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Merry Christmas to all our readers and advertisers

## Volunteer champion returns home with Prince's message

AN ARDFERN woman has been recognised by Her Majesty The Queen for her service to volunteering in Craignish and Mid Argyll.

Jan Brown, a serial volunteer, has been invested with the Member of the British Empire (MBE) medal by Prince William at Buckingham Palace in November. To celebrate she invited people who had supported her over the years to a tea party in the very hall she had helped to fundraise for.

While Mrs Brown of Otters, Ardfarn was being invested at the palace - the prince asked for a special message to be taken back to the people of Argyll.

When HRH Prince William heard that Jan was from the west coast, he said: 'I love Argyll. Please take my good wishes to everyone there.'

The Duke of Cambridge spent time in Nether Lorn as a child with his mother and

grandmother, Mrs Frances Shand-Kidd, who lived on the Isle of Seil.

Jan said she was slightly embarrassed when she was told she was going to be recognised for her voluntary service to Craignish and Mid-Argyll over many years.



Jan with her MBE outside the palace.

Jan said: 'My initial thought was that my volunteering achievements were simply because I was part of an amazing team of people in the projects that I have been involved with.'

But as it was her peer group of volunteers who recognised her work, she said she was pleased

to accept the accolade.

Jan has been volunteering for many years; prior to moving to Ardfarn in the late 1980s she was involved with Meals on Wheels in Govan.

After moving to Argyll, Jan has since been involved with various projects including being a founder member of education and recycling programme the GRAB Trust, being a community council member, a board member of Craignish Community Company which built the new village hall, an advisory panel member of Kilmartin Museum and a board member of its trading arm, Kilmartin Trading Company.

Jan was also involved in a social housing project for Craignish that should be finished early in 2015.

Mrs Brown's family hosted a tea party in the village hall to thank everyone who had helped and contributed in any way to the honour awarded to her.



Jan Brown of Ardfarn at her investiture as a Member of the British Empire (MBE) at Buckingham Palace. HRH Prince William told Jan how much he loved Argyll.

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# Ardrishaig family downs tools after trading for 50 years

AN ARDRISHAIG family will hand over the reins of their business in the new year.

Alasdair MacGilp, 75, who has had Alasdair MacGilp's lawn mower and gardening equipment business for 50 years retired last year after getting increasingly unwell since being diagnosed with dementia two years ago.

Despite Mr Macgilp's retirement, his wife Sina has been overseeing business at the office on Smithy Lane in Lochgilphead while caring for her husband.

She said: 'It's been hard to adapt to life with Alasdair's illness and it has been life changing.'

'It's time to sell up the business and spend quality time with the family.'

Being the main supplier of gardening tools to people in Mid



Alasdair MacGilp and his wife, Sina, are selling up to spend time with their family. 08\_a51smiddy01

Argyll and some larger organisations across Argyll saw Mr MacGilp

become a well-respected member of the community.

A member of staff at the office said: 'Mr MacGilp has been very fair to work for over the years.'

'He has been helpful, knowledgeable and easy going. He was a great

man and a very good business man.'

The couple have nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, who they look forward to spending more time with.

## Police files

### Driving offences

BETWEEN 7.30pm and 7.50pm on December 15 a 62-year-old man was reported for driving without due care and attention on the A83 near to Inveraray.

He is now the subject of a report to the procurator fiscal.

A 72-YEAR-OLD male has been reported for driving without due care and attention on the A83 near to Furnace between 8pm and 9pm on December 16.

He is now the subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal.

AT 5.45pm on December 17 a single-vehicle road accident occurred on the A83 near to Loch Fyne Oysters, Cairndow.

The 67-year-old driver, the only person in the car, was uninjured and is now the subject of a report to the procurator fiscal for dangerous driving.

### Thefts

BETWEEN 6pm on November 9 and 4pm on December 17 a trailer containing two off-road motorcycles were stolen from a farm track near to Torinturk, Tarbert.

Police are requesting that if any person has information in relation to this theft to phone PC Frame on 101.

AT 8.25pm on December 20 an 18-year-old man was arrested following the theft of beer from the Co-op in Bishopton Road, Lochgilphead. He is now the subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal.

### Drugs

AT 8.40pm on December 17, police were carrying out a road check on Front Street, Inveraray when a 41-year-old

man was suspected of being in possession of cannabis. He was also charged with being unfit to drive a motor vehicle whilst under the influence of drugs.

AT 9.30pm on the same date and at the same place a 56-year-old male was suspected to be in possession of cannabis.

Both are now subject of a report to the procurator fiscal.

AT 8pm on December 20 two men aged 24 and 29 years were suspected to be in possession of cannabis at a house in Oakfield, Tarbert.

They are now the subject of a report to the procurator fiscal.

### Disturbance

AT 7.50pm on December 20 following a disturbance in a house in MacIntosh Way, Lochgilphead, a 20-year-old man was arrested.

He was detained in custody before appearing at court.

### Drink driving

AT 10.45pm on December 21 a 32-year-old man was arrested for driving a motor vehicle whilst over the speed limit in Lochnell Street, Lochgilphead.

He is now the subject of a report to the procurator fiscal.

### Newsdesk

01546 602345

### Next week's edition

NEXT week's Argyllshire Advertiser, dated Friday January 2, will be available to buy from Wednesday December 31.

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## Band forced to cancel gig

SUPER group Skerryvore had to cancel a gig in Tarbert at the last minute as a result of 'unforeseen' circumstances.

The band's management company told the Advertiser the band had no choice in the matter.

The band was due to play at Tarbert village hall last Friday.

## The co-operative food

CAMPBELTOWN

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Tuesday 23rd	6am - 10pm
Wednesday 24th	6am - 8pm
Thursday 25th	Closed
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Saturday 27th	7am - 10pm
Sunday 28th	7am - 10pm
Monday 29th	6am - 8pm
Tuesday 30th	6am - 8pm
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We would like to wish all our customers a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2015.

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Would like to wish all of my customers past and present a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



WEE CARA Green, aged 2, from Lochgilhead was looking forward to the arrival of Santa Claus on Christmas Eve.

And she hoped to see the big man get his job underway, as he was due to be visible above the clouds between 5 and 7pm while he hitched a lift on the international space station.

Cara enjoyed the Fyne Families Christmas Party held last week in Lochgilhead community centre.

### Hearing will review wind farm proposal

A PUBLIC hearing over a refused wind farm application on an MSP's 3500-acre estate in the hillside above Loch Awe will take place in March.

Argyll and Bute council planning committee refused the 15-turbine application, in May, by developers RWE Innogy on MSP Jamie McGrigor's land at Ardchnonnell.

Following the decision RWE Innogy lodged an appeal and a Scottish government public hearing will take place between March 3 and 4, with a site visit on January 15.

The turbines would have generated enough electricity to power 40 per cent of the homes in Argyll.

### New Year celebrations for kittens

MEMBERS of Atomic Piseag, the Argyll Ladies' Centennial Gaelic choir, will be making a special performance on this year's BBC Alba Hogmanay Show.

The choir will be joining other Argyll and West Coast artists such as Robert Robertson and Skipinnish on stage to bring in the bells.

# Cash-strapped council asks community: can you help us?

A BRUTAL plan to cut back on council services could see community groups and organisations stepping in to the breach.

Argyll and Bute council's amenity services department says that it has made all the savings and cuts that it can possibly make.

Further savings would see roadside verges cut just once a year and three public toilets in Mid Argyll close.

In a presentation to councillors during a business meeting, members were told that £1,338,000 had been saved from a budget of £4.9million since 2011/12.

It was suggested that

'Third Sector Opportunities' - organisations such as sports clubs, community groups, and businesses - could be called upon to help in the future with anything from tending graveyards to cutting grass pitches.

Councillors were informed: 'The service review process has removed all possible management and efficiency savings.'

At present each sports ground is cut weekly in the summer - but this could be reduced from 32 trims a year to 28.

An Argyll and Bute council spokeswoman said: 'Like every local authority in Scotland, the council has to

find ways of doing more with less.

'The council can no longer do as much as it would like to. Generating more income and making savings have to be balanced with making sure Argyll and Bute is a great place to live, work and visit.

'Everyone has a part to

play in making that happen.

'In Argyll and Bute there is already a strong track record of partnership working as well as local people and groups who have a real commitment to their local community and making it the best place it can be.

'Co-production sees

local groups or community councils getting involved by taking on tasks like enhancing play areas or maintaining public toilets in their area. This has

been working well in a number of communities for some years now and means that more resources can be freed up for other essential council services.'

**campbeltown courier** **argyllshire advertiser**  
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**Our offices will be closed on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th December and Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd January**

## NEW YEAR ADVERTISING DEADLINES

The issue dated Friday 2nd January will be available to buy from the 31st December

all advertising must be booked in by Monday 29th December

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# NHS Highland department to exceed £1m savings target

'We have been working hard throughout the year to be more effective and efficient'

THE department responsible for buying goods and services for NHS Highland predicts that it will exceed its target of saving £1 million this financial year.

#### Ensure

Earlier this year, NHS Highland required brokerage of £2.5 million from the Scottish Government to ensure that it met its obligation of balancing its books at the end of the 2012/13 financial year.

This year, the board has a target of achieving savings of £22.4

million and has challenged the procurement department to save £1 million.

'We are ahead of that target and are confident of meeting it,' said Mr Stewart, whose team is responsible for procuring just about everything the board uses, from food and medical equipment for hospitals to furniture and fittings for offices.

'We have been working hard throughout the year to be more effective and efficient.'

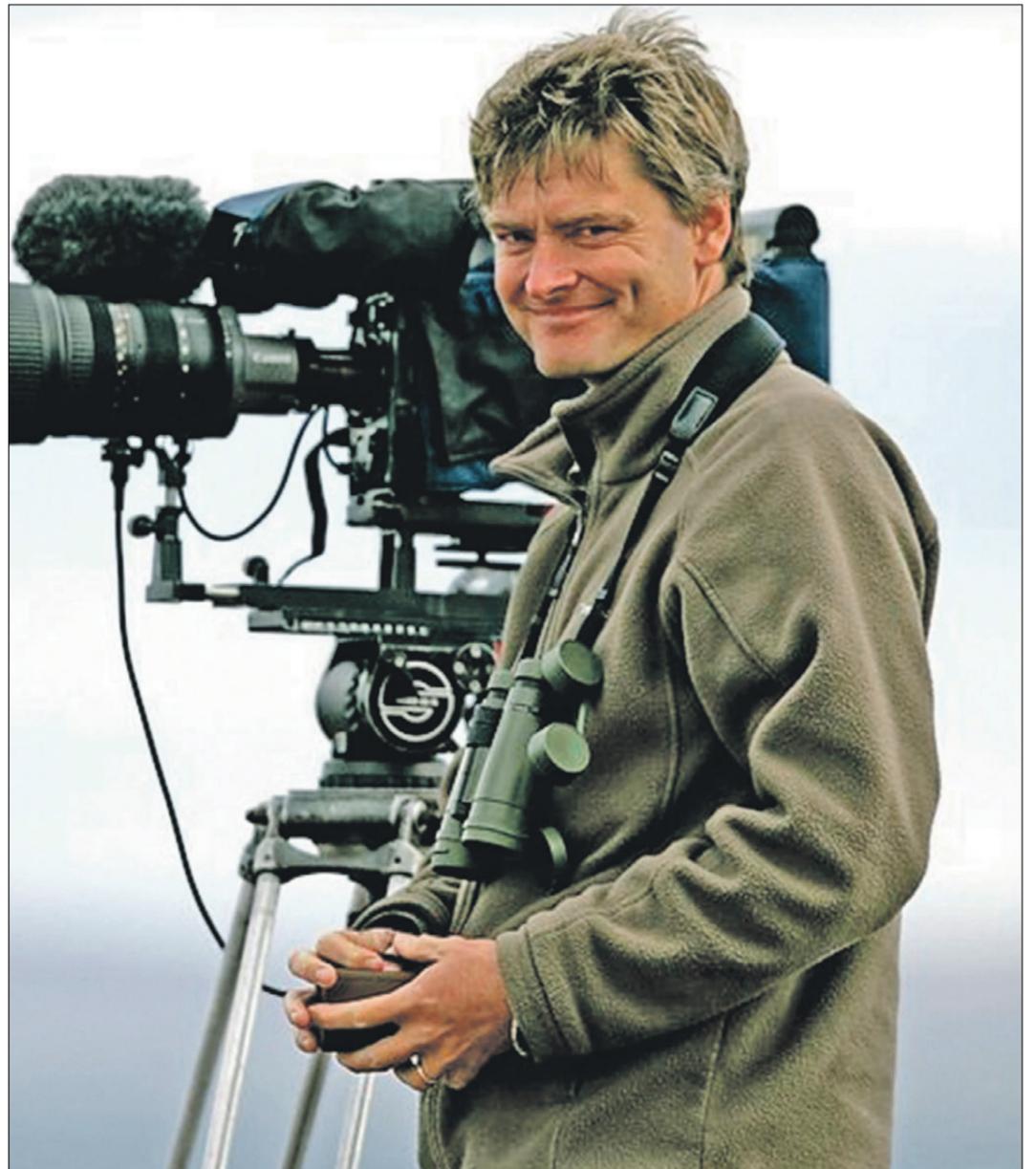
Among the measures taken was increasing

the number of suppliers with whom NHS Highland has contacts, thus securing better financial deals.

NHS Highland is also making significantly greater use of an electronic tendering system set up by the Scottish Government which makes it easier for businesses to bid for contracts.

#### Tightened

The board has tightened up on its internal governance systems by establishing a special group which scrutinises procurement matters.



John Aitchison.

## BBC cameraman's talk in aid of Mid Argyll Marie Curie group

A CAMERAMAN who has worked on a number of hit television documentaries, including Frozen Planet, will be in Lochgilphead in January.

#### Raise funds

In a bid to raise funds for the Mid Argyll Marie Curie Group, John Aitchison will talk to an au-

dience about his life and work filming wildlife around the world.

Any money raised from the event will be used to nurse terminally ill people in Mid Argyll and support their families.

John and his award-winning team at Otter Films Ltd have produced a number of renowned

wildlife documentaries. John's work has also featured on Springwatch and the Hebrides Series on BBC One.

#### Event

The event will be held in the Baptist Church Hall, Lochgilphead on Sunday, January 4 at 2.30 pm.

## Additional £250,000 to be spent upgrading Dunoon's esplanade

DUNOON is to benefit from an extra £250,000 investment on its esplanade.

The improvements will form part of the first phase of a longer term plan to improve walking and cycling routes in and around the town, making it easier for people to get around and encouraging healthier travel choices.

The council's strategic

transportation team secured almost £1million of funding from the Sustans Community Links Programme earlier this year, £250,000 of which has been committed to this project.

The entire esplanade from the town centre to Kirn will be resurfaced and be identified as a mixed-use surface for both pedestrians and cyclists.

New access points, a bus stop and removal of historic shelters have also been earmarked under the plans.

#### Donated

The old shelters will be donated to local transport museums.

Strategic transportation manager Moya Ingram said: 'We're pleased to be moving forward with this project and have been working

closely with colleagues across the council, both in the public transport and regeneration areas, to ensure that this project complements their objectives.

'As one of our key coastal towns, the council has made a big commitment to improving Dunoon both for residents and visitors, and this project will play its part in that.'

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# Rest and Be Thankful petition to be heard by Scottish Parliament



Argyll First is campaigning for a long-term solution to ensure safety at The Rest and Be Thankful. 06\_a09rest03 Inset: Argyll First councillor Dougie Philand

THE case for permanent a solution to the problems on the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful is to be made to the Scottish parliament.

Argyll First councillors have learned that their petition calling for action on the route will be heard by the parliament's petitions committee on February 17.

The Scottish Government has spent millions of pounds on work to reduce the impact of recurring landslips on the road.

It has also upgraded the Old Military Road to allow traffic to be taken through Glen Crow in a convoy system in event of a landslide affecting the main route at the Rest.

It has been used on a

number of occasions in recent months at a cost of £8,500 a day, but there is growing feeling that it is an inadequate solution for such an important route and impacts on trade and travellers in Argyll.

This is the second time the Argyll First group has petitioned the committee, the first being the successful 'Sign for the A83' campaign.

#### Delighted

Donald Kelly, South Kintyre councillor, said: 'We are delighted that our original campaign has achieved plans to remove the pinch points on the A83 at Inveraray and between the villages of Ardrishaig and Tarbert as well the installation of a safe pedestrian crossing point at Tarbert

and the trunk road between Kennacraig and Campbeltown.

'The fourth and most important element of our petition was to achieve a permanent solution to the problems at the Rest and Be Thankful, however, this has not been achieved thus far. That is why we have re-petitioned the committee.'

Dougie Philand, Mid Argyll councillor, added: 'The Scottish Government has definitely been proactive in its approach and it wants to work together with us, but after the last landslide it is evident that the work already done is not a permanent solution.'

'With the new campaign we, at Argyll

First, want to say 'thank you' for the work the government has done, but it is time to come up with a more permanent solution to the problem. It is a fact the Rest and Be Thankful will continue to cause problems if a solution is not funded.

#### Important

'For us to achieve this it is important that the public get behind us, because we know that the people want a solution.'

Among the more permanent solutions suggested for the A83 at the Rest is the creation of a 1km avalanche shelter, at an estimated cost of £120 million.

Councillor Kelly and others are advocating the building of a new road on the opposite side of the glen.

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or call **01371 851 868**

## Crime on the decrease in Argyll and Bute

CRIME is on the decrease in Argyll and Bute, according to Police Scotland statistics.

Violent crime in the county has dropped by 30.8 per cent, while crimes of a sexual nature in the area are down by 31.8 per cent in the second quarter of the year.

The constabulary's latest performance figures also show overall serious crime is down by 9.6 per cent and the number of domestic abuse incidents report-

ed has dropped by 25.9 per cent.

The figures, for April 2014 to September 2014, also show a drop in housebreaking (6.1 per cent), crimes of dishonesty (12.8 per cent), anti-social behaviour (8.1 per cent), breach of the peace (18.5 per cent) and there were 63 fewer victims of common assault.

Incidents of people driving without a seat belt or using their mobile phone behind the wheel

are down 19.9 per cent and 5 per cent respectively.

Chief Superintendent Helen Swan, divisional commander for Argyll and West Dunbartonshire, said: 'I am very encouraged by these results which are testament to the hard work and dedication of police officers and staff across the division - but we are by no means complacent and there is still a great deal of work to be done.'

# argyllshire advertiser

Incorporating Campbeltown Courier

AS OUR towns and villages change beyond all comprehension it is good to see through the pages of the Argyllshire Advertiser that many things in our lives remain the same.

In a 1937 edition of *The Squeak*, it can be seen that readers were attending similar parties and having similar party fun at Christmas as today. The paper at that time was abound with stories of social gatherings.

But it was also at the forefront of campaigning for good quality transport links to Oban and Glasgow. It is difficult not to compare this week's paper with that of the 1937 edition and not ask one simple question - 'When will the decision makers - whether in Westminster or Holyrood give this all the help and support it really needs?' It is laudable that the councillors of Argyll First want a second road built - but is there anyone who still believes they might have a chance of success. Privately one government official told *The Squeak* that since there was no major industry in Argyll then it would be very difficult to find funding for any major projects.

Looking back at 1937 there is one notable change - that is the number and size of families that were in the area.

Perhaps in 1937 people didn't have the opportunities and ability to move away, but nowadays people are much more mobile and jobs are less likely to be for life. That means that people can make choices about whether they stay here or not. In another 50 years we will have more pensioners than anywhere else in the country, fewer people working and our young people will still be moving away from the area.

Making sure people have choices that allow them to remain in Argyll means improving all sorts of connectivity - not just the roads, but broadband and mobile phone communications.

The people of Mid Argyll have the right to call on government to make some serious changes - but when it will happen? Are we prepared to wait for another 100 years?

## who's who at your advertiser

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# opinion

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l LETTER

## Misplaced gloating over drop in oil prices

Sir,  
I read with interest U J Craig's letter last week gloating that the drop in oil prices would have had an independent Scottish government in meltdown and all its plans in tatters.

If U J Craig had stopped to get some facts right before rushing to share his smugness with your readers he might have realised that had we voted 'yes' the Scottish government would have barely started negotiations with Westminster over our exit and wouldn't have become independent until at least spring 2016 by which time oil prices are predicted to have risen again, so the current problem over plunging oil prices would have been as they are now the UK governments.

We were told repeatedly over the last two years that we would be better together as the broad shoulders of Britain would bear the burden of problems just like this.

So how can it be that after just a few short weeks of oil price drops panic has set in down London way with reports of a crisis in the oil industry and thousands of job losses forecast for the north east of Scotland?

Meanwhile in Argyll, we constantly have to put up with our economy suffering due to road closures on the Rest and Be Thankful.

It has been sickening to read billions of pounds are to be spent on upgrading England's road networks including a tunnel under Stonehenge so tourists don't have to be distracted by the sight of cars passing on a nearby road.

You really couldn't make

it up. You can celebrate this festive season U J Craig over the fact Scotland is still part of the UK but make the most of it because we won't be for long.

**John Fisher,  
Lochgilphead.**

## Still no action on lack of broadband provision in Argyll

Sir,  
During the recent council by-election in South Kintyre, there were comments made about broadband provision in Argyll.

The points made are well rehearsed and most will be familiar with them, but a proactive response from elected representatives attacking the deficiencies in both government and BT policy is still seen as absent.

Many rural locations cannot get broadband via any kind of landline.

Satellite provision is both expensive and has high latency, making it unsuitable for many purposes.

New fibre optic cables run right past properties affected, yet BT will not install a communications cabinet to allow connection to these businesses and homes.

Government policy is clearly lacking, despite statements in the past about versification for rural economies.

A way has to be found to make broadband provision at least as much of an obligation as telephony provision.

This is seen as absolutely critical by residents in Argyll.

As a country, we must renew efforts to bring wired broadband to everyone with a landline, not just those who live within a certain distance of an

existing exchange. There are technical solutions available, but is there the political will?

**Trevor Oxborrow, A'Chruach, Campbeltown.**

## A festive message from Alan Reid MP

Sir,  
Christmas is a time for celebrating with family and friends, and it is important to thank all those who have to work at this time of year to keep our essential services running so that 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 and New Year apart from a loved one who is serving abroad.

The biggest political event of 2014 was undoubtedly the independence referendum. This saw an unprecedented interest in politics.

The Smith Agreement between all the parties in the Scottish parliament means that significant new powers will be devolved to Scotland.

All the energy and enthusiasm of the referendum campaign should be harnessed to make Scotland, with all these extra powers, a much more participative democracy with more powers devolved to local communities.

There are more than 500 more jobs in Argyll and Bute than at the start of the year. All of the economic indicators are positive, so this trend of more jobs should continue in 2015.

I wish all readers a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

**Alan Reid MP.**

## Community spirit abounds

Sir,  
Christmas is almost here - a season that is many things to many people.

A busy but magical time. A time when the community spirit in which Argyll and Bute abounds can thrive, grow and flourish as people gather together to celebrate.

I am also very conscious, though, that for many people the holiday season can be a difficult time.

My thoughts are with them also, along with my sincere wishes that they find some comfort and hope amid the festivities.

Inevitably this is a time to look back and reflect on the past year. As I do so, I look back with pride in the people and communities of Argyll and Bute.

I think of events such as the Queen's Baton Relay in the summer - a display of community spirit and working together that Argyll and Bute is famous for.

That spirit is alive and well all year round and I am sure that the years to come will prove no different.

My wish for everyone in Argyll and Bute, as this year draws to a close and a fresh start is promised in 2015, is for a happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

**Councillor Len Scoullar,  
Provost, Argyll and Bute  
Council.**

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and stories to  
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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.

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

E-mail: editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk.

E-mailed letters can only be considered if they have a name, full address and telephone number.

**Tarbert people named after 'delicacy'**

PEOPLE in Mid Argyll who have been wondering why villagers from Tarbert are dubbed Dookers may finally have an explanation.

Members of the public took to social media to try to get to the bottom of the origin of the traditional nickname after being approached by the Advertiser.

It is believed to have come from a general term for diving birds.

Tarbert fisherman, Bill MacFarlane said: 'In the harsh winters when the fishing was poor we ate the wee birds called dookers to survive the winter.'

'I would think it would have started in the 1800s.'

Bill's fishy tale was backed up by Tarbert woman Fionnaigh Hessey, who added: 'My dad would pluck the feathers then singe the dookers with a poker.'

'Then my mum would make a pot of soup. The smell was atrocious.'

If anyone has any other ideas where the name came from, contact editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

# Council pulls plug on £10million Castle Toward development

THE PLUG has been pulled on a multi-million pound project that would have revived Argyll.

At an Argyll and Bute council planning committee meeting in Ardrishaig village hall last week, councillors voted on whether or not to reduce the asking price of Castle Toward by £1million to allow South Cowal Community Development Company (SCCDC) to buy it. The councillors voted nine to five against the proposal.

Instead Argyll and Bute Council offered it to the charity at a loan of £1 million.

The community group secured funding, including £750,000 from the National Lottery fund to buy the land and turn it into a community enterprise that could generate business opportunities locally and bring more visitors to Argyll.

Mid Argyll councillor Sandy Taylor voted in favour of the reduced asking price.

He said: 'It was a lot to be taken off the asking price and initially I wasn't for it. But then I thought about what it was proposing, which was 80 jobs within the grounds, big benefits to the community and more employment to the area. Then I weighed up the costs of the building sitting doing nothing, and that amounts to more than £200,000 each year, when you add



SCDCC campaigned to 'save to buy' at the meeting in Ardrishaig. 08\_as2dunoon01

up water costs and basic maintenance work.

'Although £1m seems like a lot that could go into other sectors such as education, in reality it was £1m with positive expectation and it was to become a community business that had real value and would have been far greater all round.'

The £10 million project has been backed by the Scottish government.



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## Business workshops for farmers

FARMERS in Argyll are being encouraged to register for a series of free workshops to help them develop their farm business plans.

The workshops are the final stage of the national 'Planning for Profit' initiative which was launched in November 2013 by Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) to help farmers review their business and determine their future farm policy.

Two workshops will take place over two days in Oban.

The first will be held on February 5, 2015 and the second will be

on February 19. The planning for profit initiative aims to ensure farm businesses are competitive and well placed to benefit from the exciting opportunities ahead.

Johnny Mackey, head of industry development at QMS, said: 'There is a real need to improve farm productivity to increase our competitiveness and a key objective is to provide a structured approach for farm business planning.'

For more information on workshop locations and dates go to www.qmscotland.co.uk/planning-profit

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**Emma MacFarlane, school captain, and Sam Sloan, vice captain, organised the Icicle Disco.**  
08\_a52tarbdisco01

# Christmas dance fun at Tarbert

THIS year's Christmas dance was the second event of the year to be organised by Tarbert Academy sixth year pupils.

Sixth year pupils went all out and even laid on a buffet for secondary pupils at academy.

Out of 118 pupils, the sixth years managed to sell 56 tickets. School captain Emma MacFarlane said: 'We took it in turns to go around the common rooms at lunch time to try and get people to come along. This year we decided to make it more formal.

'We were thinking about getting a band but we decided not to and just used Sam Lyon's

music instead. We had a ceildh as well.' Emma is one of four members in Na Seudan, the Gaelic singing girl group. When the *Argyllshire Advertiser* asked her why her band hadn't been drafted in to perform, she said: 'We thought about it but

some of the other girls are still in Glasgow studying.'

Pupils had fun dancing in the school's gym hall and enjoyed a buffet of party food. The event is held annually and funds raised go back into the school.



**Niamh Reppke, Nell MacFarlane, Lucy McKinven, Maddy Sloan and Shanon Macdonald.** 08\_a52tarbdisco03



**Erin Smith and Shauna Brown, S2.**  
08\_a52tarbdisco04



**Jacquelyn Clark, S5, Matthew Manao, S6 and Maddy Sloan, S5.** 08\_a52tarbdisco05



**Joanna Weir, Caitie Wilkieson, Nadia Jackson, Cara Gorman and Chloe MacDonald, S3.**  
08\_a52tarbdisco06



**S1 and S2 pupils enjoyed the buffet put on half way through the night.** 08\_a52tarbdisco02



**S5 and S1 pupils Haden Smith, Peter MacAllister, Peter Tyler, Daniel Lee and Fergus Galbraith.** 08\_a52tarbdisco08



**Kayleigh MacNeill, Lauren-Louise Lyon and Peter MacAllister.** 08\_a52tarbdisco09



**Head teacher Neil McKnight, centre, with staff members.** 08\_a52tarbdisco10



**S3 and S5 pupils.** 08\_a52tarbdisco07

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Send your photos and stories to [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)

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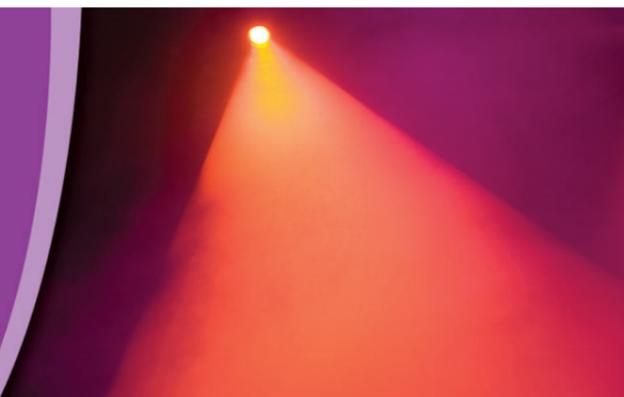
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Chloe MacKinnon and Amanda Gillies, S2.  
08\_a52lochball01



The hall was filled with pupils. 08\_a52lochball07



Rowan Carroll and Eilish MacArthur helped out by selling water and glow sticks at the disco. 08\_a52lochball04



The management team didn't miss out. Lena Carter, deputy head of pupil support, Eoghan Smith, deputy head teacher and Ann Devine, campus principal. 08\_a52lochball06

# Pupils enjoy live music and ceilidh at their annual disco

LOCHGILPHEAD Joint Campus' main hall was filled with young folk as pupils turned out for the annual Snow Ball and raised more than £500.

The ceilidh and disco dance was organised by sixth year pupils and secondary pupils of all ages attended.

They were lured to the dance floor by Oban

based ceilidh band, Ceol an Aire, who were booked after they put on a successful performance at last year's Christmas dance. Pupils were then kept up on their feet when the disco came on after 9pm.

The Snow Ball is an end of term event that the school hosts to raise school funds for the coming year.

Mr Smith, deputy head teacher, said: 'It's always good fun and the sixth years have done really well this year.'

They've sold out of bottled water so that will help to boost the money raised tonight.'

**S6 friends Amberley Robertson, Molly MacInnes and Michel Voivot.** 08\_A52lochball03



Hamish McCartan, Calum McDonald and Liam Long, S2. 08\_a52lochball02



Lorne Carter and Jamie Baxter wore their kilts to the school disco. 08\_a52lochball05

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets just answer this question: **What date does the IRN-BRU Carnival finish?**

ANSWER.....

NAME: .....

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Entries to: **IRN-BRU COMPETITION, Wyvex Media, Lochavullin Ind. Est., Oban PA34 4HB**

Deadline for entries: **12noon Tuesday 30th December**

The draw will take place on the same day.

Winners will be notified by telephone. Tickets can be collected via The Oban Times office or alternatively can be sent out via post.

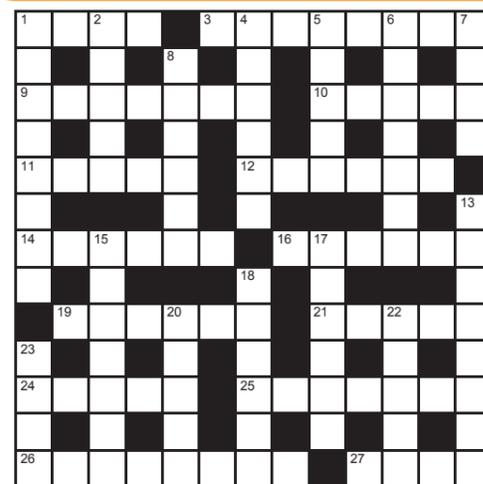
**Terms & Conditions**

This competition is open to all adults over the age of 18. All entries must include the name and contact details of the entrant. Entries will not be considered if they do not have all information specified. Winners will be chosen at random, this decision is final. Prize is one pair of tickets to the IRN-BRU Carnival. Prize is only valid for one day. This prize has no cash alternative, is non-refundable and non-exchangeable. Travel is not included. The IRN-BRU Carnival reserves the right to refuse entry without explanation.

**PLEASE AFFIX TOKEN 1 HERE**

**TOKEN 2**

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



**Across**

- 1 Greet in Scotland (4)
- 3 The horizontal bearings from North, clockwise (8)
- 9 Smoothed (7)
- 10 Care for (5)
- 11 Sleep late (3-2)
- 12 Embodiment (6)
- 14 Baked ice cream (6)
- 16 A diamond shaped pattern (6)
- 19 Less than pH7 (6)
- 21 Unusual item (5)
- 24 Open with teeth (5)
- 25 One with fewer limbs (7)
- 26 Where animals roam (8)
- 27 Carried in a café (4)

**Down**

- 1 What has to be done (8)
- 2 Exercise for a soloist (5)
- 4 Showing signs (6)
- 5 Craze (5)
- 6 Gruff (7)
- 7 Erupt (4)
- 8 Polish port (6)
- 13 Improvement (8)
- 15 Spanish palace (7)
- 17 List of ingredients (6)
- 18 Cream filled bun (6)
- 20 Sleepy (5)
- 22 Chopper blade (5)
- 23 Neck lace (4)

Last week's solution



# The Silent Man

A DCI Daley short story  
by Denzil Meyrick

*'Come with me,' the voice insists.  
He rolls onto one side, trying to  
shake the dream and go back to sleep.  
'Come with me.'  
He opens his eyes.  
'Come with me.'*

It had been almost 12 hours since the silent man had gathered together his few belongings, made his bed, and prepared to leave the place he had called home for nearly five years. The security camera had followed him as he slipped out of the care home and into the cold dark of early morning, just as the first fat flakes began to fall.

It was the day before Christmas Eve.

Now, thick snow clothed Kinloch in its cold smothering blanket, tinged orange under the glow of the street lamps.

DCI Jim Daley stood at an arched window of the town hall, looking down at the scene from one floor up. The cold breath of last-minute shoppers billowed into the air and around the decorations and fairy lights that adorned the street and illuminated

a bright path from each shop doorway. Festive cheer, warm and welcoming, was palpable; an enticement to one and all, as the good people of Kinloch prepared for Christmas Day.

Daley turned his attention away from thoughts of Christmas and back to the hall. Stark white striplights picked out faces etched with worry and fatigue. This was the impromptu incident room from where the search for John Sweeney had been coordinated for most of the day.

Darkness had descended more than two hours ago and with it the realistic hope that the old man would be found alive; this, though, re-



Denzil Meyrick

mained unspoken.

Sweeney's family – daughter, husband and their little boy – sat at a table. The daughter wrung her hands, face red and blotchy from the tears that had spilled down it all day, while her husband fussed over the six-year-old who was working busily with thick crayons, stopping occasionally to glance up at his mother with big sad blue eyes.

'Don't worry, Mummy,' he said, reaching his hand out to pat hers. 'Grampa will be out looking for Santa. He said he would ask him to get me a bike. He told me he would.'

'Calum,' scolded his father, 'what have we told you about this? Grampa doesn't speak. You know he doesn't. I want you to be a big boy for Mummy and be good, OK?'

'He speaks to me,' replied the little boy, nodding furiously to underline what he'd just said. 'He does!'

'Stop it, Calum! Just stop it!' shouted his mother. 'I'm fed up listening to you tell me what Grampa said to you. He doesn't say anything! He hasn't done since you were a baby. You'll go to the bad place for telling tales. How many times have I got to tell you? Just . . . be quiet!'

Calum looked on as his mother buried her head

in her hands and his father put his arm around her shoulder. He sighed and quietly went back to his drawing.

Daley was surprised at the boy's self-possession. Most children of his age would have burst into tears had they been at the sharp end of a tongue lashing from a distraught mother threatening hell and damnation. Calum, however, seemed unperturbed, resigned almost, as though he was no stranger to such outbursts.

A murmur of voices heralded movement at the table at the head of the room, where the rotund Fire and Rescue officer was getting stiffly to his feet.

'Ladies and gentlemen, I'm afraid to say that the weather is closing in again, and now that darkness has fallen we have to suspend full operations until the morning. If the snow stops, the Royal Navy and Police helicopters will carry on their work with searchlights and heat-seeking devices overnight.' He paused and cleared his throat as the woman's sobs filled the hall. 'We'll gather here again tomorrow morning at five o'clock.'

'Myself and Sergeant Shaw will coordinate efforts until midnight, followed by DS Scott and my deputy thereafter. Where is DS Scott,

incidentally?' he asked, looking at Daley.

'Just taking a break,' replied Daley, knowing full well where DS Scott was.

As Daley walked into the vestibule of the County Hotel, he noticed that the tables and chairs where customers normally had coffee, cake and a gossip had been cleared, and the space was transformed into a gaudy Santa's Grotto; all tinsel, fairy lights and crushed baking foil.

A long line of children and bored-looking parents snaked towards a rather moth-eaten Santa, who leaned forward and spoke to a little boy in an accent definitely not from the North Pole.

'And whoot wid you like fir Christmas, young fella?' asked Santa in a very familiar voice. The child took a step backward, wary of the slanted eyes in the crinkled face, and the exceptionally unconvincing cotton-wool beard. Despite his disguise, Hamish wasn't hard to spot.

'Excuse me, Inspector Daley,' said a voice from behind. Andrew Duncan, John Sweeney's son-in-law, had Calum by the hand. 'Thank you so much for all your efforts today. I really appreciate it; we both do.' He tried to smile.

'I'm sorry we haven't turned anything up yet, Mr Duncan. But don't

worry,' said Daley, kneeling down stiffly on one knee to talk to the boy, who stared back at him, his face pale under a mop of red hair. 'We'll be out looking for your grampa first thing tomorrow.'

The little boy fished around in the pocket of his anorak. 'This is for you, Mr Policeman,' he said, handing Daley a piece of crumpled paper. 'Can you give it to Grampa when you find him? It's his special place. He told me.'

'Sorry, Inspector Daley, my son has a rather vivid imagination. As you know, my father-in-law hasn't spoken for a long time. Not since the death of my mother-in-law, before Calum was born, in fact. Partly because of his condition, they reckon.'

Daley nodded and turned his attention back to the boy. He smoothed out the crude drawing of what looked like a cliff above a little slash of yellow, presumably a beach, bordered by blue squiggles representing the sea. 'This is very good. What's that?' He pointed to a shape picked out in black crayon on the yellow beach.

'It's a cross. My grampa told me about it. There's a dead man buried there,' said Calum cheerfully. He grinned, showing a big gap in his front teeth.

'Noo, hold on, children,' shouted Santa, his voice muffled by cotton wool. 'We've got a special little boy wae us. Come on over here, Calum, an' tell Santa whoot ye want for Christmas.' It was clear that Hamish, having spotted Calum and knowing the circumstances, was keen to make a fuss of him.

The red-haired boy made his way past the line of parents and children and stood in front of Father Christmas.

'Noo, whoot present wid ye most like, Calum?' said Hamish in a gentle voice, leaning down and taking the boy by the hand.

Calum looked back at his father. 'I wanted a bike . . . but I'd rather have Grampa back. Please, Santa?'

**Don't miss part two of The Silent Man in next week's Courier.**

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Primary school pupils impressed audiences in Tarbert.

### Primary pupils given top marks for show

YOUNGSTERS who took part in a Nativity play were commended by their head teacher for their performances.

Neil McKnight, head teacher of Tarbert Academy, was proud of the

efforts the primary school pupils put into the school show, Hopeless Camel, on December 9. Mr McKnight said: 'Our youngest pupils did extremely well this year. Thanks to all

of the staff involved in preparing the pupils and setting the stage.

It was a fantastic event and it was great to see proud family members in school to cheer on the wee ones.'



Parents and tots got together for a photograph. 08\_a52todds09

### Festive fun and frolics for toddlers

TODDLERS of Fyne Families enjoyed a visit from Santa Claus at the end of term Christmas party in Lochgilphead.

Parents took their children along to the town's community centre where Santa

awaited his grand entrance to present the youngsters with gifts.

At the hour-long party parents mingled while children played together over cake, biscuits and party treats.

The end of term event marked a turn of circumstances for the group after it was faced with closure in the summer when numbers dropped and funding

dried up. Since then, numbers have risen and parents have more involvement in weekly activities.

Christina Sinclair, practitioner, and her colleague Jenny Pendreigh, administrator, lead the Fyne Families parent and toddler group. Christina said: 'There are now permanent roles in place and we are now the only

practitioner-supported parent and toddler group in this area. It has given parents and their children security. Now they know what to expect and we have developed a routine. We do a weekly evaluation and plan activities for the week ahead, all of which are suggestions put forward to us by parents and it's working really well for everyone.'



Primary one pupils with head teacher Jay Helbert. 08\_a52ardnat01

### Curtain up on last show of 2014

PRIMARY one Ardrishaig school pupils put on one last show for the year for friends and family.

Children performed a nativity play over two days. On Wednes-

day grandmothers and grandfathers were invited along to the school's hall to see the show.

Afterwards they were treated to tea, coffee and mince pies.

Parents turned out

for the second slot on Thursday. All age groups took part by singing a song each.

The final show was followed by a Christmas service by the Rev David Caruthers.



Laura Cranston with 17-month-old daughter Cacey Cranston. 08\_a52todds01

### Landmark Stag Hotel in fine detail

ARTIST Fraser MacIver has produced the prominent and well-recognised Stag Hotel, Lochgilphead in fine detail.

He said: 'The building is such a landmark in the middle of Argyll street.'

Mr MacIver, who lives on the Crinan canal side, worked on his sketch over the past few weeks, standing in the doorway of the Baptist Church to complete his drawing.



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**Third Form Scholarship:** (Entry 13+ yrs) **Date:** Monday 23 – Thursday 26 February 2015

**Open Morning:** (Entry 9 to 16 yrs) **Date:** Saturday 7 March 2015\* **Time:** 10am – 1pm

\*If this date doesn't suit, please call to arrange an alternative.

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## STRATHALLAN SCHOOL

Founded over a century ago, Strathallan School continues to thrive on the core values set out by our founder Harry Riley: We aim to provide outstanding education, academic, social and extra-curricular elements, which give opportunities for all pupils to excel, developing their ability to benefit themselves and others. We believe in giving each pupil a chance to shine, gaining experience and confidence to develop their talents along the way. Holding a strong reputation with an extensive portfolio of achievements, Strathallan is known as a high-quality boarding and day school that creates a wonderful environment which allows children to grow and develop. It is vital that the educational process provides a variety of opportunities to ensure pupils are equipped to deal with the challenges that will face them when they leave school.

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Key Facts:

- The newly refurbished Junior House is situated within its own campus, as well as enjoying the facilities of the senior part of the school
- Senior Houses feature individual study-bedrooms for privacy
- Wi-Fi internet access throughout the school
- Extensive playing fields, Strength & Conditioning Centre, successful Tennis and Clay Pigeon Shooting Academies and a golf course are just some of the facilities available



- Design Technology Centre and Art School
- Over 55 activities to choose from weekly
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## PERSONAL NOTICES

Happy 40th Birthday  
Gary McEachran  
on Boxing Day



Lots of love from Mum, Dad, Ross & Beth  
And lots of hugs, Uncle Gary from Christopher & Alyssa x

## XMAS PERSONAL NOTICES

**ANNIE HAMILTON**  
wishes all family & friends a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

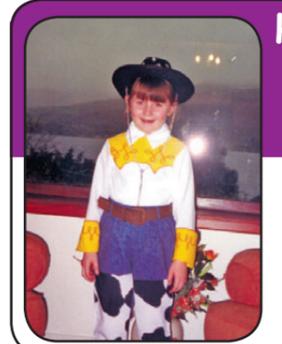
*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*  
to all my friends & neighbours from Lizzie & Davie, 65 Davaar Avenue.

*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*  
to all my relatives, friends & neighbours from Margaret McGown.

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**  
to all my relatives & friends from Ian McConnachie, 48A Longrow.

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**  
to my relatives & friends from Donald M Gillies, Dewar Avenue, Lochgilthead.

Happy 21st Birthday  
Rebecca



Love from Mum, Dad, Michael, Aaron & Mylo.

## AUDREY MACINDEOR

Happy 50th on  
30th December 2014

Love from  
All the Family

## PUBLIC NOTICES

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR REFUSE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS

#### Mid Argyll

Refuse and recycling collections due on Thursday 25th December will be collected on Saturday 27th December.

Refuse and recycling collections due on Friday 26th December will be collected on Sunday 28th December.

Refuse and recycling collections due on Thursday 1st January will be collected on Saturday 3rd January.

Refuse and recycling collections due on Friday 2nd January will be collected on Sunday 3rd January.

Lingerton Recycling and Civic Amenity Site will be closed on 25/26th December and 1st/2nd January.

#### Kintyre

Refuse collections due on Thursday 25th December will be collected on Saturday 27th December.

Refuse collections due on Thursday 1st January will be collected on Saturday 3rd January.

Roading Recycling and Civic Amenity Site will be closed on 25th/26th December and 1st/2nd January.

Information is also available on the Council website and from your local office.

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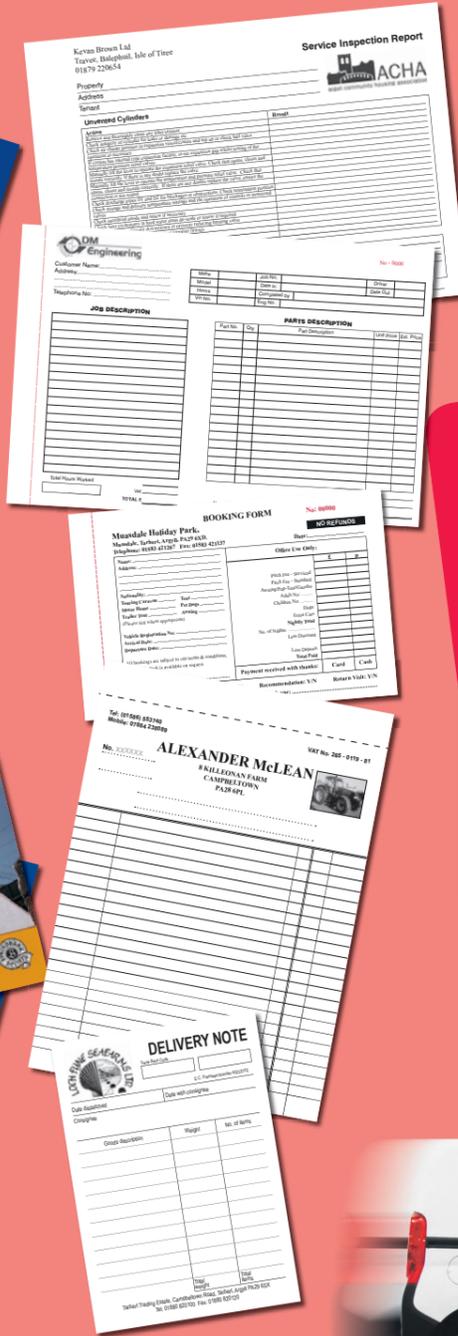
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**TEXT FOR THE WEEK**

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9).

**BIRTHS**



**MCINTOSH CRETTON**

At Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, on December 11, 2014, to Laurene and Jim, Carradale, a daughter, Flora Margaret. Granddaughter to Gail and Duncan McIntosh, and Margaret and Colin Cretton. Sincere thanks to midwives at Campbelltown Maternity Unit.

**DEATHS**

**BOASE** - Peacefully, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilhead, on December 20, 2014, Nigel Lindsay Boase, aged 80 years, of Ardlarach, Ardfarn. Beloved husband of Lu and loving father of Alastair, Neil and the late Catriona. Funeral service will be held at Craignish Parish Church, Ardfarn, on Monday, December 29, 2014 at 11.00am, thereafter to Kilvaree Cemetery. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

**MACKINNON** - Peacefully, at the Campbelltown Hospital, on December 18, 2014, Christina Isabel MacDiarmid, in her 95th year, 10 Tormore, Carradale, dearly beloved wife of the late John MacKinnon, formerly of Auchnasavil, dearly loved mother of Alex, Duncan, John and Catherine and a loving and much loved granny and great granny.

**COURIER ANNOUNCEMENTS ADVERTISER ANNOUNCEMENTS COURIER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SEMPLE** - Margaret Scott (nee Henderson) Suddenly at the Southern General Hospital on December 19, 2014, Margaret of Muasdale, Kintyre. Beloved wife of the late Richard, step mother of the late Mairi, sister of John and the late Joseph and Barbara, much loved sister-in-law of Joan and Agnes and adored aunt to her nephews and nieces. A celebration of Margaret's life will take place on Saturday, December 27, 2014 at 10am at the Linn Crematorium, Lainshaw Drive, Glasgow, thereafter to Carmunock Parish Church at 11am. There will also be a Memorial Service held at A'Chleit Church, Kintyre on Saturday, January 3, 2015 at 11am.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**MCCAIG** - The family of the late Neil McCaig would like to thank all relatives, friends, colleagues and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy, phone calls, cards, flowers and visits received following their recent sad loss. Special thanks for their excellent care, to the doctors and staff of the Acute Ward in Campbelltown Hospital. Sincere thanks to Father David Connor for a warm, uplifting service; to Kenneth and Rhys Blair for their support, guidance and excellent professional service, and to the Argyll Hotel for fine purvey. Lastly, thank you to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside. The retiral collection for the Acute Ward raised £224.41. Thank you all.

**IN MEMORIAMs**

**CHISHOLM** - In memory of Johny who passed away on December 28, 2011, loving husband, dad and papa. Loved and remembered always, Netta and family at home and abroad.  
**SELFRIDGE** - Treasured memories of Fred, a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, who died December 26, 2013. Always in my thoughts. Miss you every day. - Myra.  
**SELFRIDGE** - Dad, Grandad, we think about you every day and smile. - Love, Carol, Ali, Colin, Siobhan and Rebecca.

**SELFRIDGE** - In loving memory dear Pop. The world is much emptier without you. - Ange, Josh and Fred.

**SELFRIDGE** - In loving memory of Fred, sorely missed, from Ishbel and Dougal.

To Grandad, deeply loved and remembered every day, Christopher, Kyle and Morgan XXX

**SINCLAIR** - Treasured memories of Emily, our lovely mum, gran and great gran, who passed away December 27, 2013. Forever in our hearts. - Evelyn, Charles and families.

**SMITH** - In loving memory of a loving mother and grandmother, Katie McFadyen (Gribun, Mull), who passed away December 24, 1974. More than ever just a treasure. Only tireless love she knows. Tireless in her dedication. Her's the font from which life grows. Every thought of her's a joy. Reaped each year and knowledge grows. - With love, Flora and granddaughter.

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

*Highland Parish Church*  
  
 SCO02493  
**Sunday 28th December**  
 First Sunday after Christmas  
 The service will be in the Church and will be led by Rev Catriona Hood  
**Badminton Club**  
 will start again on Tuesday 6th January in Kirk Street Hall  
 P1-5: 6.30 - 7.30pm  
 P6-7: 7.30 - 8.30pm  
 Everyone very welcome

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

**LIVING STONES CHRISTIAN CENTRE KILMARTIN**  
**Sunday 28th December 2014**  
 11.00am  
 Worship Service for all ages followed by light lunch  
 Speaker: Graham McLean  
 "Christ in us the hope of Glory"  
 All Welcome

**Scottish Episcopal Churches Everyone Welcome**  
**Christ Church**  
 Bishopton Road, Lochgilhead (SC013787)  
**Sundays**  
 11.00 am Eucharist service  
 4th Sunday of the month 10am Mattins & 11am Eucharist Service  
 Coffee & Cake follows the service  
**St Columba's, Poltalloch, nr Kilmartin** (SC031391)  
 1st Sunday of the month 9am Eucharist service  
 3rd Sunday of the month 3.30pm Evensong  
 Scottish Prayer Book  
**All Saints, Inveraray** (SC025646)  
 Saturdays 5.30pm Eucharist Service  
 Father Simon Mackenzie  
 Priest in Charge of the charges of Mid Argyll & Arran  
 01546 602315

**NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH**  
 Charity Number SC001002  
**Sunday 28 December**  
 Tayvallich Church 11:30 am  
 Morning Worship  
 Marilyn Shedden  
 All welcome  
 Enquiries 01546 606926  
 www.argyllcommunities.org/nknapdalecofs

**LORNE AND LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH**  
 Scottish Charity Number SC011686  
**Sunday 28th December**  
 Morning Service 11.15am  
 Rev P Wallace

**THE SALVATION ARMY**  
 The Salvation Army  
 Campbelltown Corps  
 Burnside Street, Campbelltown  
 01586 552046  
**Sunday Services**  
 10.30am Morning Worship  
 No Army Kidz or Evening Worship  
 Lt. Mark Scoulding

**TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
**Sunday 28th December 2014**  
 Tarbert Service 11.30am  
 Kilberry Service 2pm  
 Rev. Tommy Bryson  
 For all church enquiries and pastoral care  
 Telephone 01880 821012  
 Everyone very welcome  
 SC002622

**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  
 (SC0002876)

**LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH**  
**SUNDAY 28th DECEMBER 2014**  
 11.00 am WORSHIP SERVICE  
 Rev. Hilda Smith  
 All Welcome  
 www.lpchurch.co.uk  
 Lochgilhead (Church of Scotland) SC016311

**free church of scotland**  
 George Street, Campbelltown  
**Sunday 28th December**  
 11.15am Worship Service  
 Rev Finlay Mackenzie  
 All Welcome  
 There will be no Water of Life Café for the next three weeks.  
 It will resume on Wednesday 14th January  
 www.campbeltownfreechurch.com  
 Scottish Charity Number: SC009980

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GLASSARY KILMARTIN and FORD PARISH CHURCH**  
**Sunday 28th December**  
 Sunday Worship  
 Kilmartin 10am  
 Rev. C. Acklam  
 A new loop hearing system has been installed.  
 All welcome  
 SC0 02121

**FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
**YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN US FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP ON SUNDAY AT:**  
 Tarbert 10.00am, located on School Road.  
 Lochgilhead 11.30am, located on Lochnell Street/Manse Brae  
 New Years Day Service 12 noon  
 Minister: Rev. R Macleod  
 Prayer Time (fortnightly) Mondays 1.15 - 1.45pm  
 Ladies Bible Study 2pm  
 Soup Lunch Monthly (last Thursday)  
 All welcome.

**lochgilhead baptist church**  
 All Welcome  
 Pastor Rev Derek Gibson  
**Sunday 28th December 2014**  
 11.00am  
 Scottish Charity SC015187

**St. Kieran's Scottish Episcopal Church**  
 Argyll Street, Campbelltown  
 St Kieran Episcopal Church: Campbelltown  
 Scottish Charity No SC023277  
**Sunday 28th December**  
 Holy Innocents Day  
 10.45am Holy Communion  
 All Welcome  
 Details of services are on the church door  
 Enquiries Tel: 01586 551141  
 The Scottish Episcopal Church is a Province of the Worldwide Anglican Communion

**CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**Sunday 28th December**  
 11.00 am  
 All Age Service  
 "Get in the Picture"  
 Refreshments after the service.  
 We meet at the Guide Hall, Kinloch Road  
 www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk  
 baptist union of scotland  
 Campbelltown Community Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Scotland  
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## Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Shedden



I REALLY wanted to make worship extra special for Christmas Sunday and had enlisted the help of two of my young piping friends.

Cameron and Gregor played as the congregation gathered at Cleit, again during the service and then piped us out. It was a wonderful sound and it lifted the spirits of us all on a dreich day.

The Christmas story was told as in an imaginary stable with soliloquies from Mary, Joseph and a shepherd.

But what a difference a baby makes.

Baby Alec is seven months old and his behaviour was impeccable.

It was a delight to hear these lovely baby sounds permeating the story of the Nativity.

What a difference a baby makes.

This lovely baby boy gurgled and chatted quietly as babies do and he just made the scene so perfect.

He loved the pipers and he responded when the voices changed and he kept us all focussed on the essence of Christmas.

What a difference a baby makes.

Amidst all the rushing and busy-ness, how good to stop and listen to the sounds of a baby and remind ourselves of the wonder of that first Christmas.

In all the sadness and pain in this world there will be many times in many places where a baby's smile will cheer the heart and refresh the soul with hope.

What a difference a baby makes.

Jesus would make his mother smile many times and make his father proud, just as babies do - and no doubt he got into mischief too.

The baby who crept in beside us on Christmas morning, who held Mary's hand as he learned to walk, is the one who will grow to take our hand and walk beside us all our lives.

What a difference a baby makes.

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Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

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## Primary pupils raise money for Christmas Jumper Day

THE STAFF and children at Ardrishaig primary school took part in Save the Children's 'Wear a Christmas Jumper Day' on Friday, December 12.

Getting into the festive spirit pupils and teachers showed off their vibrant jumpers decorated with penguins, snowmen and reindeer.

The event raised a total of £96.70.

### TARBERT

## Craft fair raises over £475

A CRAFT fair held at Stonefield Farm in Tarbert raised £475.33 for charity.

Stocking fillers, jewellery and bric-a-brac were available for sale at the fair, where people and small businesses rented stalls.

The fundraiser was the second event organised by staff in a bid to raise cash for Macmillan Cancer Support.

In the autumn the farm put on a fun day as part of fundraising for the charity.

### KILMICHAEL

## SWRI party

THE WOMEN of Kilmichael Glassary's Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) teamed up with Lochgilphead to celebrate Christmas.

The groups got together to enjoy a festive meal at the Empire Travel Lodge's bistro on Union Street in Lochgilphead.

Jan Williams, member of the group, said: 'We would like to extend our thanks to Jim and Ele, of Empire's bistro, for being such perfect hosts and making the evening so memorable.'

### OBAN

## 'Act Alfresco' charity

COMMUNITY groups from the Oban, Lorn and the Isles were recently awarded £100 from local charity 'act', as part

### ARDRISHAIG



Jay Helbert stepped down from his role as head teacher. 08\_a52helbert01

## Fond farewell to Jay from Ardrishaig primary school

A NEW head teacher has been appointed at Ardrishaig Primary School and is set to take up the role in the new year.

Jay Helbert, who stepped down to take on a new venture as an education officer for Argyll and Bute council, finished at the end of term.

At the end of the children's Nativity play on Thursday Mr Helbert gave a speech thanking parents, children and members of the community for their support over the past two years.

He was applauded by the audience and posed for pictures with the primary one pupils in their costumes.

of 'Act Alfresco', a new incentive which encourages people to actively enhance, protect and promote the wonderful outdoors of Argyll and the Isles.

Numerous groups that were successful included, Tobermory Harbour Association, Lorn Natural History Group and Soroba Young Families Group.

A representative from the Tobermory Harbour Association said 'The Act Alfresco grant helped us to host a Back to The Wild Celebration Day during which we enhanced awareness and promoted respect for our marine environment among the local community.'

Seventeen groups in total were awarded £100 as part of Act Alfresco across Argyll.

Each project provided an opportunity to enhance, protect and promote the scenery and wildlife of Argyll and the Isles.

### INVERARAY

## Accordion and fiddle club

PEOPLE beat the storms to see special guests perform at Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club.

Despite extreme weather conditions a significant number of people turned up to the December club night to

hear an array of musicians.

The club welcomed newcomer, Donald Anderson, to the club. He delighted the audience with selections on his Irish pipes.

His performance was followed by Archie MacAllister, who played the fiddle.

Other artists who performed included Nick MacFarlane, Agnes Liddell, Jim Harvie and Johnny Fisher.

Duncan Black and Marie Fielding performed a session of fiddle and accordion music for the remainder of the evening, leaving the audience chanting for one more encore.

Next week the club takes the form of an Old New Year ceilidh with performers from in and around Taynuilt.

### MINARD

## Christmas party

SENIOR citizens of Minard enjoyed entertainment from local boy John Orr at their Christmas party this year.

The all-round entertainer performed to pensioners at the event, which was organised by Minard Community Trust and held in the village hall.

One party-goer said: 'It was a wonderful evening thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Thank you Minard Community Trust.'

Mr Orr's wife, Sandra, was one of the organisers of the pensioners' party. The couple are set to move away from the area in the New Year.

**This is YOUR paper...**

Send your photos and stories to [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)

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# Lochgilphead Red Star: a year of ups and downs

## The Mid Argyll side sit mid-table as the year comes to an end

IT was a year of two halves for Lochgilphead's Red Star over the course of 2014.

In January 2014, the boys at Red Star were third in SAFL Premier Division 2 at the midway point of the season.

The first game of the new year saw them play against Port Glasgow and a 4-1 defeat at home was compounded when the team were reduced to 10 men after 20 minutes.

A match against Jamestown saw them take it to the wire with a goal from the away team scored in the last 15 minutes saw a nervy finish to Star's 4-3 win.

Next in the league was a match against Port Glasgow and Star strolled it with an 8-3

home victory making a crushing 8-0 defeat by Oban Saints in the Jimmy Marshall Trophy a little easier to bear.

The Lochgilphead side were then beaten 3-2 by Eastern Star, having gone a goal down in the first five minutes of the game kicking off.

Red Star finished the 2013-2014 season on a high note following a 4-3 victory against Goldenwell.

There were nervy moments at the end of the season but Red Star finished fourth in the league.

In mid-July Red Star welcomed back Inveraray's shinty player John Kennedy to train with them pre-season and in the first game of the season the team had

a 3-3 draw at Dunoon.

The next game against Ferguslie Star saw the boys lose 5-2 (thankfully the Argyllshire Advertiser saved the boys from shame over the loss by mistakenly reporting it as a 2-0 win to the home side).

The following game saw the boys play for the Scottish Amateur Cup against Ferguslie Star at Ropework Park. They lost 5-2.

However, the team bounced back towards the end of 2014 and led a 6-4 assault on Port Glasgow just last month.

Red Star had a 7-2 win against Paisley AFC earlier in December, the victory saw them move in to the top half of the league.



Jura and her Argyll team mates Eilidh Shearer Briony Kincaid and Roanne Lilley.

## Jura picked to represent Scotland

A MID Argyll school girl has been selected to compete in the Scottish Junior Orienteering Squad at a European competition in Turkey.

Jura MacMillan, 14, from Tayvallich has become one of 35 young people aged between 12 and 18 to be selected to compete alongside Scotland's fastest juniors. Five of the current junior team are from Argyll and the Loch Eck Orienteers, EckOs

Jura said: 'I am really pleased about it. I train hard, it's the main thing

that I do and I can't wait to compete next year.

She said: 'My mum had friends in Taynuilt who asked the family along to orienteer at their local club, EckO, and I've been doing it ever since.'

### Training

The Lochgilphead high school pupil has been training and competing for three years, after she took up the sport four years ago.

Jura will be the first pupil from the school to have ever participated in the event, which will be

held in Antalya in April 2015.

2014 has been an especially successful year for Jura, her team won both the GB Junior Home Internationals, held near Connel in August, and the UK Junior Inter-regional championships held in the Lake District in September. This is the first time Scotland has won both events in the same year.

'It was the second time in a number of years that Scotland had won the contest.

Jura said: 'It was my

first win like that. It felt really good because England is known to win that competition every year and my team won it.'

### Hard at work

Each member of the Scottish team is expected to raise £600 to meet the costs of travel, accommodation and food, EckO's juniors have been hard at work baking cakes and making soup for sale at the Club's orienteering events which are held across Argyll at the weekends.

To allow for postage over the festive period spot the ball will run for 2 weeks. Winners will be announced in the issue dated 2nd January 2015.

# SPOT THE BALL

## THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2550

### 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 Tuesday 30th December. 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.



Please tape your £1 coin here (if posting)

Name .....

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



The Carradale defence come under early pressure. 08\_c52carr02

# Carradale have no answer to eight-goal Corkerhill

Home side left sorry their opponents made it to Campbeltown

CARRADALE were humbled in front of their own supporters last Saturday when visitors Corkerhill dished out an eight-goal hammering at Kinloch's all-weather park.

The East Kintyre side were left waiting almost an hour on their oppo-

<b>Carradale</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Corkerhill</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>West of Scotland AFL</b>	

nents who had travel problems, but when the action started it was Carradale who looked like they had just stepped out

from a tiring, four-hour minibus drive.

Corkerhill's superior skills, pace and fitness immediately saw Carra-

dale fall into desperate defending, and it was no great surprise when the Glasgow side went ahead early on.

The McFadyens-sponsored Carradale equalised soon after when Cammy Maguire was brought down in the penalty box, and dusted himself down to score from the rebound after his initial shot was blocked by a keeper who had already saved five penalties this season.

The equaliser only served to increase the Corkerhill attacks and the visitors took no time at all to re-assert their lead. After that, it seemed to unravel for Carradale. Skilful and fast Corkerhill raids repeatedly exposed the home defence and resulted in three further goals before half time.

The home team battled on to restore some pride but they had little impe-

tus and threat going forward, were disjointed in midfield and frequently under pressure at the back.

Carradale, normally very strong at home, found themselves wishing for a full-time whistle to end their misery.

Pick of the goals in the second half was the visitors' seventh strike, when one of Corkerhill's midfield pair burst through and round-kicked keeper Neil McMillan and despite a wide angle he sidefooted the ball into the net in clinical fashion.

The result was a thorough disappointment for Carradale, with the only consolation being that Corkerhill are likely to prove to be the most skilful side they are likely to meet in the league this season.

Carradale's calendar resumes again in January, with fixtures to be confirmed at a later date.



Adam Graham closes in on the Corkerhill striker. 08\_c52carr03



Carradale number nine Ryan McConnachie comes in for close attention. 08\_c52carr01

## John wins £200 in golf club lottery

CONGRATULATIONS to John Marrison who won £200 when he successfully chose the winning numbers in Dunaverty Golf Club's three number lottery on Sunday.

The winning numbers were 6, 9 and 18. The jackpot for the draw was sitting at £200. The next draw will take place on Sunday, January 4 with a jackpot of £100.

Tickets are available from the clubhouse, committee members, Muneroy Stores and the Burnside Bar.

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