & friends from Thomas Graham & family.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
to all my relatives & friends from William McMillan, 81 Crosshill Avenue.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all my relatives & friends from Denis Meenan, 5 Meadowpark.

Flora Williamson
5 Lorne Campbell Court, Campbeltown, wishes all her family & friends a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives & friends. Also thank you to all my friends from Lesley Mitchell, Campbeltown.

FLORA ANDERSON
Auchinlee, wishes all relatives & friends a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all my relatives & friends from Jenny & Donnie MacMillan, Kintyre Gardens.

David & Florence McEwan
wish all their relatives & friends a very Merry Christmas & prosperous New Year.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
to all my relatives & friends from Margaret Ralston, Conieglen.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all my relatives & friends from John Smith, Oban

HAMISH MUIR
Wishing all relatives, neighbours & friends a Merry Christmas.

DAVE & ISOBEL DAVIS, PERTH
wish all their family & friends a Merry Christmas & very best wishes for the new year.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives and friends from Betty Ronald, Craigowan Park, Campbeltown.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR
to family, friends & neighbours from Mary Robertson & family, 6 Castleacres.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all friends & neighbours from Patsy Johnston. Supporting Cancer Research

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives, friends & neighbours from Betty Dawson, 6 Wallace Cottages, Southend.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all relatives, good friends & neighbours from Archie & Mary Clark, Drumore Villa.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
To all my friends in Ardishaig and Lochgilphead, especially the Ardishaig Wednesday Morning Coffee Club, wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year from Jean Berrie.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all my friends and neighbours, also thank you all for your help and support during my recent illness, from Catherine Cameron. Best wishes to all!

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives & friends from Marie Macaulay.

CATHIE & JOHN MARTIN
86 Crosshill Avenue wish family & friends a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all my friends, relatives & neighbours from Mary Paterson, Broomfield, Carradale.

CATHIE ARMOUR, GLEBE STREET
would like to wish all friends & family a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all our relatives & friends with love from Hector & Esther.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Cissie McMurchy, 55 Dalaruan Street.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
to all my relatives, friends & neighbours from Annie Thompson, 20 Meadowpark.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to relations & friends from Katie McNaughton & Danny.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all from Betty Munro, 197 Ralston Road, Campbeltown.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all our relatives & friends from Flora & Colin MacBrayne.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives & friends from Reggie McManus, 48 New Parliament Place.

GEORGE, JOY & JACK
7 Burnside Cottages, wish relatives, friends & neighbours a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all our relatives & friends from Elizabeth & Sharon, Roading.

MARY DOCHERTY
wishes all family, friends & neighbours a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my friends & neighbours from Neil Kennedy, 27 Argyll Street.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives and friends from Isabel McConachie, Garavoine.

HAMISH THOMSON
Dahlrae, Hazelbank Court, Campbeltown wishes all friends & neighbours a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my family, friends & neighbours. All the best for 2016 from Agnes Graham, Braemore.

2015



Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives and friends from Donald Sinclair, 16 Glenfield, Tarbert.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
to all my relatives & friends from Alastair McKinlay, Ciaran Court.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives & friends from May Currie, Tayinloan.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all my friends & relatives from May McDonald, Craigholm, Glenbarr.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives & friends from Katherine McIntyre, 23 Meadowpark.

ELLA JOHNSTON
Auchinlee, wishes all relatives & friends a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all our relatives & friends from Nancy, Allan, Jakob, Mima & Ruben in sunny Florida.

MARY MCMILLAN
wishes all family & friends a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New year.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
Lucy Cunningham, Catriona & David Vick & family of 54 Kirk Street, Campbeltown wish all relations, friends & neighbours, far and near, a Merry Christmas & a Happy Prosperous, Peaceful & Blessed New Year.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives, friends & neighbours from Dorothy McConnachie.

MCSPORRAN
Iain & Hilda wish Season's Greetings to all our relatives, friends & neighbours.

Season's Greetings
to friends & neighbours from Jenny, 24 Meadowpark.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives & friends from Marjorie & Arthur, Campbeltown.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives & friends from Duncan MacKinnon, Low Tiferghus.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives & friends from Mrs Catherine Thomson.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all our relatives, friends & neighbours from Donald & Margaret, 57 Meadows Avenue.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives & friends from Bobby Duncan, 35 Castleacres.

Mary's Meals shop in Lochgilphead to be refurbished

A CHARITY shop in Lochgilphead will undergo refurbishment in a bid to keep it open for business.

Mary's Meals will say farewell to volunteer Dee Carrick, as she takes retirement in the new year and will welcome a new manager to the role.

The flagging shop is set to be revamped to protect it from closure and keep it open on the town's Argyll Street.

Dee Carrick has lent her time to the charity shop on the town's Argyll Street since it opened in 1995.

Originally called Scottish International Relief, the charity was set up to take aid to Romanian orphanages in the early 1990s and then widened to respond to emergency situations such as war, natural disaster and famine.

In 2012 the charity changed its name to Mary's Meals after school feeding programmes became its sole focus.

In the two decades that Dee has led the shop, her biggest achieve-

ment was raising money towards the construction of a school kitchen in Zingwangwa Primary School in Malawi in 2007.

She said: 'A few years ago we raised £6,000 to fund the building of a school kitchen and thereafter raised, and still do, £2,000 each year to help maintain the running of it.'

The money that is raised year on year goes to providing the 2,331 children at the school with a nutritious meal every day.

Mid Argyll residents go to the shop with anything from books to adzes - an axe-like tool used for wood carving - all of which is organised and sold on from the shop.

The shop will be refurbished in January and Dee feels it is time that she hands the reins over to someone new.

She said: 'It really needs the work and needs brought up-to-date.'

The hard working volunteer is still determined to see the shop right and will stay on to support



Zingwangwa teacher Hastings Kumbemba.

a new manager to find their feet in the job if she is needed.

Alan Brown, executive director of Mary's Meal UK, quashed rumours of closure: 'There are no plans to close the shop and we are investing in its future through refurbishment and the appointment of a paid manager. Dee has run the shop as a loyal volunteer for the past two decades and has represented Mary's Meals wonderfully in the area, along with her team.'

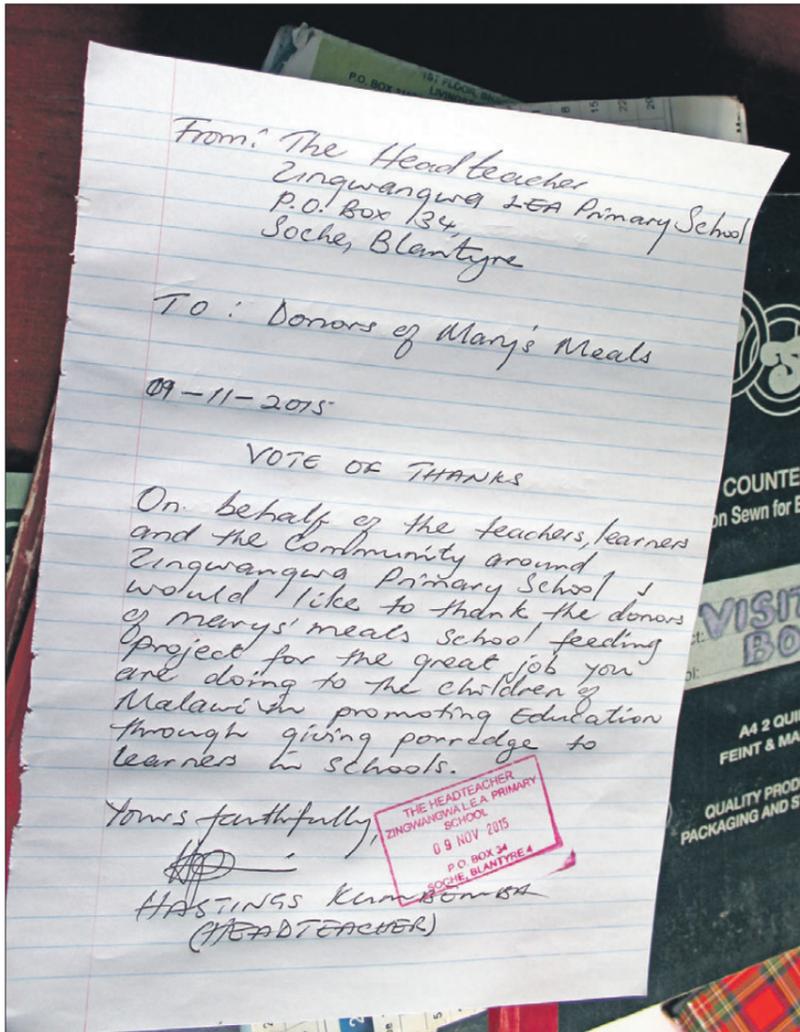
'We are currently recruiting for a new manager to run the shop, and we are hoping for applications from qualified and passionate individuals within the commu-

nity.'

The job has been advertised and managers at Mary's Meals are encouraging local people with enthusiasm to go for the job.

Sharon Campbell, retail manager of Mary's Meals, said: 'The new manager will be responsible for the day-to-day running of our Lochgilphead charity shop. By contributing to the work of Mary's Meals, they will become part of a worldwide movement of people who will not accept that any child in this world of plenty should endure a day without a meal.'

To find out more visit www.marysmeals.org.uk/category/vacancies



A letter of thanks from the school in Malawi that Dee Carrick and her team in the Lochgilphead shop helped to fund.

Emergency equipment handed over

LOCHGILPHEAD Community Council has been given a bag of basic emergency equipment.

The bag, containing a first aid kit, blanket, hand sanitiser, emergency radio and other gear, was provided by

Argyll and Bute Council to help with the community council's emergency plan, should the need arise.

The bag was presented to Elizabeth and Helen Rhodick by Councillor Sandy Taylor.



Elizabeth and Helen Rhodick accept the emergency equipment from Councillor Sandy Taylor. 06_a51commcouncil01

Who is your education hero?

PEOPLE in Argyll and Bute are being asked to nominate education professionals who go above and beyond the call of duty in their job.

There are 17 different categories in the Scottish Education Awards for 2016, recognising the best and the brightest in all areas of Scottish education.

Anyone can nominate their favourite teacher or school or anyone in education who deserves recognition. See www.scottisheducationawards.org.uk

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The importance of Red Cross volunteers

REPORT By EALA MacALISTER
 editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

WHEN people see the name Red Cross, thoughts often turn to large scale crisis, like the current refugee emergencies or natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis in far off-lands.

What is less well known is that an army of volunteers and workers operate across the UK, including Argyll,

doing vital work under its independent living scheme.

One of the main concerns at this time of year is the weather. During bad weather, which can come with heavy snow and power cuts, the Red Cross will spring into action, speaking to power companies involved and finding out where their vulnerable cus-

tomers are. It then uses its bigger vehicles to pay them a visit to reassure them and drop off supplies if necessary. This is generally done by a team of volunteers who go out in the worst weather.

Service co-ordinator Bruce Johnson and service manager Anke-Rita Brown are based at the Lochgilphead centre.

There is also a shop to raise funds in the town. Primarily they are in-

involved with patient transport and will provide mobility aids to help people get around better.

'There are some emergencies that are not classed as emergencies, such as people not being able to get to a medical appointment for which they have been waiting weeks, even months,' said Anke-Rita.

'They go to book patient transport only to find out they're not entitled. That's where we step in,' she explained.

'Our service is a door-to-door service. We are happy to wait with people or even to go into appointments with people if they want us to,' she added.

Social isolation

The scheme also helps reduce social isolation by taking people to social groups when they can't manage themselves. This is particularly important around this time of year and, in an area as spread out as Argyll, it can be a lifeline.

Red Cross volunteers will wait for people to



Volunteers can help reduce social isolation.



Red Cross volunteers visit people during bad weather.

get supplies from a local supermarket on their way back from appointments or help them settle into their house when they first get back. This can be especially welcome for people nervous about going home after a long hospital stay. In an area like Argyll they sometimes have to take ferry trips to help people

to and from hospital. 'We have had situations where people had been given an appointment in Glasgow and had never been off a particular island. We then work with our office in Hillington, which takes them to the hospital and gets them back to the airport,' said Anke.

The Red Cross also has

a range of mobility aids, like wheelchairs, which can be loaned out for up to six weeks for people who need short term support. In the Dochas Centre, and at a few other places, there are people provided by the Red Cross to do hand massages. The only cost is a donation to the organisation.

Don't be alone at Christmas

LOCHGILPHEAD Parish Church will again play host to this year's Community Gathering Christmas lunch.

Now in its second year, the community gathering brings together people who find themselves alone during the festive period.

The gathering has again come together through the efforts of a committed group of volunteers - many of whom know what it is like to be alone at Christmas.

Last year's event saw around 50 people from the Mid Argyll area enjoying a traditional Christmas dinner.

Difficult

'People find themselves alone for a whole variety of reasons - through bereavement, mental health or addiction problems, or perhaps their family and friends don't live in the local area,' explained Lynda Syed, of Argyll TSI and one of the com-

munity gathering volunteers. 'This time of year can be particularly difficult for people in our community who feel lonely over the festive season.'

'Last year's community gathering was a great success and meant that many local people, who would otherwise have been alone, were able to get together and have a great Christmas day. We feel it is really important to make sure they - and others - have that opportunity again this year.'

The group has been working hard over the past months to make sure that it happens.

Lochgilphead woman Clare Bowness is part of the gathering kitchen team and is undaunted at the prospect of cooking dinner for so many people.

She said: 'We've got a traditional Christmas dinner on offer - turkey and all the trim-

mings, including Brussels sprouts.'

'Last year went so well and it all really came together; this year will be no different. We have lots of people who are willing to roll up their sleeves and get stuck in with all the jobs that need to be done - from making pots of soup to doing the dishes.'

Together

'The food isn't the most important part, though - it's about bringing people together.'

There are a number of ways to get involved.

Volunteers are needed to help with organisation on the day. Donations of small gifts, food items or money are also welcome.

The team is also keen to hear from any local musicians who could entertain and people willing to drive, either offering lifts to guests or making deliveries to those who can't make it.

Go along to Lochgilphead Parish Church Hall from 12.30pm till 2.30pm on Christmas day and join others for a good meal and some company. To find out more, call Lynda on 01546 606808 or Clare on 01546 606448, email lynda@argylltsi.org.uk or look for 'Community Gathering' on Facebook. Donations can be left at the Argyll and Bute TSI office on Union Street, Lochgilphead on Tuesday 11am to 2pm or the Dochas Centre on Tuesday between 6pm and 7pm.



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Conserving energy is child's play

PRIMARY school pupils in Argyll have been learning about different ways to save energy while performing a short play in front of the rest of their schools.

The day-long drama workshops, run by energy company E.ON, took groups of pupils at five schools, Ardrishaig, Lochgilphead, Kilmartin, Tayvallich and Glassary, through a va-

riety of tasks while exploring the subject of energy.

The young actors practised songs and took part in drama-based games as they learned about the importance of conserving energy.

Engaged

Simone McAdam, acting head teacher at Ardrishaig primary, said: 'This was a new

project for us and the children were really engaged in the activities.

'It was a good mix of facts and fun, and performing the play was a great way to get the children thinking about what energy is and how important it is to us all.'

Alison Gibson, senior community relations executive at E.ON, said: 'The plays that they put together are intended

to be comical, so we hope that this approach means that not only do the participating groups learn about how to be more energy efficient, the whole of the school gains something from the day's activities and picks up some ideas about the steps we can all take around the home to make sure we use no more energy than we need.'



Ardrishaig primary pupils enjoyed doing their play.

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We're ready for winter. Are you?



Power Distribution

Santa's on a fundraising mission in Inveraray

SANTA and his little helpers were on the streets of Inveraray raising charity cash in the winter sunshine.

Assisted by two elves, the big man in the red suit was on the Royal Burgh's Main Street on Saturday December 12, collecting for Gillian's Saltire Appeal, which supports cancer respite accommodation in Largs.

The fundraisers, from Dunoon, have been on a mission around Argyll and Bute. After visiting Inveraray, Santa and the gang were due to get Rudolph, Prancer, Dancer, Donner, Blitzen and the rest set on a course for Rothesay for more festive fundraising.



Santa and his elves in the winter sunshine of Inveraray. 06_a51xmassanta01

Help for home adaptations

ARGYLL and Bute council is encouraging people over 60 years to get help adapting their home.

The scheme is run by the Scottish government and helps people over 60 to adapt their homes to make sure they are suitable for their future needs, allowing them to stay independent in their own home for longer.

The council policy lead for housing, councillor Robin Currie, said:

'The help to adapt scheme enables people to stay in control and make decisions based on the full range of options available.'

'Home adaptations are often made after an accident or a fall takes place but for some people an accident can mean not returning home at all.'

'The take up in Argyll and Bute has been very low thus far so I would encourage people to consider this initiative.'

Jesus - He's the reason for the Season

MID ARGYLL

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCHES

Everyone Welcome

Christmas Eve 24th December
5 pm - All Saints, Inveraray (SCO25646)

Mass of Christmas with Carols
11.30 pm - Christ Church, Lochgilphead (SC013787)
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 25th December
9 am - St Columba, Poltalloch
Holy Communion
11 am - Christ Church, Lochgilphead
Christmas Eucharist

Father Simon Mackenzie
Priest in Charge of the charges of Mid Argyll & Arran
01546 602315

ST MARGARET'S RC CHURCH LOCHGILPHEAD

Thursday 24th December
Midnight Mass
Carols from 11.30pm
Christmas Day 10am.
St. Kieran's, Campbeltown

Thursday 24th December
Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 11am
Fr. David Connor
01546 602380
All Welcome
(SCO002876)

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

Charity Number SC001002

We wish you a Happy Christmas and hope that you will join us for our special Christmas Celebrations:

Thursday 24 December
Tayvallich Green 4 pm
Carols on the Green
Tayvallich Church 11:15 pm
Christmas Eve Service

Friday 25 December
Inverlussa Church 11 am
Christmas Celebration
Retiral offerings at these services for EMBRACE the Middle East

Sunday 27 December
Tayvallich Church 10 am
Morning Worship
For more information please see our website
www.argyllcommunities.org/nknnapdalecofs

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH

Christmas Eve 24th December
11.15pm - WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

Mince Pies & Mulled Wine from 10.45pm

Christmas Day 25th December
Family Service 11am
Children bring your presents!

Rev. Hilda Smith
All Welcome
More info. at www.lpchurch.co.uk
Lochgilphead (Church of Scotland)
SC016311

ARDRISHAIG & SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES

Sunday 20th December
"Who Do You Think You Are?"
(Matthew 1:18-25)
Ardrishaig at 11:00am
Achahoish at 12:30pm
(followed by Seasonal Food and Drink)

Christmas Eve
Carol Service

"Stamps of Approval"
Achahoish at 7:00pm

Watchnight Service
"O What a Mystery I See"
Ardrishaig at 11:15pm
(Carol Singing from 11 o'clock)

Sunday 27th December
"Have You Ever Wondered?"
(Luke 2:8-20)
Ardrishaig at 11:00am
Achahoish at 12:30pm

Sunday 3rd January 2016
"What Are You Looking For?"
(Matthew 2:1-12)
Ardrishaig at 11:00am
Achahoish at 12:30pm

KINTYRE

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday 20th December
"Come and join the Celebration"
A presentation by the Sunday school children
with Campbeltown Brass Ensemble followed by coffee & mince pies

Sunday 27th December
All Age Service
"No need for a telescope at Christmas"
Sunday 3rd January 2015
New Year Communion Service
"This is how we know what love is"

All our services start at 11.00 am and are held at the Guide Hall, Kinloch Road
www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk
SC043322

SADDELL & CARRADALE PARISH CHURCH LINKED WITH SOUTHEND PARISH CHURCH

SADDELL & CARRADALE

Sunday 20th December
10.00am Morning Worship

Thursday 24th December
11.30pm Watchnight Service

Friday 25th December
10.30am United at Lorne & Lowland Church

Sunday 27th December
10.00am Morning Worship

SOUTHEND

Sunday 20th December
11.45am Morning Worship

Thursday 24th December
8.00pm Carol Service

Friday 25th December
10.30am United at Lorne and Lowland Church

Sunday 27th December
11.45am Morning Worship

SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT, LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Thursday 24th December 2015
Watchnight Services
Skipness Family Service 7pm
Kilberry Service 7pm
Tarbert Service 11.30pm
All congregation led

For all church enquiries and pastoral care
Contact Rev. Hilda Smith, Interim Moderator
on 07826 235735
Everyone very welcome
Tarbert & Kilberry SCO02622
Skipness SCO04280

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Christmas starts with Christ

Sunday 20th December
11am Christmas Family Service

Thursday 24th December
Christmas Eve
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 3rd January 2016
11am Family Communion Service
with
Songs of Praise

All welcome to all events
"For to you a Child is given"

LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 20th December
Morning Service 11.15am
Choir Items
Next Generation, Triple C
Nativity Play
Rev P Wallace

Thursday 24th December
Joint Watchnight Service
at the Highland Parish Church

Friday 25th December
"O Come let us adore Him"
Morning Worship 10.30am
A short service to celebrate
Christmas Day
Rev P Wallace

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GEORGE STREET, CAMPBELTOWN

Sunday 20th December
11.15am Worship Service
Rev Prof Bob Akroyd
5.00pm 'Peace on Earth'
Christmas Carols and reflections on the Christmas story
Guest Speaker: Rev Prof Bob Akroyd
Christmas refreshments will be served
All welcome

www.campbeltownfreechurch.com
Scottish Charity Number: SCO09980

ST KIARAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday 20th December
Advent 4
Holy Communion 10.45am

Friday 25th December
Christmas Day
Holy Communion 10.45am

Sunday 27th December
Christmas 1
Holy Communion 10.45am

GIGHA & CARA LINKED WITH KILCALMONELL LINKED WITH KILLEAN & KILCHENZIE

(Interim Moderator:
Rev Catriona Hood)

GIGHA CHURCH

Sunday 20th December
Morning worship at 11.00am led by the congregation

Thursday 24th December
Watchnight Service at 11.30pm
Mr Alasdair MacNeill

KILCALMONELL CHURCH (CLACHAN)

Sunday 20th December
Morning worship at 10.00am
Rev Catriona Hood

Thursday 24th December
Christmas Eve Service at 7.30pm
(followed by Christmas refreshments)
Mrs Elizabeth Ball

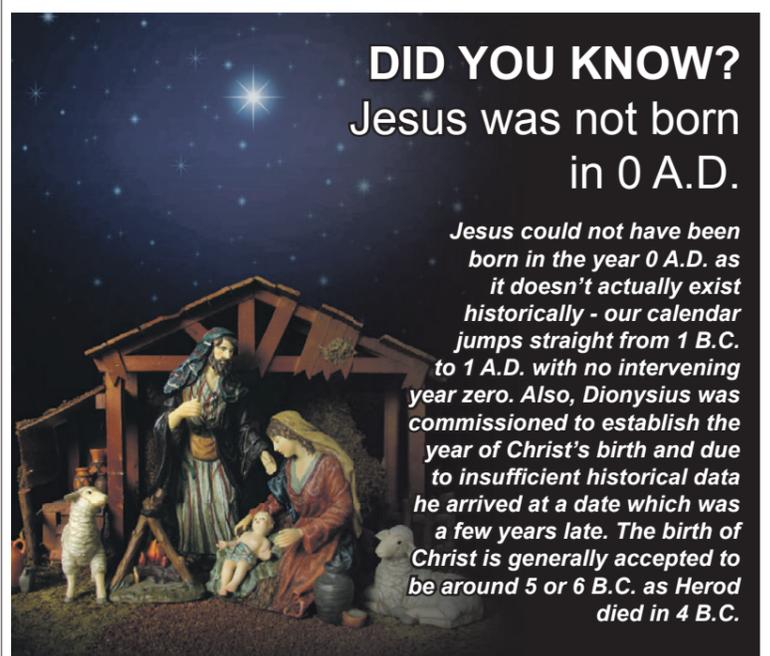
KILLEAN & KILCHENZIE CHURCH (A'CHLEIT)

Sunday 20th December
Morning worship at 11.30am
Ms Marilyn Shedden

Thursday 24th December
(Mince Pies/non-alcoholic punch at 11.00pm in the Hall)
Watchnight Candlelit Service at 11.30pm
Ms Marilyn Shedden

TAYINLOAN CAROL SERVICE

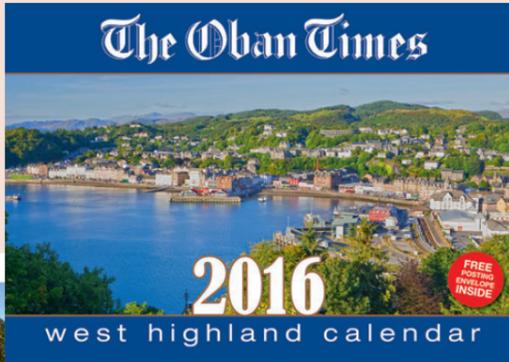
Wednesday 23rd December
at 8.00pm
in Tayinloan Village Hall
Speaker: Mr Kelvin Moller
Christmas Supper
Come & share in the true spirit of Christmas
Everyone welcome



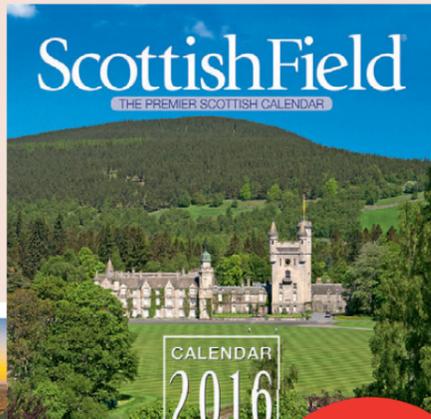
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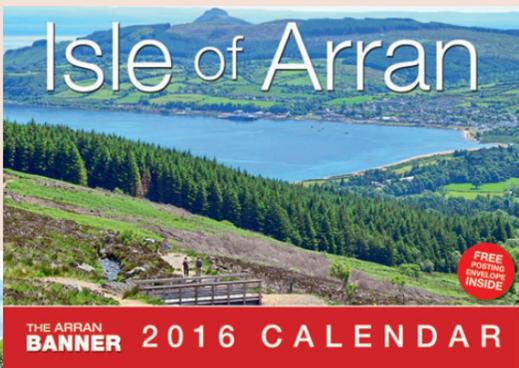
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Telephone: 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020

WANTED

All types of good quality 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford etc and all 4 x 4 pickups, must be good condition and reasonable mileage. Older 4 x 4's and non runners/MOT failures etc considered.

Telephone: 07546 788945



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WANTED

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Telephone: William 07730 130284 or email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com

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Tel: 01880 820006 or 07880795164

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£4450

Tel 01631 564134/0796 9988837

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Good running order MOT failure, ideal island car

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Tel: 07899 787276

WANTED

4x4s, Land Rover, double or single cab pickups, or any type of 4x4, any year or condition, will collect.

Telephone 07767 302294 or 01339 802522

Goods Vehicle Operators Licence

Menzies Distribution Ltd of 2 Lochside Avenue, Edinburgh Park, EH12 9DJ is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To keep an extra 2 heavy goods vehicles at the operating centre at Menzies Distribution Ltd, Unit 2 Site 23, Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RR. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representation to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 388 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating that their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioners Office.

Goods Vehicle Operators Licence

Mellex Group Limited trading as West Coast Tool and Plant Hire of Titanium 1 Kings Inch Place, Renfrew, PA4 8WF is applying for a licence to use Plot 2, Site 11B, Kilmory, Lochilphead, PA31 8RR as operating centre for 5 goods vehicles and 5 trailers, Plot 3, Site 11B, Kilmory, Lochilphead, PA31 8RR as operating centre for 5 goods vehicles and 5 trailers and Achnafad, Tayinloan, Clachan, Tarbert, PA29 6XG as operating centre for 10 goods vehicles and 10 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

69%
of the business community read the regional press

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

PUBLIC NOTICES

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

COMMUNITY SERVICES: EDUCATION
EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1980
CHOICE OF SCHOOL

It is customary for children to attend their local school; however, parents may make a written request to place their child in any school under the management of the education authority. Such a request is referred to as a placing request. Information concerning the authority's schools and the procedures to be followed in making placing requests is available at every school and at the Education Offices, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon PA23 8AJ (Tel: 01369 704000). This information is also available for inspection or reference at public libraries. Information in relation to any particular school is available at that school.

Placing requests for session beginning August 2016 should be sent to the Executive Director of Community Services, Education Offices, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon PA23 8AJ (Tel: 01369 704000) by 11 March 2016 for primary and secondary schools.

Gaelic Medium Education
Gaelic Medium Education is available in the following schools:- Bowmore Primary School, Islay; Tirez Primary School, Tirez; Salen Primary School, Mull; Rockfield Primary School, Oban; Strath of Appin Primary School, By Oban and Sandbank Primary School, Dunoon. For further information on Gaelic Medium Education please contact Don McAllister, Education Officer, donald.mcallister@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Parents who are interested in such provision are advised to register at the Gaelic Medium School in their area in accordance with the advertisement on registration of children which will be published week commencing 4 January 2016.

Parents of children due to start school in August 2016, whether or not they wish to make a placing request, should proceed in accordance with the advertisement on registration of children which will be published week commencing 4 January 2016.

CLELAND SNEEDON, Executive Director - Community Services

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PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

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

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/02435/PP	Installation of hydro-power scheme and associated works	Land At Bardaravine Wood Tarbert Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Harbour Street
15/03249/PP	Change of use of agricultural land to form parking facilities	Land Adjacent To Rhunahaorine School Tayinloan Tarbert Argyll	Sub Post Office Tayinloan

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

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

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

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website.

Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
(OFF STREET DISABLED PERSON'S PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2015

On Monday 14th December 2015 Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order in accordance with the Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The Order, which comes into operation on 1st February 2016, makes it an offence for anyone to park in a marked disabled person's parking bay in Argyll and Bute Council off street car parks, unless they are a holder of a valid blue badge and are using it in accordance with the national blue badge legislation.

This Order applies to all Argyll and Bute Council off street car parks that are not already covered by a controlling order.

A copy of the Order is available to view at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk or can be inspected at Argyll and Bute Council Offices during normal office hours Monday to Friday at:- 1) 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead; 2) Burnet Building, St John Street, Campbeltown and 3) Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Any person, who wishes to question the validity of the Order or any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act or any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order may, within six weeks from 18th December 2015, apply to the Court of Session for this purpose.

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

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You must have excellent communication and interpersonal skills to build effective relationships with volunteers at the lifeboat station, the supporters locally and RNLI staff beyond. You will possess strong leadership skills and you will play an active role in leading the team.

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Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2005

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Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

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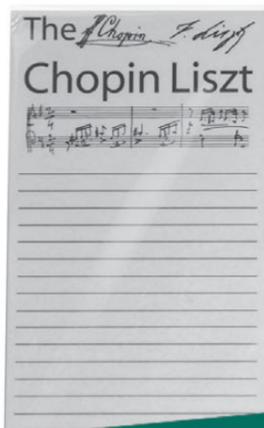
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DOUBLE DIVAN BASE double divan bed base, very good condition, £55 Telephone 01631 562711.

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STAG DRESSING TABLE Stag Minstrel 3 mirror dressing table with glass top including upholstered stool, good condition, £40ono Telephone 01631 563507.

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COURIER ADVERTISER
PERSONAL NOTICES PERSONAL NOTICES

PERSONALS



Would like to thank everyone for their support at the annual coffee morning. The event raised £1026.93 Thanks also to all who have donated cat food via our drop off boxes in the Coop and Tesco Stores. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all.



Margaret Bone would like to thank all neighbours, friends and relatives for all kindness received during her illness. Also thanks to doctors and nursing staff of Campbeltown Hospital, and to Community Nurses, particularly Mrs Lorna Robertson, for their care. Wishing everyone all best wishes for 2016.

Happy 60th Birthday Jimmy

Where did all the hair go? I mean years go? Love from Sharon xx

Happy 70th Birthday

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Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Shedden



IT IS a weekly delight to have lunch with the children at Glenbarr school and there is always much chat and fun with the young people.

Last Tuesday there was a lot of talk about the forthcoming Christmas show, and all the excitement around it.

For me this is one of the highlights of the Christmas season and I know how much preparation goes into making it the success that it is.

I was chatting to Hannah about the show.

Hannah is a very wise five-year-old who is never stumped for an answer.

I asked what parts she would be playing and was told that she would be a cat and a seal.

However when I asked what song she would be singing, Hannah looked just a little disconcerted for a moment.

She thought about it carefully and finally told me that she 'would be singing the same song as everyone else'.

I thought this was a brilliant answer for a five-year-old and I have smiled about it many times since.

However, Hannah's response gave me pause for thought.

At this wonderful time of year, I wonder if we are all singing 'the same song as everyone else'.

Are we all singing the song of peace that we are called to sing?

Are we all singing the song of love we are required to sing?

What song are we singing as we prepare to come again to the manger?

Is our song the song of the angels as they brought the good news to the sleepy shepherds?

Is our song the song of joy of these shepherds as they hurried to find the baby?

Is our song the song of wonder of the wise men as they bowed down low at the Christ child?

Let's be like Hannah and sing the same song together and let it be a resounding song of praise.

INVERARAY

Kids on the run head indoors

DUE TO the bad weather, this week kids on the run took place in the church hall.

A trail run was simulated with cones for puddles, ladders standing in for mud to run through with high knees and hurdles as logs needing to be jumped over.

The session ended with a relay race, teams collected letters to make festive words.

Runner of the week went to Ashley McDougall. Kids on the run leader Fee Corner said: 'She really listened and acted on the advice given to her. It's not all about how fast you can go but whether you can keep going and Ashley, along with others, is really developing this endurance.' She added: 'Massive thanks to Wilma from the church and her daughter Caroline for allowing us access and struggling through horrendous weather to let us in and out.'

FORD

Rural film day

SCOTTISH Woman's Institute groups from around Mid Argyll gathered in Ford for a showing of the Theory of Everything.

KILMICHAEL



Kilmichael SWI ladies had Christmas dinner at the Smiddy.

Kilmichael SWI Christmas dinner

THE members of Kilmichael Scottish Women's Institute went to the Smiddy Bistro in Lochgilphead for Christmas dinner.

Secretary Betty Rhodick, said: 'John, the chef, created a menu

especially for us, knowing we wouldn't want huge portions and he did us proud. It was a delicious meal.'

The ladies enjoyed the opportunity to get together, chat and

catch up with news, on December 5, whilst appreciating their dinner.

The group shared a secret Santa sack ensuring everyone went home with a wee surprise.

The event was attended by institute members from Kilmichael Glasary and Lochgilphead as well as the Ford institute, which hosted the event.

After the Steven Hawking biopic, a blue teapot was passed round to collect donations for the Associated Countrywomen of the World organisation. It provides financial help for projects that directly help

women across the globe. This year it is concentrating on providing clean water and sanitation.

TIGNABRUAICH

Defibrillator donation from Scottish Salmon Company

THE Scottish Salmon Company has donated a

defibrillator to Tighnabruaich.

It will be kept in the police station and there has already been a number of people interested in learning how to use it.

Dr Alida MacGregor, from the Kyles Medical Centre, said: 'Nobody ever expects to suffer a heart attack, but when the worst happens, it goes without saying that people need medical help as soon as possible.

'By having a defibrillator available, the chances of reaching someone in cardiac arrest is increased, meaning their chances of survival also dramatically improves.'

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

TEXT FOR THE WEEK

'... a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord' (Luke 2:11).

BIRTHS



O'MAY

Jamie and Amanda (née Crawford) are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter, Oran, on December 5, 2015. The best Christmas present ever! Thanks to midwives in Lochgilphead and Paisley RAH.

DEATHS

SMALL - Peacefully, at Kintyre Care Home, Campbeltown, on December 14, 2015, Jolyon Small, aged 80 years, of Crockness, Glenburn Road, Ardrishaig, beloved husband of Marjorie and much loved father of Gavin and Hamish. Loving grandpa of Julie, Sandra, Gavin, Callum and Charlotte. Dear Brother of Hazel. A dear neighbour and friend to many. Funeral service will take place at Cardross Crematorium, on Tuesday, December 22, 2015, at 12.15pm. Black tie optional. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to RNLI and Alzheimer Scotland.

ACKNOWLEDGE-MENTS

GILCHRIST - Helen, John and Andrew would like to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers, kind messages and phone calls received on the sad loss of their mum, Maureen. Thanks to Alasdair Blair for funeral arrangements, Rev P Wallace for words of comfort, Argyll Bakeries (Valerie and Chloe) for the catering at Stronvaar and to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside. The retiral collection for Kintyre Dialysis raised £686.25.
SLINGER - The family would like to thank all neighbours and friends for the many kind expressions of sympathy received following the recent passing of Bob. Special thanks to Doctors and medical staff at Mid Argyll Hospital, and to Carer's for their consideration and care of Bob. Our thanks also to Rev. David Carruthers for a comforting service; Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for caring and efficient arrangements and to the Coachhouse Inn for catering. Finally our thanks to all who attended at Cardross to pay their respects.

TAYLOR - The family of the late Craig Dixon Taylor would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for their kindness and support, along with the many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards, phone calls and visits received following the tragic loss of Craig. Special thanks to local ambulance service for their efforts; to Rev David Carruthers for a most comforting and appropriate service; to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for dignified funeral arrangements, to the Kilmartin Hotel for providing all catering, especially given the large numbers in attendance. Finally, our thanks all who attended at church and graveside, in such large numbers, to pay their respects. Your support was greatly appreciated. The retiral collection has raised over £1,500 for the Mid Argyll Agricultural Society Sheep Gates.

IN MEMORIAMS

ADCOCK - Keira, 11.08.00 - 19.12.03. Every day in some small way Memories of you come our way Though absent, you are ever near Still missed, loved, always dear.
 - God bless from Mum, Dad, Cassie and Annie xxxx.
 Memories never fade They get more precious as time goes by.
 - Love Nana and Papa xx.
 Forever in our hearts.
 - Colin, Stuart and Maria xxx.
BROWN - In loving memory of James, died December 13, 2009. The hand of time keeps turning, And years keep slipping away, But memories are keepsakes, Nobody can take away.
 - Agnes
 Six years granda, and you are still missed.
 - George, Alasdair, Kyle and Jaimee.
BROWN - James, died December 13, 2009. Always in our hearts.
 - Fiona and Alasdair.
CAMPBELL - In loving memory of Marion McKenzie, who died December 19, 2009. We hold you close within our hearts, And there you shall remain. To walk with us throughout our lives Until we meet again.
 - Archie, Moira, Fionnagh, Christine and families.

DUFFY - Treasured memories of Craig, a much loved grandson. When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.
 - Love from Granny Tottie.

DUFFY - In memory of Craig, a fellow fisherman and friend, taken too soon, December 19, 2004. Gone but not forgotten.
 - TT Boys.

GATNER - In loving memory of Andy, died December 22, 2005. Dear husband and father. Loved and remembered always.
 - Love Sarah, Andrew and Rita.

MACAULAY - In loving memory of Tommy, died December 18, 2012, aged 77 years. Devoted father, grandfather and great grandad, much loved husband of Marie.

MACAULAY - In loving memory of a much loved dad and grandad, Tommy, who died December 18, 2012. Close to our hearts you will always stay. Loved and remembered every day.
 Julie and Chloe xx

MACKINNON - Christina. Fond memories of a dearly loved mum, gran and great gran, who passed away on December 18, 2014. Always in our thoughts.
 - From all the family at home and abroad.

MCALPINE - Duncan. In memory of dad, died December 15, 2011. God has you in his keeping, we have you in our hearts, Missed always.
 - Mary and James

MCALPINE - In memory of a much loved papa. You left us beautiful memories, your love is still our guide Although we cannot see you, you are always by our side.
 - Andrew and Siobhan.

MCALPINE - In loving memory of my dad, Duncan, passed away December 15, 2011. Sadly missed.
 - Donnie, Fiona, Ross and Fiona.

MCALPINE - Forever remembered wee papa, sorely missed every day.
 - Jamie, Duncan and Pam.

WILKIN - Treasured memories of John Alan Wilkin, who left us bereft on December 20, 2010. A dearly loved husband, dad, granda, papa tin and father-in-law. Always in our thoughts, Forever in our hearts.
 - Nancy and family.

Highland Parish Church



SCO02493
Sunday 20th December 2015
 The service will be held in the Church at 11.15am and will be conducted by Rev G. Middleton.
Thursday 24th December 2015
 Watchnight Service; Come and celebrate Christmas at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve.
 Service will be conducted by Rev. W. Crossan.
 Badminton Club will resume after Christmas on Tuesday 5th January.
 Primary 1-5: 6.30 - 7.30pm
 Primary 6-7: 7.30 - 8.30pm

LORNE AND LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity Number SCO11686
Sunday 20th December
 Service 11.15am
 Creche, Triple C, Next Generation
 Rev P Wallace
Thursday 24th December
 Choir 7.30pm



Campbeltown Corps
 Church and Community Centre
 Registered Charity No. 214779 and in Scotland SC009359
 Burnside Street, Campbeltown
 01586 552046
Sunday 20th December
 2.00pm Family Carol Service
 Lead my Majors Russell & Catherine Wyles
 All welcome

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH

75 Longrow, Campbeltown
Sunday 20th December 2015
 Christmas starts with Christ 11.00am
 Christmas Family Communion Service
 Mr Gordon Cosgrove
Thursday 24th December
 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight
 For details, contact the church office on 01586 551200 or the Church Secretary on 0586 551237.
 www.springbankchurch.co.uk
 SCO14646



Argyll Street, Campbeltown
 St Kieran Episcopal Church: Campbeltown
 Scottish Charity No SC023277
Sunday 20th December
 Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Morning Prayer 10.45am
 Holy Communion
 Details of services are on the church door.
 Enquiries Tel: 01586 551141
 The Scottish Episcopal Church is a Province of the Worldwide Anglican Communion

CHURCH NOTICES

Scottish Episcopal Churches

Everyone Welcome
Christ Church
 Bishopton Road, Lochgilphead (SC013787)
Sundays 11.00 am
 Eucharist service
 Coffee & Cake follows the service
Christmas Eve 24th December
 11.30pm
 Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 25th December
 11am
 Christmas Eucharist
St Columba's, Pottaloch, nr Kilmartin
 (SC031391)
Sunday 20th December
 3.30pm
 Service of Lessons and Carols
 Christmas Day 25th December
 9am Holy Communion
All Saints, Inveraray
 (SC025646)
 Christmas Eve 24th December
 5pm
 Mass of Christmas with Carols
 Father Simon Mackenzie
 Priest in Charge of the charges of Mid Argyll & Arran
 01546 602315

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND WEST LOCHFYNESIDE

Sunday 20th December 2015
Cumlodden Lochfyneside and Lochgair
 Charity No. SC016097
 Minister:
 Rev. Dr. Roderick D. M. Campbell
 Morning Service
 in Cumlodden Church at 10 am (with Church Choir)
Glenaray and Inveraray
 Charity No. SC016665
 Morning Service
 in Inveraray Church at 11.30 am
Annual Carol Service
 Lochgair Church 6.30 pm (with Church Choir)
Christmas Eve Watchnight Services
Thursday 24th December
 Cumlodden Church 7.30 pm
 Inveraray Church 11.30 pm
Christmas Day Service
 Friday 25th December
 Inveraray Church 10.30 am
 All Welcome



YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN US FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP ON SUNDAY AT:
 Tarbert 10.00am, located on School Road.
 Lochgilphead 11.30am, located on Lochnell Street/Manse Brae
 Minister; Rev. Robert Macleod
 Prayer Time
 Mondays 1.15 - 1.45pm
 Soup lunches last Thursday of the month - 12.00 - 1.30.
 All welcome.



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GLASSARY KILMARTIN and FORD PARISH CHURCH
Sunday 20th December
 Lessons and Carols
 Kilmartin 11.45 am
 Rev C Acklam
Thursday 24th December
 Christmas Eve - Watchnight Service
 Kilmartin 11.30pm
Friday 25th December
 Christmas Day - Family Service
 Kilmartin 11am
 All welcome
 SCO 02121

SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 20th December 2015
 Skipness Service 10.00am
 Tarbert Service 11.30am
 featuring Sunday School Nativity
 Mr John Morrison
Thursday 24th December
 Watchnight Services
 Skipness Family Service 7pm
 Kilberry Service 7pm
 Tarbert Service 11.30pm
 All congregation led.
 For all church enquiries and pastoral care
 Contact Rev. Hilda Smith, Interim Moderator on 07826 235735
Everyone very welcome
 Tarbert & Kilberry SC002622
 Skipness SC004280



LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 20th December 2015
 11.00 am FAMILY SERVICE
 Nativity Play - Come along and be a king, shepherd or sheep!
 Rev. Hilda Smith
 All Welcome
 Every Tuesday
 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Bumps, Babies and Toddlers
 More info. at www.lpchurch.co.uk
 Lochgilphead (Church of Scotland)
 SC016311



CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sunday 20th December
 11.00 am
 Christmas Family Service
 A presentation by the Sunday school children with Campbeltown Brass Ensemble
 followed by coffee and mince pies
Pastor Chris Holden
 We meet at the Guide Hall, Kinloch Road
 www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk
 baptist union of scotland
 SC043322

ST MARGARET'S R.C. CHURCH

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

NORTH Knapdale Parish Church

Charity Number SC001002
Sunday 20 December
 Bellanoch Church 10 am
 Lessons and Carols
 Rev. C. Acklam
Monday 21 December
 Prayer meeting 10 am
 Tayvallich Church
Thursday 24 December
 Tayvallich Green 4 pm
 Carols on the Green
 Tayvallich Church
 11.15 pm
 Watchnight Service
 All welcome
 Enquiries 01546 606926
 www.argyllcommunities.org/nknappedalecofs

Lochgilphead Baptist Church

All Welcome
 Pastor Rev Derek Gibson
Sunday 20th December 2015
 Christmas Family Service
 11.00am
 Carols by Candlelight
 6.30pm
Friday 25th
 Christmas Day Service
 10.30am
 "remember the reason for the season"
 Scottish Charity SC015187



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Touching tribute to well respected Tarbert GP Neil Macdonald

Born May 23, 1936 died November 27, 2015

THE family of Neil MacDonal, a well respected general practitioner and Gaelic enthusiast, have paid tribute to his memory after he died suddenly on November 27.

Neil spent his early years in Surbiton, Surrey where both his parents worked as doctors, but most of his life, until he finished university, was spent in Edinburgh and Scourie.

Neil's mother was born in China as his grandfather, Dr Dougald Christie, spent 30 years as a medical missionary in Manchuria through the wars and epidemics that ravaged China.

His father was from Scourie and the family home is still there. During the war, all the family evacuated from London for the peace and quiet of Sutherland.

Neil's path to becoming a GP in Tarbert was interesting. He worked for a spell on the banana boats going between the River Forth and the Caribbean as a ship's doctor - a thoroughly fun time by all accounts.

He later worked in Inverness as a peripatetic locum, which involved looking after GP practices all over the north of Scotland when the rural surgeries required

resident doctor cover.

He then moved to Aviemore as a trainee GP with another Neil Macdonald. The pair would be known as big Neil and wee Neil for the rest of their careers. It was during his time in Aviemore that Neil became involved with sports and his injuries led him to find his wife Hilary.

Thirty-four-year-old Neil married Hilary in 1967 after she treated him in hospital when he broke his ankle. The couple married just nine months after they met and they spent 48 years happily sharing their lives.

Their first honeymoon was a disaster after Neil spent his time in bed with bronchitis. They tried a second honeymoon in Paris and went to a lovely wee hotel in the student quarter, where Neil had stayed before, but Vietnam talks and student riots were on at that time and the couple stayed right above the police station.

They had a daughter, Kirsteen just 15 months later and a son, Jamie, two years later.

The family moved to Tarbert in 1974.

Neil loved his work; he got great satisfaction from helping people. He believed in visiting the



Neil MacDonal was a well-known and well-liked Tarbert man.

older people at home so he could see that they were coping and looking after themselves and eating properly and they knew he cared.

Many would spruce themselves up ready for his visit and it is believed he kept a certain few last on his visiting list, which often led to a

dram and a blether. Neil enjoyed single-handed practice even though time off was limited.

Staff at the surgery found it to be a happy, relaxed environment that was warm and humorous.

Neil would organise Christmas parties for everyone linked to the

practice, including ambulance drivers and the local chemist. It was his way of thanking them for their understanding and dedication to their work.

Neil was also a tutor and mentor for young GPs just starting out and was very proud of each of those who went on to become good doctors.

He loved the people and the whole area of Argyll, plus being beside the sea. The family were used to staggered dinners as Neil would often be just sitting down to eat when the phone would go and he'd be off out on-call again. He was a real hands-on doctor in all weathers and at all times.

It was a foregone conclusion that Neil would become a member of Tarbert Gaelic Choir, which he enjoyed immensely. When he worked in Aviemore, he had brought together two struggling Gaelic choirs, Kingussie and Newtonmore, forming the Badenoch Gaelic Choir.

With his enthusiasm he kept Tarbert choir going through some thin times.

Any opportunity to sing solo or with a choir, Neil was right there. He

won the Silver Pendant at a Fort William Mòd.

When the Argyll male voice choir, Ceann an Tuirc was formed, he was involved as one of the founding members.

Both Tarbert and Ceann an Tuirc Gaelic Choirs have been successful over the years and the men won their national Mòd competition this year while Tarbert were a creditable second in the Sheriff MacMaster competition.

Latterly, Neil teamed up with Susan Rhodes, teaching songs to the successful Gaelic girl group Na Seudan Ùr - who were also national Mòd winners in the folk group competition.

He was enormously proud of his grandchildren, Nuala and Finlay, who attend Gaelic primary school and love singing at different events.

The newest addition, Fearghas, goes to Gaelic play group and will also follow in his ancestors footsteps with his 'fantastic set of lungs'.

Neil supported local charities for people in Tarbert, Skipness and Kilberry. He was chairman of the village hall when funds were needed to refurbish the building, and with the support of an excellent

committee, Tarbert now has a beautiful hall.

Neil was also a member of Tarbert Nursing Aid, which raises funds for medical equipment that is not available through the NHS.

He was determined that patients in a rural area would not be disadvantaged in any way, even down to arranging consultants to hold clinics in the village to stop folk having to trek to Glasgow.

Neil started playing bridge at Edinburgh University and was addicted to it for the rest of his life. He got on well with his mother-in-law who was also a bridge addict.

The pair of them would sit and discuss hands at length, which led to banter between them. He loved playing in bridge congresses and even went on bridge cruises.

A love of rugby started at George Watson's where he played 15-a-side and sevens.

He played in the Watsonian 7s which won the Jedburgh sevens.

Neil is already sorely missed among family and friends, but each of them are 'all the better' for knowing him and having him in their lives.

Contributed by HM and family.

Whisky tasting for Marie Curie cancer charity

A MID ARGYLL fundraising group for Marie Curie held a whisky tasting evening in association with Springbank Distillers at the Stag Hotel in Lochgilphead on December 4.

Guests were served a variety of malt whiskies and cocktails made using some of the other spirits produced and sold by the distillery.

Insight

Springbank's Grant MacPherson provided

ed some insight into the processes and history of whisky production in Campbeltown whilst his colleague, Donald Brown, served up some mouth watering concoctions to cleanse the palate between times.

Thank

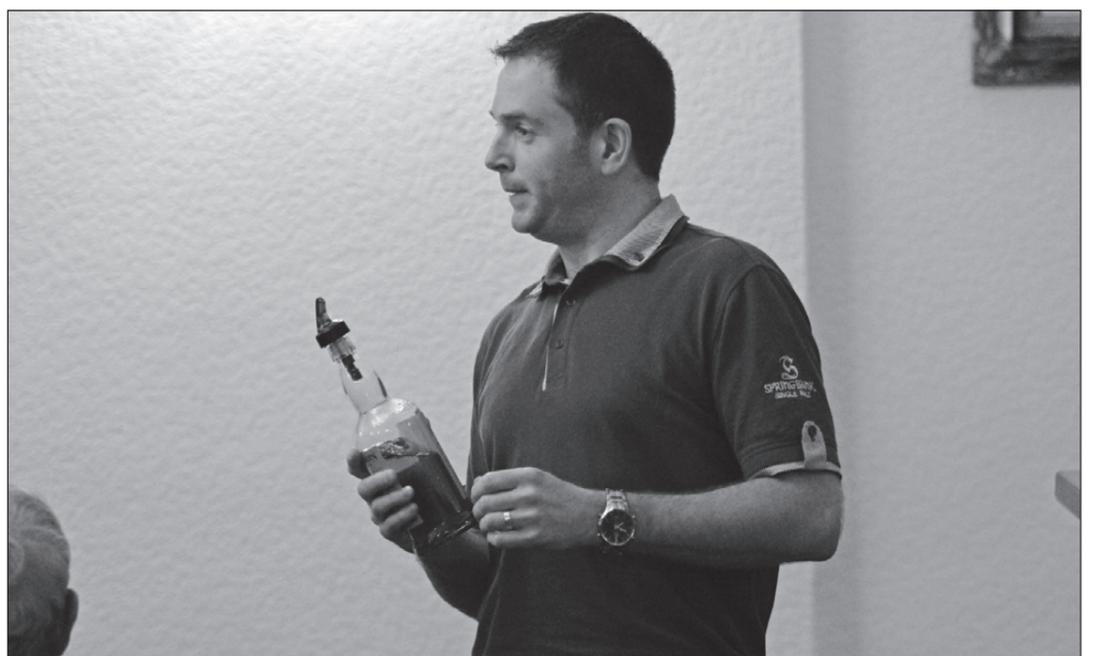
The fundraising group would like to thank Springbank Distillers, Argyll Bakeries, for some wonderful Whisky infused cakes and shortbread, and the Stag

Hotel for hosting the evening and providing some well-received snacks along the way.

Great success

The evening was a great success and raised £1,100 which will be used by Marie Curie to provide help and support for the terminally ill in the Mid Argyll area.

Grant MacPherson gave an interesting insight into whisky.





The postbox all ready for winter 06_a51postbox02

Postbox wraps up against the cold

PEOPLE in Ardrishaig were surprised to see that a pillar box had taken precautions against the cold by donning a hat and scarf.

Some help

Confusion abounded, as the postbox has no arms so surely must have had some help putting on the cold weather gear, which appeared overnight on December 10.

The Advertiser was alerted by an excited

Ardrishaig resident and was soon on the case.

There was much speculation and investigation before those responsible were revealed as the Ardrishaig Craft Club, aided and abetted by the Ardrishaig Community Trust.

Trust member Arthur Barclay revealed: 'We thought it would make people smile and we would love it if other villages did the same to their postboxes.'

Cold Iceland crossing for young Ford adventurer

REPORT By EALA MacALISTER
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

A YOUNG man from Ford is in a team of four currently trekking across Iceland without support.

Archie Wilson, 19, is joined by team leader Charlie Smith, Angus Dowie and Stefan Rijnbeek. As the whole team are under 21 they are hoping to be the youngest team to complete the crossing, which is more than 250 miles long.

Self-sufficient

They are completely self-sufficient, pulling sleds with everything they will need for the

18-day expedition that will see them go from the Arctic sea coast in the north to the Atlantic coast in the south.

The team said before heading off: 'This expedition is different to most, if not all other Arctic expeditions, because after we have progressed through the relatively flat Pole-like Icelandic interior, we shall then cross a (so far) uncrossed route over the Southern Icelandic mountain ranges, including the world-famous Eyjafalljokull vol-



Stefan Rijnbeek, Angus Dowie, Charlie Smith and Archie Wilson are on an expedition crossing Iceland.



The team has faced challenging conditions.

cano'.

They hit difficulty early on when they had to seek shelter in the village of Kopaskar to wait out storm Desmond, which some suggest was the worst storm to hit Iceland in 25 years.

After a couple of days the team got back on

their way and have now progressed to the Icelandic highlands.

Part of the expedition will be filmed for a documentary, 'The Coldest Crossing', due out next year. Leader Charlie said: 'The core reason for the expedition is to inspire adventure

into more people's lives. The idea started in a pub with a few friends and a couple of pints of beer. It's not just book flights, put one step in front of the other, repeat, book flights home. It's so much more complex and convoluted; in a way, it's more exciting.'

Week 1 of 2

SPOT THE BALL

To allow for our Christmas deadlines Spot the Ball will run for 2 weeks
all entries must be in by 10am on Tuesday 29 December

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1050

LAST WEEK'S BALL WAS HERE...



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

- W McMillan
Crosshill Ave
Campbeltown
- D macMillan
Ardpatrick Place
Lochgilhead

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 10am on Tuesday 29 December. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into The Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The company's decision will be final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.
The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any persons otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



Name.....
Address.....
Tel No.....

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

Please tape your £1 coin here (if posting)



Students moved up to the next level.

Karate grading success

LOCHGILPHEAD Kyokushinkai Karate club put its students through their paces at a recent grading test.

The successful students were allowed to pass on to the next kyu, or coloured belt, after the event on December 6.

Kyu goes from tenth to first and the results were as follows: Tenth Kyu: Arran Crawford, Cameron MacIver, Jack Rhodick, Fergus MacInnes and Alistair

Anderson. Ninth Kyu: Mirren Angus, Andrew Crawford, Stuart Phillips and Donald Robertson. Eighth Kyu: Darcy Curran, Karen Paterson and Fiona McClean. Sixth Kyu: Ethan Gascoigne. Fourth Kyu: Jilly Lefebvre. First Kyu: Mhairi Weldon.

The club is accepting new members from January 6 and anyone interested should contact Ian Rodger at the club.

Festive shoot with a difference



The first to third placed pairs, left to right: John Weir, Bob McColl, Ian Wilson, Ross Stewart, Niall Wilson and Archie MacGilp junior.



An unusual layout and a difficult test - four clays in the air at once.



Plenty of turkeys for this festive shoot at Tarbert.

Tarbert Gun Club enjoys annual Christmas event

IT WAS a shoot with a difference on Sunday December 13 as Tarbert Gun Club held its annual Christmas event at Barmore.

The festive difference was that the shooters were in pairs, with the names drawn from a hat.

All the top shooters were kept apart in the draw, apart from John Weir, who was paired with Bob McColl.

As well as the down-the-line section, the club had set up two sporting parts.

Four

The first was one where four targets were sent into the air together, with the second being a 20-clay flush.

It all made for some interesting sport for the 46 competitors, some of whom had travelled a good distance.

Perhaps it was the lure of a fantastic raffle and no fewer than 20 Christ-

mas turkeys as prizes.

The pairing of Ian Wilson and Ross Stewart, both shooting well, were giving favourites John and Bob a real run for top spot, just slipping up at the last few clays.

Christmas shoot winners: 1 John Weir and Bob McColl; 2 Ian Wilson and Ross Stewart; 3 Niall Wilson and Archie MacGilp Jr; 4 Brian Baird and Archie MacGilp Snr; 5 (equal), Derek Ballantyne and David Thorburn; Stewart MacAllister and Harry McLeod; Ronald Jenkins and Matthew Peden.

Athletics moves indoors

ATHLETICS in Argyll will move indoors for the winter.

Sportshall athletics uses specialist equipment to allow track and field events to take place inside. This first happened in Argyll 22 years ago and since then many competitors have gone on to win medals for their age group at national events.

A Mid Argyll competition will be held in Lochgilphead Joint Campus on January 24. Registration is from 11.30 am and the competitions begin at 12pm.

Other area competitions will be held before an Argyll wide competition on March 20 at the Atlantis Leisure Centre, Oban.

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