



Lochgilphead HS outperforms many Argyll counterparts

STUDENTS at Lochgilphead High School are out performing many of their Argyll counterparts, according to recent statistics published in the 2012 Scottish Schools League Table.

But exam results of S4 students in 2011/12 reveal attainment at standard grade level is falling.

Compiled

The Scottish schools league tables, published last week, reveal Lochgilphead High School is one of the best performing schools in Argyll and Bute, second only

REPORT BY EDEL KENEALY

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to Tiree High School. It is seated 124th on the league table.

The league table ranks schools by the percentage of pupils achieving highers at A, B or C level.

Lochgilphead High is noted as helping 50 per cent of its students gain one or more highers in grades A to C, 30 per cent gaining three or more highers and 14 per cent gaining five or more.

The average for Argyll and Bute is 45, 24 and 10 respectively.

Not included

The school however has seen a fall of five percent in the number of S4 year students achieving five or more standard grades at foundation level or higher. These figures, showing a drop in 2011/12, are not included in the league table.

Commenting on the league table results, Cleland Sneddon, executive director of community services at Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) results are only one aspect of attainment and such league table comparisons are largely irrelevant.

'Attainment needs to be considered more



Teenagers hold Snow Balls in Mid Argyll

LOCHGILPHEAD and Tarbert High Schools were transformed into glamorous venues last week as both schools held their annual Christmas Dance.

Lot of laughter

Dubbed the Snow Ball, there was no snow but a lot of laughter as the local teens turned their hand

to ceilidh dancing and spinning each other around the assembly hall. Beth Carruthers, Madeline Ward, Hannah Curtis, Hollie MacGregor and Emily West swapped their school uniform for pretty dresses for the occasion. For more pictures turn to pages 8 and 9. 06_a52snow03

❑ What do you think about the league tables? Do you think they are an effective way of measuring a school's performance in teaching children? Do you think Mid Argyll high schools are doing enough to give our children the best chance in life?

Tell us your views by logging on to our Facebook page, email or send us a letter.

widely - for example, last year 1,306 pupils received alternative non-SCQF qualifications which were most suited to their career aspirations. These quali-

cations are of equal importance.'

Tarbert

Tarbert Academy, which recently received a glowing report from Education Scotland,

fared reasonable well in the league table.

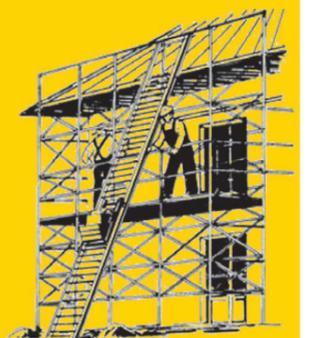
The school, which had 30 per cent of its children gaining one higher or more, was below the Argyll and Bute aver-

age in that category but was above average with the number of children gaining three or more highers at 26 per cent and five or more highers at 13 per cent.

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Man accused of murdering Suzanne Pilley has his appeal rejected



Suzanne Pilley

THE MAN convicted of killing Suzanne Pilley and burying her in a shallow grave near the Rest and Be Thankful has had his appeal rejected.

David Gilroy, 50, was found guilty of murdering 38-year-old book-keeper Suzanne in April this year and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

He returned to the High Court in Edinburgh last Thursday to appeal his conviction.

Gilroy's defence team argued the jury at his trial were given the wrong version of a report by a pathologist and that the police, who first questioned him without a lawyer, should have treated him as a suspect immediately as opposed to a potential witness.

But judges at the Court of Criminal Appeal in

Edinburgh dismissed his case, stating the chances of a jury reaching a different verdict were minimal.

Suzanne Pilley went missing on May 4, 2010 from her work on Thistle Street, Edinburgh.

Police believe Gilroy killed his former lover in Edinburgh and transported her body to a lonely grave in Mid Argyll. Despite extensive searches by police and hundreds of mountain rescue volunteers Suzanne's body has never been found.

Rare artefacts go on display at Kilmartin Museum

THE SKELETON of a Bronze Age woman and a range of rare artefacts excavated from a site in Kilmartin have returned home and gone on display at Kilmartin House Museum.

The rare pots buried with the skeleton 4,000 years ago include a whole pottery vessel of a design unique to Scotland, whilst another has proved to be the earliest Bronze Age beaker ever found in Britain.

The artefacts would have been owned by people of very high status – and they confirm the importance of Kilmartin Glen in the Bronze Age.

Explaining the return of the skeleton and artefacts was a coup for the museum, Dr Sharon Webb, director of Kilmartin Museum, said: 'At the time this woman died and was buried, Kilmartin Glen

would have been home to people to whom ritual played an important role in their lives.

'Although we may never fully understand the meaning behind the burial rituals which took place here 4,000 years ago, the care with which this woman was buried demonstrates a belief in an afterlife of some sort.

'One of the pottery vessels was found in a grave where the body had completely decomposed. It is of a very rare design. The bowl being Irish in style, like other pots found here, but this one has four small feet, a trait found in prehistoric pottery in Yorkshire. That this pot blending two well known styles was found in Kilmartin is significant, and very exciting since it demonstrates that people living here had wide ranging cultural links.'



The rare artefacts are now on display at Kilmartin House Museum.

This assemblage of artefacts and the woman's skeleton were found during excavations that took place in Kilmartin before the quarry

was opened up. Other important ritual monuments, including the remains of Scotland's largest timber circle were also found there.

Sideburns for Marie Curie

MEN in Mid Argyll are being asked to grow their sideburns like Olympic hero Bradley Wiggins to raise money for their local Marie Curie Nursing team.

Marie Curie Cancer Care has launched the new fundraising event, Side Burns Night, which will run from Christmas Day and end on January 25, Burns Night.

If Bradley Wiggins is not quite the look people are going for they can also come up with their own unique style.

Fiona Leitch, community fundraiser for South West Scotland suggested people get as many friends or relatives involved in the challenge.

She added: 'Then you can all get together on Side Burns Night for a party to compare and everyone can join in the fun.'

MSP launches his own app

MICHAEL Russell MSP for Argyll and Bute has become the first member of the Scottish Parliament to launch his own app.

Designed to keep constituents up to speed on a range of issues, the app brings together local and national news as

well as daily updates on Mr Russell's work in the constituency.

'The app is a new approach to both keeping constituents up to date and to ensure that I can be as accessible as possible,' Mr Russell said.

'One of our objectives has been to make the

app as content rich as possible, so not only can you see what I am up to but also the news in various parts of the constituency, the latest information from the council and other sources.'

The app is available free for phones and PCs.

Non-swimmers, wanted at MACPool

ADULTS who cannot swim are being given the perfect opportunity to learn at Mid Argyll Community Pool in the New Year.

The lessons will provide the perfect opportunity to get fit and have fun in the pool.

There will be a free introductory lesson at the MACPool, in Lochgilphead, on January 7 and 14.

Anyone who is interested in taking part in the lessons can contact pool manager Stuart Owen for further information or to make a booking.



HULA skirts and brightly coloured shirts could be seen brightening up Lochgilphead's MS Centre as members celebrated Christmas.

Hosting a Hawaiian-themed Christmas Party, members of the MS Centre celebrated the festive season

whilst raising awareness that a lack of sunlight and vitamin D can contribute to MS.

Bringing their own sunshine to Argyll, locals donned their grass skirts and cocktails and hula danced the afternoon away.

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FESTIVE DEADLINES

FRIDAY 28TH DECEMBER AT 2PM
For the issue dated Friday 4th January

Our offices will be closed on
Tuesday 25th December and Wednesday 26th December
Tuesday 1st January and Wednesday 2nd January

whilst raising awareness that a lack of sunlight and vitamin D can contribute to MS.

Police files

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after three shops on Argyll Street, Lochgilphead were vandalised in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Cockles Fine Foods, RS McColl and Argyll Pharmacy all had their windows smashed. Anyone with information can contact the police on 01546 702200.

□□□

A HANDBAG containing a Blackberry mobile phone was stolen from the George Hotel, Inveraray.

The handbag was stolen from the main bar between midnight and 1am on Saturday night.

Police are appealing for witnesses or anyone with information to contact them on 01546 702200.

□□□

THREE teenagers, who allegedly broke into a caravan but did not steal anything, have been arrested by police.

A 14 year old girl was arrested along with a two boys aged 16 and 17 after allegedly breaking into a caravan at Quarry Park, Furnace at 11.30pm on Saturday, December 22.

□□□

A TARBERT man was arrested for alleged breach of the peace on Tuesday, December 18.

The 22 year old was arrested on Harbour Street, Tarbert at 9.15pm.

Nine high risk landslide locations on A83

NINE locations along the A83 have been identified as being of high or very high risk of a landslide, the A83 study has confirmed.

Stating the Rest and Be Thankful was amongst the most highly ranked debris flow hazard sites in Scotland, engineers said there were several other areas of concern between Tarbet and Kennacraig.

The report suggests that measures introduced to mitigate the threat of landslides at the Rest should be coupled with solutions at other locations to give security to the whole route.

The report, which identified nine areas threatened with landslide over a 31km stretch of road, states priority areas as Glen Kinglas, Cairndow and Loch Shira.



Laura receives her vouchers from store manager Alex MacLeod. 16_t52lidl01

Laura wins Argyllshire Advertiser Lidl competition

A LOCHGILPHEAD woman is the lucky winner of the *Argyllshire Advertiser's* competition for £500 worth of Lidl vouchers, courtesy of the Oban store.

Laura Gray visited the store last week to receive her winnings from manager Alex MacLeod.

She said: 'This came at a good time, my husband is self employed and got ill recently so these will come in handy. 'We're going away for Christmas so we'll

wait until after then to spend the vouchers, I really like the look of the donuts in the bakery though so we'll be getting some of them.'

Proud

This is the second time Lidl has put vouchers up for grabs in the *Advertiser* and Mr MacLeod added: 'We have been in the town for eight years now and are proud to serve the community - we thought this would be a good way to mark that.'

Comments urgently sought on Rest solution

PEOPLE living in Mid Argyll are being urged to comment on six options identified to stop landslides closing the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful.

The options, identified in a study of the Rest and Be Thankful, greatly vary in scale and cost.

Ranging from £9million to £520 million, some options propose improvements to the existing road whilst others involve building tunnels and viaducts on the hillside.

Engineering firm Jacobs, which carried out the study on behalf of Transport Scotland, favoured Option Red, which would see

440m of debris flow netting built along the Rest, better drainage and increased vegetation on the hillside.

Support for Option Red, the cheapest option, has already shocked some locals as it will only 'reduce' road closures.

Alec Logan from Tarbert told the *Advertiser*: 'The study group wants to go for the £9-10 million cheapest option that would, in their words, significantly reduce the impact of landslides, while not eliminating the risk of road closures.'

'By recommending the worst option as being the most cost effective

and recognising that road closures would not be eliminated they are admitting failure even before they have begun. Whoever predicts failure generally succeeds in achieving it.'

Petitioned

Councillor Douglas Philand, who along with his Argyll First colleagues John MacAlpine and Donald Kelly petitioned the Scottish Government to investigate problems along the A83 last year, said: 'It is now vitally important that the residents, businesses and anyone who has an interest in Argyll and Bute look at the study and make their comments known. We want

this to be the permanent solution and look forward to active participation from all concerned.'

Meanwhile work has this week begun to build more protective netting along the Rest. The barriers will comprise flexible ring net fencing 3.5m high and approximately 90m in length and will be similar to those previously installed.

The work will see the carriageway at the Rest reduced to one lane between January 3 and March 22.

People can comment on the A83 study by emailing A83study@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk before January 25.

Leicester woman inspired by Martha's incredible story

A WOMAN inspired by the incredible story of Martha Payne has decided to sponsor an African school.

Shabnam Sabur, from Leicester, watched a BBC Scotland documentary about the Lochgilphead schoolgirl's trip to Malawi with Mary's Meals and de-

ecided to do her bit.

The generous woman has donated an undisclosed sum, which will pay for meals at a school near Malawi for a year.

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50,000 reasons to visit Argyll

PEOPLE across the world have been given 50,000 reasons to visit Argyll in the year of Natural Scotland with a new app.

The app, which encourages people to take a photograph whilst on a day out to an Argyll beauty spot and share it with others, has been launched by Argyll and the Isles Apps.

As people use the app it is hoped it will create a map of Argyll and its tourism gems.

A video to help promote the app has been launched on YouTube.

Protect your water pipes

HOUSEHOLDERS are being reminded to protect water pipes in their homes as the festive period continues.

Advice is available online at www.scottish-water.co.uk/winter.



Santa stopped by the annual Fyne Families After School Club Christmas party to hand out early Christmas presents to the youngsters. 06_a5fyne02

Fyne Families Christmas Party

SANTA made an early stop in Lochgilphead last week when he delivered presents to children at the annual Fyne Families Christmas party.

The party, now in its fifteenth year, saw youngsters in the pre-school group and after school club begin the countdown to Christmas Day.

The children met Santa, munched on party food and played a whole host of musical games.

Lorna Button organised this year's event and said all the children had enjoyed their afternoon. 'Fyne Families would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas,' she said.

Project to improve mental health in Lochgilphead

MORE THAN 30 people are now taking part in an innovative project that aims to improve people's mental health in Lochgilphead.

The Inclusive Woodland Action on Health Project is seeing an increasing number of people with mental health problems benefiting from working outdoors in Blarbuie Woodland, which sits adjacent to the town's two hospitals.

Run by Blarbuie Woodland Enterprise, the health project is at the half way stage and seeing some great success.

Hugh Fife, Blarbuie Woodland co-ordinator, said: 'The project has meant we have been able

to increase the number of people involved in the woodlands which is fantastic.'

The group has been carrying out a range of activities, including making benches from timber, planting shrubs and mending the paths.

Hugh added: 'It has been a lot of fun and there is a strong sense of togetherness in the group and it has been very social.'

'There are so many different people saying to us all the time how much the woodland means to them and how important it is.'

The enterprise received £9,000 from the People's Health Trust to run the project earlier this year.

Naval reserve moves to Govan

THE ROYAL Naval Reserve (RNR) Unit which takes its name from Mid Argyll last week enjoyed its final parade at the Navy Buildings in Greenock.

RNR unit HMS Dalriada has been based in Greenock since 1981 but moves to a newly refurbished facility in Govan in the New Year.

Friends and family joined Dalriada's past and present, at the final drill night, which concluded with the final Evening Colours ceremony.

Tribute

The Dalriada reservists, drawn from all walks of life, paid tribute the Greenock community for its support over the last 30 years.

Loch Fyne left without community council

RESIDENTS in West Loch Fyne have been left without a community council after a number of councillors resigned and no one came forward for election.

West Lochfyne Community Council is supposed to represent people in Minard and Lochgair but no longer exists after all but one of its members resigned for personal reasons.

Sad situation

Former secretary Leonard MacNeill said it was a sad situation and urged people to come forward and represent their community.

Actions

Mr MacNeill said the council's actions resulted in Lochgair and Minard being left with no formal representation.

He along with four other members of the com-

community funds from windfarms.'

Important

Explaining he could not devote as much time to the role as it deserved, Mr MacNeill said: 'I have heard all sorts of suggestions that Lochgair may join Lochgilphead Community Council and Minard may be with Furnace, but I think this would be a recipe for disaster.'

'We are at a very delicate stage with the developers of the nearby windfarms and Furnace Community Council really isn't involved in any of that.'

'We are talking about a massive amount of money when it comes to

community funds from windfarms.'

Discussing the importance of the community council, Mr MacNeill added: 'The whole value of the community council is it's about representing the community as a whole and doing a good job.'

'This is the perfect time to get some young blood into the community council. But, if you are going to do it you must do it properly.'

Further elections for community councils across Argyll have been scheduled for September

and it is hoped interested parties come forward from the two villages.

Mid Argyll councillor Sandy Taylor said he was keen to see the community council reformed.

Real value

Speaking to the *Advertiser* he said: 'I think the work community councils do add real value to communities.'

'If you don't have a community council you don't have an organisation that truly represents you. I feel they should be reaching for a community council that works.'

Argyll and Bute Council lambasted

FORMER member of West Lochfyne Community Council Leonard MacNeill has lambasted Argyll and Bute Council for the way it handled the failed election of a new community council for the area.

Mr MacNeill said the council's actions resulted in Lochgair and Minard being left with no formal representation.

He along with four other members of the com-

community council resigned for personal reasons, but said they were willing to remain until new members were elected.

The local authority told them that wasn't possible however, saying they would have to stand down before an election could take place.

Held last month, the election failed to find new members.

'I think the governance department has been an absolute disaster in the

way they handled this,' Mr MacNeill said. 'If common sense had been used, instead of following rules and regulations, we would not be in this situation.'

He added: 'I expected there to perhaps have been an advert in the newspaper or posters around the community advertising the election but there was nothing.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said it would reassess

the situation in the New Year.

She said: 'In common with other community council elections, West Loch Fyne elections were advertised fully on the council's website, in the local press and on posters in local offices. In addition, we enlisted the support of the community council itself to bring the election to the attention of local people and encourage nominations.'

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Crinan to take part in Coastal Waters Project

'It will generate new business opportunities for communities'

CRINAN will see thousands of pounds of investment in 2013 as the village has been selected to take part in the new Argyll Coastal Waters Project.

The project, run by Argyll and Bute Council in partnership with outdoor sports organisation Stramash, has been introduced to boost the facilities and access for paddle sports throughout Argyll.

The proposal could see new changing facilities built, improvements to car parking and new kayak racks installed in the village.

Crinan is one of seven towns and villages to benefit from an upgrade as the project aims to create a kayak trail throughout Argyll,

from Oban in the north to Helensburgh in the south.

Alex Hurst, waterway manager at the Crinan Canal, will work with the project board to implement the improvements at Crinan.

He said: 'Scottish canals have become an increasingly popular destination for canoeists and kayakers over recent years so we are thrilled to be part of the Argyll Coastal Waters project. Our paddle-sports initiatives elsewhere prove that this hugely popular sport can bring additional tourism and encourage local people to try it for themselves.'

Funded by Argyll and the Isles LEADER and the Crown Estate's Coastal Communities

Fund, Argyll Coastal Waters Project will create two full-time jobs, 12 marine tourism apprenticeships and a range of volunteering opportunities for locals.

Commenting on the project, council leader Roddy McCuish said: 'This is great news for the local economy and a boost for our tourism industry as a whole. With the second largest coastline in Scotland, Argyll and Bute's superb natural environment is ideal for this sort of development. It will generate new business opportunities for communities which face the challenges of remoteness and retaining their young people, as well as healthy outdoor activities for local people.'



Youngsters at Ashfield Primary School performed to friends and family in their Christmas panto, *The Lemonade Kid*.

Ashfield Christmas panto

PUPILS at Ashfield Primary School have been busy in the run up to Christmas.

Last week, family and friends packed into the school hall to watch the youngsters perform their Christmas panto, *The Lemonade Kid*.

The panto, which was based on a cowboys theme, went down a treat with the audience.

To get in the festive spirit, the youngsters held their annual carol service for parents and the local community.

The children sang,

gave readings and the older boys performed jingle bells on their guitars.

Headteacher, Debbie Munro said: 'Afterwards everyone enjoyed tea and mince pies.'

To celebrate the end of term the children enjoyed their Christmas Party, which included lots of games and ended with them receiving a gift from Santa.

Lochgilhead group awarded £6,700 from Communities and Families Fund

A LOCHGILPHEAD Baby and Toddler Group is to benefit from a grant of £6,716 which means it can carry on providing its valuable service to families in Mid Argyll.

Fyne Families weekly Baby and Toddler Group has been awarded the money by the Communities and Families Fund, which is a joint venture from the Big Lottery Fund and Scottish Government.

The money will allow the group to continue its important role of bringing families across Mid Argyll together, which would otherwise be left in isolation.

The group offers structured play activities for children whilst parents can receive support and advice from NHS professionals.

The Communities and Families Fund aims to give groups working with children of eight or under a vital helping hand. Groups can apply for grants of between £250 and £10,000.

Plans for windfarm on Cloanaig Estate

PLANS to develop a windfarm at Eascairt in Kintyre are being put in place by energy firm PI Renewables.

Still in the early stages the plans would see a windfarm developed on the Cloanaig Estate and would sit on the spine of the Kintyre Peninsula.

If the development is to go ahead it would be positioned between

Cure windfarm, which was recently granted planning permission and the potential site at Freasdail.

Company director, Darrin Rooney and Simon Morton were at last week's meeting of Tarbert and Skipness Community Council where they presented their initial ideas.

Mr Rooney said the company had been look-

ing at the site for the past two years which had included carrying out landscape and ecological consultations.

Aware

'At the moment we are thinking about a site which could be up to 11 turbines which would only be visible from the west coast of Arran,' he said. 'What we really want to do is make the community council

aware of the plans for the future.'

He added the company hopes to work with the community council to ensure they made a successful and positive application, which would include looking at community benefits packages.

The community council said they looked forward to seeing a proposal in the near future.

Lunch Bunch launch Christmas lunch

RESIDENTS in Lochgilhead were treated to an early festive meal

last week as the Lunch Bunch held their first ever Christmas Lunch.

More than 20 people turned up at Lochgilhead Community Centre to enjoy a three-course meal made by the group.

Trimnings

Volunteers were busy serving up all the festive favourites, which included poached salmon to start, turkey with all the trimmings and the traditional trifle.

Organised by Lunch Bunch members Antonia Baird and San-

dra Johnston, they said their first ever Christmas meal was a great success.

'It's been really good,' Sandra said. 'It gives people who don't really get out of the house the chance to come along and meet friends.'

Antonia said: 'It has been a really lovely afternoon, thank you to our seven volunteers from Timebank and everyone who came along.'



Christine McDonald, Maggie McLaren, Helen Kesseli and Sandy Munro celebrate Christmas early at the first ever Lunch Bunch Christmas Lunch. 06_a52lunch03

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Those Were The Days

The Argyllshire Advertiser
Friday 31 December, 1982

WITH Argyll and Bute District Council's planning and building control department having commenced the survey stage of the Mid Argyll Local Plan, relevant information is being requested from the community councils in Mid Argyll relating to planning problems in each respective area.

In common with other councils, Lochgilphead Community Council met earlier this month and made the a series of comments for the planning department's consideration.

Among them are improvements to footpaths and pavements in Lochgilphead, inconsiderate parking in the town, revising the timetable for the Lochgilphead-Ardrihaig bus service, upgrading Kilmory Quay and new strict controls on street furniture.

□□□

AT THE December branch meeting of the Mid Argyll CND in Ardrihaig Public Hall, members decided to have a leaflet prepared presenting the very real dangers to people in this area from nuclear weapons.

It was agreed that a suggestion from national organiser Monsignor Bruce Kent that the most important thing for the CND to do was to visit every doorstep in the country and explain that CND policies were of vital importance and that every step should be taken to cover the Mid Argyll area.

The leaflet, it was felt, would be a very good way to explain the CND position and bring this into the local context.

Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Shedden



According to Money Supermarket 10 per cent of people estimate that they will still be paying for their 2011 Christmas bills well into 2013.

I wonder what the total will be by now.

The cost of Christmas has gone crazy and we are all sucked into the trap of trying to think of what to buy for people who really don't need anything.

Naturally we all want to give to those we love, and it would not be in keeping with the spirit of season to ignore this aspect of Christmas.

However, I wonder if we really need to spend so much.

Internet shopping takes on a whole new concept at this time and our wee local shops which serve us so well here, find it hard to be competitive as the big stores roll out their bargains.

Gifts can come in many different guises and are not always wrapped in fancy paper.

Some of the best gifts we have received this year have been the gifts of friendship, the gifts of welcome, the joy of a meal shared, the promise of time with friends and many small acts of kindness.

We also received the gift of consideration, as one friend spent a morning chopping logs that will keep us warm throughout this winter and probably the next.

These are the gifts that last and cost something of the giver in a way that reflects the true spirit of Christmas.

As we will now be bombarded with all the hype of the January sales, I think I will turn the TV off, sit by my cosy fire with the logs burning and reflect on the gifts that came wrapped in friendship.

I will think too of God's gift that came wrapped, not in fancy paper, but in swaddling bands.

There will be no charge on your credit card for this gift.

Down Memory Lane

This week's Down Memory Lane has come from the *Argyllshire Advertiser* archives and was taken in September 1993.

The picture was taken at the memorial of missionary James Chalmers who was born in Ardrihaig but was eaten by cannibals on Martyr Island.

Recognise

In the picture is Reverend James Chalmers but do you recognise any of the other people?

To submit a photograph to the Down Memory Lane section of the paper email the newsdesk your picture,



along with a short description, to editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk or pop into our office on 44 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead.

Letters to the Editor

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Festive greetings from Alan Reid

Sir,
Christmas is a time for celebrating with friends and family so it is important to thank all those working at this time of year to keep our essential services running so the rest of us can enjoy ourselves.

I pay special tribute to the men and women of our armed forces who are serving around the world, and my thoughts are with those families who will spend Christmas apart from loved ones who is serving abroad.

After a long period of economic difficulties, recent growth and employment statistics have been moving in the right direction and hopefully 2013 will see more growth.

The old year is ending with work being car-

ried out on the emergency relief road at the Rest and Be Thankful and the publication of the Jacobs Report.

Let us hope the New Year sees the implementation of the measures recommended in the report and the end of landslides closing the A83.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all readers.

**Alan Reid MP,
95 Alexandra Parade,
Dunoon,
Argyll.**

Get the building industry back on its feet

Sir,
The redirection of additional public funds towards direct capital investment in the chancellor's autumn statement is hugely welcome, particularly at a time when the Scottish construction industry continues to suffer re-

duced output and weak confidence.

But, the release of these funds places an even greater onus on policy-makers at Holyrood to implement urgent reforms to our constipated public procurement system so this money can put more shovels in the ground as quickly as possible.

In addition, the chancellor could have given a far greater boost to smaller building companies in particular if he had cut VAT on building repairs and improvements as the industry has long campaigned for him to do.

From that point of view, the autumn statement was another missed opportunity for more radical action to get the building industry back on its feet.

**Michael Levack,
Chief Executive,
Scottish Building
Federation,
Edinburgh.**

press policy

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

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to the Senior Reporter, *The Argyllshire Advertiser*, 44 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8NB, giving your daytime telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

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GIVEN the amount of effort it has taken the local community to have the A83 Task Force established, it is vital locals continue have their voices heard over the potential solutions.

There has been some shock that the option favoured by civil engineering firm Jacobs is the cheapest and least effective option and rightly so. For the company to make the recommendation is something of a slap in the face for the communities hit so hard by landslides in recent years.

Only last month, a landslide left businesses and residents in Mid Argyll cut off, with the road closed for a large part of the day.

Emergency services, commercial vehicles and commuters were seriously delayed by the closure. It has a huge financial impact on the region and reduces everyone's confidence in it.

Surely the question facing the A83 Task Force and the Scottish Government is if it can afford not to go for a more expensive solution if it removes this unnecessary hindrance to the Argyll and Bute economy?

However, that message has to be driven by the people that live here, so if you want a permanent and effective solution to the Rest and Be Thankful, be sure to shout loud enough so the people that make the decision hear every word.

Candle of Hope Appeal

Sir,
This Christmas World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) is offering readers the chance to remember loved ones lost to cancer by taking part in the Candle of Hope appeal.

WCRF is the primary UK charity dedicated to cancer prevention and this campaign aims to raise funds for research as well as make people more aware of the steps they can take to reduce their own risk of getting cancer. The appeal comes at a time of year when people's thoughts often turn to departed friends and relatives.

The golden Candle of Hope badge represents a reminder of a loved one as well as hope for the future by helping us raise awareness of cancer prevention. Scientists estimate that by making changes to the food we eat, increasing our amount of physical activity and

maintaining a healthy weight about a third of the most common cancers could be prevented. To support our Candle of Hope appeal and receive your badge, log on to www.wcrf-uk.org/candle or call 0800 970 1461.

**Paul Fretwell,
Head of Fundraising,
World Cancer
Research Fund.**

Have a safe and happy festive season

Sir,
At this time of year, when people take time off for holidays and family time and festivities, thousands of UNISON members will be working and on call – caring for people in the NHS, local councils from social work, roads department, in public utilities like gas, electricity and water, in the police and fire services and many more.

As a union, we are proud of our members and the vital work they do throughout the year to provide decent public services for our communities.

UNISON Scotland wishes everyone who provides our public services and all who benefit from them all the best for a safe and happy festive period – whether on holiday or at work.

**Mike Kirby,
Scottish Secretary,
UNISON**

The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust - Surf Award 2012

THE progress and success of the housing improvement programme on Gigha has wowed judges in a national award.

The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust can add another accolade to its ever-growing belt, as it picked up a SURF Award in the infrastructure and regeneration category.

The awards, organised by Scotland's Independent Regeneration Network, gave particular emphasis to the island's housing improvement programme, which includes the redevelopment of 26 properties in the last 10 years.

In 2002 a community buyout took place of the island, and the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust was formed.

In March the community celebrated the tenth anniversary since the buyout, which was prompted by the risk of a sale to another party, resulting in the population being evicted and the need to address a lack of investment over the years.

'When visiting our island the judges were impressed by all of our achievements, however were particularly overwhelmed by the progress and success of our housing improvement programme,' said Audrey Dickie of Gigha Heritage Trust.

The judges were impressed by the community led nature of the regeneration of Gigha.

A report from SURF said it was clear that the community's approach was highly successful in optimizing the community regeneration benefits out of the investments in island infrastructure.

The trust has overseen an expansion of the population to more than 150, a 50 per cent increase, and the schools roll to 19, more than 200 per cent.



Elaine Shaw, chairwoman of Gigha Heritage Trust with Derek Mackay MSP with the award.

'The judges found the final decision of choosing a winner in the Infrastructure and Regeneration category difficult. However, the community's sheer determination and enthusiasm in taking control of their own fate led to their selecting the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust as the 2012 SURF Award category winner,' said a spokesman for SURF.



A house undergoing renovation on Gigha. In the last 10 years a total of 26 properties have been redeveloped by Gigha Heritage Trust.



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Snow Balls at Lochgilphead and Tarbert

TEENAGERS swapped their school uniforms for smart dresses and kilts last week as they celebrated Christmas with a school dance. Young people from Lochgilphead

and Tarbert high schools held their Snow Ball last Wednesday and Thursday evening in their gym halls. The teens danced the night away to traditional ceilidh and pop music.



Maddy Sloan, Laura Mccaffery, Jacquelyn Clark, Emma Scott, Chole MacDonald were celebrating the end of term at Tarbert Academy's Christmas Party. 06_a52dance01



Many S1 girls were attending their first high school dance at the joint campus. 06_a54snow04



All smiles at the Lochgilphead High Christmas dance - Tia Fisher, Maaia Taylor Smith, Morgan Curtis and Caitlin McMahon. 06_a54snow02



Declan Charlton, Mark MacFarlane, Alexander Gorrie and Hughie Townsend looked the part at the Christmas dance. 06_a54snow05



Rhona Earnshaw, Lucy Hemp-Smith and Lyndsey Scott taking part in the Gay Gordons ceilidh dance. 06_a52dance09



Rose Richmond and Allan Smith were two of the students dancing the night away at Tarbert Academy's Christmas Party. 06_a52dance06

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Community Noticeboard

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MS Hawaiian Christmas party

HULA skirts and brightly coloured shirts could be seen brightening up Lochgilhead's MS Centre as members celebrated Christmas.

Hosting a Hawaiian-themed Christmas Party, members of the MS Centre celebrated the festive season whilst raising awareness that a lack of sunlight and vitamin D can contribute to MS.

Bringing their own sunshine to Argyll, locals donned their grass skirts and cocktails and hula danced the afternoon away.



CHILDREN in Kilmartin Primary School and nursery were delighted to discover that Santa had taken time out of his busy schedule to pop in and say hello at their Christmas party. Like all the school pupils, P4 pupil Ben, pictured, received an early gift from Santa.

Lunch club hold dinner

MEMBERS of Lochgair Lunch Club took a rest from the kitchen recently as they visited Lochgair Hotel for Christmas dinner.

It was a real treat for the cooks of the club as they could enjoy a hearty four-course meal

with the rest of the group without preparing or serving, later joining in the carol singing, accompanied by accordionist John Holt.

Rendition
The jolly evening ended with a rendition of Happy Birthday by the

entire company for Stan Maule.

Stan will not admit his date of birth but friends claim it was the same year John Logie Baird demonstrated television and Malcolm Campbell broke the world land speed record.

Craft fair with a difference at Kilmartin

A CRAFT fair with a difference was launched in Kilmartin this month as youngsters sold a raft

of goods they made using natural or recycled materials. The fair, held in the

village primary school, saw youngsters make decorations and crafts using natural objects they gathered from the woods in Forest School sessions and recycled bottle lids that have been collected all term.

Commenting on the fair, headteacher Fiona Johnson said: 'The school works hard to educate the children about eco issues and sustainability and so we were all very proud of our Eco Craft Fair.'

A very busy few weeks for Kilmartin Primary also saw children in P5-

7 create a healthy soup recipe book which they researched, designed and compiled themselves. They have been making and tasting soup in class all term and so the recipes have all been road tested.

Marking the end of 2012 and the start of a new school term youngsters have produced a calendar featuring photographs taken throughout the year during Forest School sessions.

All of the money raised from the projects will be go to Children's Hospice Association Scotland.



Some of the decorations made from natural materials.



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Children under the age of 9 must be accompanied by an adult of 18 years or over

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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- 7 Reach octogenarian status (6)
- 8 Relation born of parents' siblings (6)
- 9 Loved one (4)
- 10 An unfavourable balance of currency (5,3)
- 11 Herbage (7)
- 13 The horizontal axis of a two-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system. (1-4)
- 15 Hot dish (5)
- 16 Skull (7)
- 18 Said in prayer (4,4)
- 19 Adjoin (4)
- 21 Edge (6)
- 22 Illicit cigarette (6)

Down

- 1 Soft wood (4)
- 2 Sounds like a sharp bone (8,5)
- 3 Puzzle (7)
- 4 Shoo away (5)
- 5 Too old for work (13)
- 6 Italian dish (8)
- 12 One who teaches (8)
- 14 Swiss cheese (7)
- 17 Dog stones? (5)
- 20 Brought into play (4)

Last week's solution

C	H	I	R	U	P	B	E	L	L	S	
O	N	E	R	O	A	A					
M	I	N	G	E	P	I	E	S	V	I	M
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E	I		F		P	R					
W	O	R	S	H	I	P	A	C	E	R	B
Y	M	A	E	T		R					
E	V	E	P	E	A	C	H	T	R	E	E
A	R	P	C	I	O	A					
R	I	S	K	Y	E	X	C	I	T	E	D

Review of the Year - May to August



MAY: Three Argyll councillors Douglas Philand, John McAlpine and Donald Kelly presented their Sign for the A83 petition to the Scottish Government's public petitions committee on May 15. Signed by 10,000 people, the petition called on the government to address a number of concerns on the A83.



MAY saw nine-year-old Martha Payne shoot to worldwide fame when her NewSeconds blog went viral. The youngster has since helped raise more than £124,000 for Argyll-based charity Mary's Meals.



MAY: David Millar from Irvine Athletics Club (centre) set a new course record at the 2012 Crinan Puffer, running the Crinan Canal in under 46 minutes. He was followed over the finish line by Tim Brand (left) and Neil MacNicol.



JUNE: A Lochgilphead teenager fulfilled the dream of many young football fans by signing for a professional club. Aaron Whitefield, 13, signed with Scottish Division One side Dumbarton after impressing during two trials with the club.



JUNE: Alison Robertson from Furnace Primary was named the best education support worker in the country at the 2012 Scottish Education Awards in June.



JUNE: Myles Clark, 18, from Lochgilphead was selected to carry the Olympic torch when it briefly passed through Argyll. Myles was nominated as a torchbearer by staff at Lochgilphead High School.



JUNE: This year saw the Glassary Games resurrected, providing a day of fun for local families in June.



JULY: Inveraray won their 10th Celtic Society Cup since 2001 after a crushing 14-0 win over Taynuilt.



MAY: Two Mid Argyll wildlife cameramen, John Aitchison and Mark Smith, picked up BAFTA awards in June as part of the team that filmed the BBC's Frozen Planet series.



JULY: Tony Barker pulled himself closer to a bottle of whisky after winning the battle against the greasy pole at Tarbert's inaugural boat festival.



JULY: Ardrishaig women Margaret MacKinnon, Joan Robertson, Margaret Annan and Fiona MacLachlan become the ladies senior fours national champions.



AUGUST saw the return of the Mthunzi Culture Group to Mid Argyll. The young men danced and sang their way into the hearts of locals, performing at a series of concerts and fun days during their stay.



MAY: Father and son duo Peter and William Minshall joined forces to swim across the Gulf of Corryreckan to raise funds for Houses for Heroes. It is believed William, 17, is the youngest person to complete the Corryreckan swim.



MAY: Lochgilphead Red Star won their first ever Coronation Cup on May 12 after a thrilling 3-2 victory over Whitehill at Somervell Park in Cambuslang.

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Little grey Fergie will be put on display at Auchindrain

'If it had been some other make of tractor it would be long gone'



The grey Fergie tractor, which is currently in Hamilton Brothers to be refurbished. The work is expected to take eight to 12 weeks to be completed. 20_c52tractor01

IT'S SMALL, grey, and like a boomerang, always comes back. No, not a carrier pigeon, but a little grey Fergie Tractor, which has come home to Campbeltown where it was first sold in 1955.

After years of winding its way around Argyll, the grey Ferguson was picked up by Auchindrain Museum in Furnace to be part of its collection, once it has been restored to its former glory by Hamilton Brothers in Campbeltown, the place where it was originally sold.

Not only does the tractor have strong connections to Campbeltown, but also to Auchindrain, where it was a working tractor on the commercial farm until the tenant decided to retire in 1963.

The vintage tractor's journey begins after being sold to a farmer at Johnstone, west of Paisley. After two years of service it returned to Hamilton Brothers, after the farmer traded it back in.

It then went to Kilmacollm, and back to Hamilton Brothers in 1961.

Decided

When the only remaining tenant at Auchindrain decided it was time to get rid of his horses and use a tractor on the land, he bought the third hand Fergie for around £260.

In 1963, the farmer retired and the tractor went to St Catherine's, then on to Cowal, where it was fitted with Land Rover tyres at the front and used to drag the family's boat in and out of Loch Fyne.

After more than a decade, it seemed the tractor's life was at an end. It was traded back into Hamilton Brothers who believed the salt-water

damage meant it could only be sold as scrap.

However, Hugh McLean, who worked at the tractor dealers at the time, said he would take it, giving them the scrap value for it.

He kept it in Tarbert where it stayed for 10 years.

'He started it up every year to make sure it did not seize up,' said Bob Clark, core development manager at Auchindrain.

Discovered

It was in 2010 that Auchindrain Museum discovered there had once been a tractor used on the farm. After making it their quest to find the machine, they eventually discovered who owned it.

Bob said: 'One phone call and half an hour later we owned it.'

With the help of a government grant and Museum Galleries Scotland, the tractor will be given a full restoration where its journey began, in Campbeltown.

Gavin Reid, who is in charge of the restoration of the tractor, believes it will take eight to 12 weeks to get it back into working order. Gavin

himself is a vintage tractor enthusiast and has built his collection up over the last few years.

He said: 'We sold it originally and we always knew where it was. It's come back to where it came from.'

Despite it being 20 years since Hamilton Brothers last repaired a Grey Fergie, they still have some parts in the workshop.

'If it had been some other make of tractor it would be long gone,' he said.

The 52-year-old tractor's refurbishment is not only to make it look shiny and new, but also to make it fit for farm work.

'We will be using it to demonstrate demonstrations of arable farming,' explained

Bob. 'It's not just a display piece, it will be put back to work.'



The tractor at work near St Catherines in the 1960s which is where it went after it left Auchindrain.

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Susan Black, Christine MacCallum, Eleanor Hunter, clinical lead nurse Lynne Millar and Fiona Robb are five of the Marie Curie Nursing Team in Mid Argyll. 06_a52nurse01



Joan MacArthur, Laura Bain and Isabel Maclullich enjoy cakes and coffee with Judy Preston chair of The Mid Argyll Marie Curie Fundraising Committee. 06_a52marie01

Marie Curie Nursing Team on call over the Christmas and New year period

SEVERAL women touched by cancer and the loss of loved ones will be working tirelessly throughout the festive period to ease the pain and suffering of people in the final stages of life.

The women, part of the Marie Curie Nursing Team, work to honour the wishes of patients fighting terminal illness, allowing them to spend their final days at home surrounded by loved ones.

Doreen Campbell, Carol Smith, Kath Robinson, Fiona Robb, Susan Black, Eleanor Hunter, Christine MacCallum and clinical lead nurse Lynne Millar make up the Mid Argyll nursing team. The women provide around the clock, hands on, end of life nursing care.

Candle

The women who this month lit a candle to remember their fathers, stepfathers and mothers, work to ease the worry and sadness of Mid Argyll families- the same feelings that they themselves have experienced.

Christine was inspired to join the Marie Curie Nursing team after caring for her mother who sadly passed away after a long fight with terminal illness.

Christine, who moved to Tarbert five years ago, saw an advert for Marie Curie Nursing and thought it was a sign and opportunity to help others.

'I think having been

through it myself I have been on both sides and can relate to the patients and help the families,' she said. 'It really is the most rewarding job.'

The nurses not only provide hands on care for the patient but help families by listening to concerns and offering advice.

Fiona started to work for Marie Curie in July and understands the devastating impact cancer can have on families.

'I lost my father and step father to cancer this year,' she said. 'I can really relate to how people are feeling and I think it helps that people can talk to me and I understand.'

Former ancillary nurse Susan has travelled from Oban to Campbeltown supporting families affected by cancer and life limiting illnesses. But the job is far from 'doom and gloom' she said.

'We build up great relationships with our patients and their families and I think that is important,' Susan said.

Working the length and breadth of Mid Argyll, the women create care packages, which cater to the individual needs of each person.

Eleanor, who has worked with the Marie Curie team since July, said: 'We want to help share the care with relatives, we don't want to come in and take over.'

'It is their home and we respect that, what we will do is discuss with the family and patients what they would like us

to do and every case is personal.'

Lynne, who has helped develop the Marie Curie Nursing team for the last eight years, said the women truly enjoy the work they do and rewarding feeling that comes with it.

Privilege

'It is a privilege to be able to care for patients at the end of their lives and to work alongside other professionals to ensure the patients are

getting the best nursing care possible,' she said.

The Mid Argyll Marie Curie Cancer Fundraising Committee work hard throughout the year to raise money, allowing the charity to continue its good work.

Praising the work of the Marie Curie nurses Judy Preston, chairwoman of the committee, said: 'Home comforts mean everything as we remember at this time of year and tea

from your own pot is always better. They make all that possible.'

In the last year alone Marie Curie nurses have cared for 79 patients and

provided 7,026 hours of nursing care in Mid Argyll.

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WYVEX MEDIA



Photo of the Year competition

To cast your vote in Wyvex Media's Photo of the Year competition complete the form below or text 88010 using the keyword POY followed by the code below your favourite photograph.

Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate. For full details and terms and conditions please turn to page 14.

Photo

Name

Address

Telephone

Email.....

Please post your entries to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB
Entries to be in by 12 noon Friday 8th February 2013.
Normal Campbeltown Courier rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted.

WYVEX MEDIA *Photo of the year*
 sponsored by **TESCO** *Every little helps* Lochside, Oban,
 Argyll and Bute, PA34 4HP



FESTIVE preparations haven't stopped keen photographers submitting entries to our Photo of the Year competition.

Spectacular images taken across the west coast and its islands have blown away our judges, who once again present the best pictures this week has to offer.

As usual, you can vote for your favourite by sending a text to 88010 using the keyword POY followed by the code below your favourite photograph.

For example, if the number below your photograph is 123, your message would read POY 123.

Alternatively, complete the voting form attached. Photocopies will not be accepted.

To submit your own photographs for the competition, log on to our website at www.argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk/poy.

Please note that photographs must be large enough to print.



Linda Anderson Kerr, Oban: A spring walk through Puck's Glen. T52lindaanderson-kerr1no



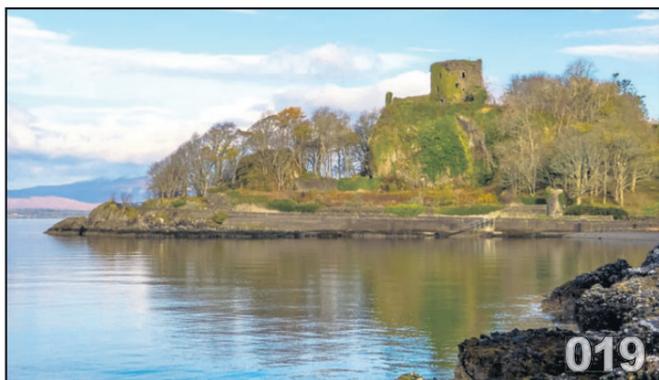
Lucy Thornhill, Oban: Sunset from Pulpit Hill, Oban. T52lucythornhill1no



Adam Brown, Oban: A view of Bonnie Oban Bay taken from the Isle of Kerrera at the end of Summer 2012. T52adambrown1no



Gemma Willan, Carradale 52: Sunrise over Arran. T52gemmawillan1no 020



David MacMillan, Oban: Dunollie Castle. T52davidmacmillan1no



Alasdair Bennett, Campbeltown: The shot is of the Carradale Water estuary in Kintyre looking south east to the Kilbrannan Sound with Arran in the distance. T52alasdairbennett1no



Michael Reilly, Campbeltown: Taken on Arran. T52michaelreilly1no



JD Douglas, Oban: Stag in Glencoe. T52jddouglas1no

Terms and conditions: Editor's decision is final. Competition is for amateur photographers only. The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Photographs not of a high enough resolution to appear in print will be disqualified. By submitting to the competition, including but not limited to digital video and images, mobile text messages, blogging, message boards, emails and audio submissions, you automatically grant Wyvex Media the royalty-free, perpetual, irrevocable, exclusive right and license to use, reproduce, modify, edit, adapt, publish, translate, create derivative works from, distribute, perform and display such material (in whole or part) worldwide and/or to incorporate it in other works in any form, media, or technology now known or later developed for the full term of any rights that may exist in such content. Prizes are as stated, no cash alternative. Employees of Wyvex Media and their immediate family are prohibited from entering. Text votes cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate.

WYVEX MEDIA
Photo of the Year competition



To cast your vote in Wyvex Media's Photo of the Year competition complete the form below or text 88010 using the keyword POY followed by the code below your favourite photograph.

Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate. For full details and terms and conditions please see above.

Photo

Name

Address

.....

.....

Telephone

Email.....

.....

Please post your entries to The Oban Times,
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Three senior roles – 1 year contract with scope to be extended - Isle of Coll

Post 1: Development Manager – full time – up to £27,000
 You will be the most senior staff member reporting to the Chair and responsible for the development, marketing and financial performance of our new community centre (An Cridhe) and Coll Bunkhouse. You will:

- Have a flair for marketing services and generating income
- Be experienced in events management, leisure and tourism or facilities management
- Able to carry out business and financial forecasting
- Have a background in economic or social regeneration.

Post 2: Operations Manager (Finance and Learning) – a 20 hour post – up to £25,000 prorata
 Reporting to the Development Manager, you will have a key service development and delivery role for our new community centre (An Cridhe) and Coll Bunkhouse, and will be:

- Experienced in book-keeping or financial management including reporting to the Board
- Able to manage formal and informal learning programmes.

Post 3: Operations Manager (Facilities and Services) – a 20 hour post – up to £25,000 prorata
 Reporting to the Development Manager, you will have a key service development and delivery role for our new community centre (An Cridhe) and Coll Bunkhouse, and will:

- Be an experienced organiser of facilities and services to the public including visitors
- Have a flair for the development of operational policies and procedures
- Be able to carry out projects including training volunteers and the development of feedback data for monitoring services.

Applications **on line only**: email; Lavinia Maclean Bristol; lavinia@developmentcoll.co.uk for the application pack including the three job descriptions.

CLOSING DATE: 8th January 2013 at 5pm

Interview date on Coll – 16th January for all posts (free accommodation is available if it is necessary to stay on Coll overnight)

Visit our websites: www.ancridhe.co.uk; www.collbunkhouse.co.uk

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PUBLIC NOTICES



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CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR REFUSE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS MID ARGYLL

All uplifts normally uplifted on Tuesday 1st Jan – refuse and recycling will be uplifted on Saturday 29th December (Inc: Recycling route 2)

All uplifts normally carried out on Wednesday 2nd Jan – refuse and recycling will be uplifted on Sunday 30th December (Inc: Recycling route 3)

Lingerton Recycling and Civic Amenity Site will be closed on 1st / 2nd January

KINTYRE FESTIVE UPLIFTS

All refuse bins normally uplifted Tue 1st Jan will be uplifted on Sat 29th Dec. Mon, Wed, Thur & Fri uplift for both weeks will remain as normal. Roading Recycling and Civic Amenity Site will be closed on 1st/2nd January. Information on all refuse collection services are available from Argyll and Bute website or your Local Council office.

PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below 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 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02678/PP	Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse, including replacement of existing porch, extension to terrace, erection of detached garage/shed and installation of gas tank	Gair-Na-Mara Ardfern Lochgilphead Argyll and Bute PA31 8QN	Sub Post Office Ardfern

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02022/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of new vehicular access.	Land To The East of Macharioch Lodge Southend Campbeltown Argyll and Bute PA28 6RF	Burnet Building St John St Campbeltown

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, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

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.



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CAMPBELTOWN : The Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6AE
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TEXT FOR THE WEEK
 'Whoever believes in the Son (Jesus) has eternal life ...' (John 3:36).

RUBY WEDDINGS
MACPHERSON - SCALLY - Robert and Fiona were married in the Highland Parish Church, Campbeltown, on December 30, 1972, by the Rev C M Henderson. In sickness and in health truly meant.

DEATHS
FOGGIN - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital Oban, on December 23, 2012, Walter Foggin, in his 82nd year, of Woodside, Crarae, Minard. Beloved husband of Theresa. Loving uncle to all the family. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral Service will be held in St. Margaret's Church, Lochgilphead on Monday December 31, 2012, at 9.30am, thereafter to Cardross Crematorium at 1.15pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Mid Argyll - Home Care Team.

GILLON - Suddenly, but peacefully, at the Campbeltown Hospital, on December 20, 2012, Elizabeth Forbes Chambers (Betty), in her 85th year, Cala-Na-Sithe, Southend, dearly beloved wife of the late John Gillon and a dearly loved aunt, great aunt and great great aunt. Service in Southend Parish Church, on Friday, December 28, 2012 at 12.00 noon, funeral thereafter to Keil Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. Family flowers only please. A retiral collection will be held in aid of Southend Parish Church.

PATE - Christina Margaret. Peacefully in Dunoon, on December 15, 2012, Margaret, beloved wife of James Guy Lindsay Pate, much loved sister-in-law to Sheena and a loving aunt to Fiona, David, Colin and their families. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service was held on Wednesday, December 19.

IN MEMORIAM
CHISHOLM - A year has gone since you were here, But in my eyes there is still a tear, In my heart you will always stay, We love and miss you every day. In memory of my dear husband John, who passed away December 28, 2011. Netta and Family
CHISHOLM - John R. - Dad We thought of you with love today but that is nothing new We thought of you yesterday and the days before that too We think of you in silence, we often speak your name All we have is memories and your picture in a frame. Hazel & Craig.

CHISHOLM - John R Papa Forever remembered Forever missed Elaina, Amy & Alistair
CHISHOLM - In loving memory of a dear brother in law and uncle Johny. Margaret, Jimmy and family.
CHISHOLM - Remembering our dear brother in law Johny, who passed away December 28, 2011. Nan, Bert and family
KELLY - In fondest memory of my dear husband, Willie, who died December 30, 2010. I think of you in silence I often speak your name But all I have are memories And a picture in a frame My heart still aches with sadness My secret tears still flow For what it meant to lose you No-one will ever know. - Elizabeth x.
MCLEAN - In loving memory of Betty, who died on December 30, 2011. A dear mum, gran and granny. Your life touched this world in a way no other can Leaving not only wonderful memories, but lasting imprints in our hearts. A mother's love is forever, for now and eternity, She'll be there with her arms outstretched on the day we meet again. - Aileen, Gemma, Jamie, Craig and Conor.
MARTIN - In ever loving memory of my dear mum and nannie, Jean, who passed away December 29, 2001. We shall never forget the pain Of the day you went away How the sunshine in our lives Turned to clouds of darkest grey. You're now within a world of light Where you so softly lie asleep. Within our hearts will always stay The precious memories that we keep. - Your ever-loving daughter Isabel, loving granddaughter Kerry and precious great grandchildren Eilidh, Daniel and Linzi xxx.
MILLER - Treasured memories of Robert, dearly loved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Passed away January 1, 2011. Our thoughts are with you every day. Flora, Robert, Fiona and Amanda.

WEST LOCHFYNESIDE
 Christmas Services - all welcome!
 - Cumloden Lochfyneside and Lochgair
 Charity No. SC016097
30 December 10am End of Year Service Furnace Hall
6 January 2013 11.30am New Year Service Lochgair Church
 - Glenaray and Inveraray
 Charity No. SC016665
30 December 11.30am End of Year Service Inveraray Church
6 January 2013 11.30am New Year Service in Inveraray Church
6 January 2013 2.30pm New Year Service in Chalmers Court, Inveraray

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GLASSARY KILMARTIN and FORD PARISH CHURCH
 Sunday 30th December, 2012 Ford 10am. Rev. Cliff Acklam All welcome SC002121

LOCHGILPHEAD BAPTIST CHURCH
 All Welcome
 Pastor Rev Derek Gibson
Sunday 30th December 2012
 11am Morning Service
 Scottish Charity SC015187

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH
 Rev. Hilda Smith
SUNDAY 30th December 2012
 11.00 am ..Morning Worship
 Further information (01546) 606218 www.lpchurch.co.uk Lochgilphead (Church of Scotland) SC016311

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

LIVING STONES CHRISTIAN CENTRE KILMARTIN
Sunday 30 December 2012
 11.00am
 Worship Service for all ages followed by light lunch
 Speaker: Graham McLean
 All Welcome

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sunday 30th December
 All Age Family Service "The Mystery of Christmas" 11:00 am
Baby & Toddler Group
 will start again on 10th January 2013
 We meet in the Guide Hall, Kinloch Road
 www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk SC043322

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
 George Street, Campbeltown
Sunday 30th December
 12.45pm: Worship Service
 Mr Angus MacKay
 All welcome
 Scottish Charity Number: SC003847

THE SALVATION ARMY
 Burnside Street, Campbeltown
Sunday
 10.30am Morning Worship
Tuesday
 12.15pm Lunch Club (Over 60s)
 1.30pm Home League
Wednesday
 7.00pm House Group
Thursday
 7.30pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH
 75 Longrow, Campbeltown
Sunday 30th December 2012
 11.00am Breaking of Bread Service
 Mr Gordon Cosgrove
 4pm Service at Lorne Campbell Court
 For details & other enquiries contact The Church Secretary **01586 551237**
 www.springbankchurch.co.uk
 For Furniture Recycling Project call **01586 551547**
 SCO14646

LORNE AND LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH
 Scottish Charity Number SC011686
Sunday 30th December
 Morning worship 11.15am
 Mr William Crossan

Highland Parish Church
 SCO02493
Sunday 30th December 2012
 11.15am Mr. M. Ramsay
 10.30am Session meet in Church No Funday Club
 Everyone very welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Argyll Street, Campbeltown
 St Kieran Episcopal Church:
 Campbeltown
 Scottish Charity No SC023277
Sunday 30th December 2012
 The First Sunday after Christmas
 10.45am Family 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

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH
 Charity Number SC001002
Sunday 30 December
 Tayvallich Church 11:30 am
 Morning worship led by Rev. Cliff Acklam
 All welcome
 Enquiries 01546 606926
 www.argyllcommunities.org/nknapdalecofs

TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 30th December
 Tarbert Service 11.45am
 To be held in Tarbert Free Church
 Rev. Tommy Bryson
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 Everyone very welcome
 SC002622

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 Yachts on the horizon

Karate kids take grading tests

KARATE belts of varying colours were handed out to members of the Kyokushin Karate Scotland Association, in Lochgilphead last week as they took part in a series of grading tests.

Chief instructor for Scotland, Iain Rodger, who runs Lochgilphead Karate Club, put members to the test at the Mid Argyll Sports Centre.

Peter Tyler, from Muasdale, trains at the Lochgilphead centre and became a junior black belt after passing the Shodan test.

To earn the belt, Peter had to pass a technical test, a breaking test and competed in 15 fights, which saw him challenge a new opponent every minute.

Stuart MacDonald, of Tarbert, and

Wallace Simpson, from Cairbaan, passed the Nidan test, which makes them both second-degree black belts in karate.

To get their belts Stuart and Wallace had to pass 40 continuous full contact fights with a new opponent every minute, along with completing a technical and breaking test.

Coloured belt

Youngsters at the club were also put to the test and passed the Kyu, which means they now have a coloured belt.

New members are being welcomed to the club on Wednesday, January 9.

Anyone interested in going along can e-mail Iain on info@ksksotland.com or visit www.ksksotland.com



Stuart MacDonald and Wallace Simpson now both have second-degree black belts after passing a series of rigorous tests with chief instructor for Scotland, Iain Rodger.

Young guns take on golden oldies

RESIDENTS in Lochgilphead can go along to Ropework tomorrow (Saturday) to see the most hotly anticipated clash of the local football calendar – over 30s versus the under 30s.

The annual Festive Charity Grudge Match will see Donnie Johnson and Robert Docherty field teams for the popular fixture, which kicks off at 2pm.

Unfortunately for the under 30s, the man in the middle for the tough fixture is local stalwart and referee Jimmy Lister, who just missed out on selection for the over 30s' side.

Sources have said Jimmy will have more than one or two yellow and red cards in his pocket.

Money raised by both sides will be donated to the Friends of Beatson challenge team, Carolyn MacAlpine and Dougie Moore, who are going to run 100 miles in three days in May 2013.

You can also help this excellent challenge by donating at the following www.justgiving.com/beatson100.

Thank to the Stag Hotel, which has kindly donated soup and sandwiches for when they retire to compare cuts and bruises.



High school students from across the region headed to Oban to take part in the annual Argyll and Bute Basketball Tournament. More than 140 pupils took part.

Basketball competition in Oban

YOUNGSTERS from Lochgilphead High School headed to Oban to compete in the annual Argyll and Bute Basketball Tournament, which proved the sport is more popular than ever before.

More than 140 pupils travelled from Lochgilphead High School, Oban High School, Tobermory High, Islay High, Hermitage Academy and Dunoon Grammar, to Atlantis Sport and Leisure Centre to

compete in the tournament. Organised by Active Schools, the competition came about after the programme coordinators realised basketball was popular across the region but there was very few chances to compete.

This is the fifth year the tournament has taken place in its current format with boys and girls from S1 to S6 competing.

The teams are split into S1 to S3 girls and boys and S4 to S6 girls

and boys with each team competing cross-court in their age group in round robin matches.

Due to large entries this year in the boy's section, there was a semi final and full court finals for the two girls and two boys teams.

The winners on the day were: S1 to S3 Girls: Hermitage Academy. S1 to S3 Boys: Hermitage Academy. S4 to S6 Girls: Tobermory High. S4 to S6 Boys: Dunoon Grammar.



WIN

£2400

JACKPOT

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 12noon, Monday 31st December, 2012. 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.

To allow for the festive holidays Spot the Ball will run for 2 weeks.

The deadline for entries is 12noon, Monday 31st December, 2012.

Winners will be announced in the issue dated Friday 4th January, 2013

SPOT THE BALL COMPETITION

WEEK TWO of two



I enclose £1 (note) 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**

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Posters, flyers, leaflets, calendars, tickets

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Youngsters at the soccer centre took part in a two-day course run by Coerver Coaching.



The Under 12s have enjoyed a successful season, which has seen them compete regularly in Oban.



Lochgilhead Soccer Centre was presented with the Citizen of the Year award by Mid Argyll Rotary Club, in recognition the community work carried out there.

The Under 10s have competed in festivals with Campbeltown teams. A highlight of the year was a Coerver Coaching event in June, with 40 youngsters from across all the squads attending the two-day course run by excellent coaches and many of the children said it was the best coaching event they had ever attended. The soccer centre committee and coaches would like to thank all the parents for their support in 2012. With over 100 kids involved, the soccer centre is an important part of the community and the award of Citizen of the Year to the club by the Mid Argyll Rotary Club in May was another highlight. The club would like to thank the numerous sponsors who provide support through funding for strips, pitch hire and transport for games, tournaments and festivals.

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Another successful year for soccer centre

By Graham Whitefield
Chairman,
Lochgilhead
Soccer Centre

THIS HAS been another successful year for Lochgilhead Soccer Centre, with three youth teams playing as Lochgilhead Red Star YFC in the Dunbartonshire Football Development League again and younger players developing in seven or four a-side football.

Regular youth football came to an end for boys born in 1995 - the first Lochgilhead team to take part in a competitive league and lay the foundation for three teams running today.

Huge thanks go to George and Craig Bruce and Billy and Rona Meechan for all their efforts with this team over the years.

Now in their fourth year of league football, the under 16s had a poor start to the 2011/12 season but found form earlier this year and a win in their final match gained them promotion to the A Division.

With only one league defeat this season, the side is well placed to challenge for the title in the New Year and they have a home tie to look

forward to in the last 16 of the Regional Cup.

There has been the bonus of some personal achievements for players, with three successful in regional trials and one making it through to the National SYFA trials.

The Under 14s finished the 2011/12 season mid table and put in a good performance in the Plate Final in June before narrowly losing.

Under new management for 2012/13 and with additional players from Tarbert and Campbeltown, the boys suffered a heavy defeat in their opening game at home to Oban.

But they avenged it with a 7-0 victory in Oban and are unbeaten in the league since that opening game.

The team were unlucky to lose the Regional Cup on penalties, but with a favourable league cup draw and title to play for there is plenty of optimism for 2013.

The newest youth team is the Under 13s, which formed from last year's seven a side under 12s, with the addition of several boys from Kintyre.

Playing 11 a-side football for the first time the

13s have put in some excellent performances and sit mid table. The squad hope to move up the league table in 2013.

At seven a side football, Lochgilhead teams are playing in the Oban Primary League for the sixth consecutive year.

The Under 12s have a squad of 10 players and compete regularly in Oban. There has been regular contact with Islay and Campbeltown, where the new 3G pitch provides an excellent playing surface for player development.

The Under 10s have competed in festivals with teams from Oban, Campbeltown and beyond, extra training is continuing to develop the squad.

The youngest squad is the Under 8s with 14 players playing four a side football regularly in Oban and enjoying

festivals with Campbeltown teams.

A highlight of the year was a Coerver Coaching event in June, with 40 youngsters from across all the squads attending the two-day course run by excellent coaches and many of the children said it was the best coaching event they had ever attended.

The soccer centre committee and coaches would like to thank all the parents for their support in 2012.

With over 100 kids involved, the soccer centre is an important part of the community and the award of Citizen of the Year to the club by the Mid Argyll Rotary Club in May was another highlight. The club would like to thank the numerous sponsors who provide support through funding for strips, pitch hire and transport for games, tournaments and festivals.

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