



Merry Christmas



Revamp for Tarbert eyesore

A LISTED building and hotel that has lain derelict for years in a Mid Argyll village is to be restored after a local man bought it.

The Columba Hotel, in Tarbert, formerly a popular venue for food and entertainment, has been vacant for more than five years.

Members of the community have been hoping to see it revamped for a long time and now the eyesore could be turned into flats.

The building, C-listed with Historic Scotland, has been bought by Tarbert man Duncan

REPORT By EALA MacALISTER
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

MacDonald, who hopes to return it to its former glory.

The new owner of the hotel, who also runs Duncan MacDonald Joiners and Builders, said: 'The main thing just now is to make it waterproof since it's been empty for so long.'

'It's a nice building and it's a shame it got into the state it is in. We're looking to save the building.'

While Duncan is thinking about turning the 19th century

building into flats, he has not ruled out other possibilities. He expects the work to restore the building will create jobs for local people.

News of the sale was welcomed by business owners, residents and Councillor John McAlpine.

Councillor McAlpine said: 'The hotel has been empty for some time now and it detracts from Pier Road. It's good to see something being done with it.'

Iain MacIntyre, owner of Ian Y MacIntyre tobacconist and confectioner, also believes there is a demand for hotel space in the town and said the building had become an 'eyesore'.

A spokeswoman for Tarbert and Skipness Community Council (TSCC) said: 'TSCC is pleased to see that the Columba Hotel has been bought by a reputable local builder and is due to be given the tender loving care that this attractive building deserves.'

Fake note crooks caught on camera

CROOKS who went on a spending spree across Argyll and Bute with fake cash notes were caught with the help of a Lochgilphead business owner.

Two Glasgow men appeared in court in Campbeltown this week, after an attempt to con Bargain Zone on Argyll Street got them caught in the midst of a spending tour in the region. Owner of Bargain Zone Samreen Choudry captured the culprits on camera and raised the alarm with police.

The town's R S McColls was also amongst the shops scammed in pair's eight-week spree.

For the full story, see page three.



Tarbert children staged a charming Nativity play in the village church. 06_a52nativity05

Tarbert youngsters turn on Nativity charm

CHRISTMAS wouldn't be Christmas without a Nativity play and the children of Tarbert put on a charming example last Sunday.

Reverend Stanley Hood took the service, on the fourth Sunday of Advent, at Tarbert Parish Church, emphasising the

true meaning of Christmas.

The children performed with real enthusiasm, and every one was a star - including El-lie Stuart, who was playing the Star of Bethlehem. Mary was Charlie MacKenzie; King Herod was played by Robbie McNair; Alana Duncan was

a shepherd and Jack Stuart played a wise man.

The stellar performances from all of the children were greeted with warm and well-deserved applause from the congregation, before the actors left the stage for festive refreshments.

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MV Coruisk to cover Dunoon to Gourock route this winter

THE MV Coruisk is to provide cover on the Dunoon to Gourock ferry route this winter. The CalMac ferry, above, has previously been used for cover on this route run by Argyll

Ferries, and will make four peak-time sailings daily starting on December 28 and running until March. 'Weather on this route over the winter months can be challenging,

and having the back up of the MV Coruisk again I'm sure will be welcomed by regular commuters,' said CalMac's Area Operations Manager Simon Richmond.



Councillor Len Scoullar sends well wishes across Argyll and Bute.

Provost praises residents' warmth and goodwill towards refugees

THE provost of Argyll and Bute has praised residents of the region for their 'warmth' and 'goodwill' following the arrival of refugees. Councillor Len Scoullar has commended the response of people in communities across Argyll and Bute after the welcome afforded by the people of Bute to Syrian refugees earlier this month - and ahead of the pending arrival of more to Campbeltown in the new year.

In a festive message, councillor Scoullar said: 'We are drawing near to a time of year when we extend goodwill towards our fellow men and women. 'Each year the warmth of Argyll and Bute communities' spills over and the magic of the season sweeps us along on a tide of celebration. 'In the midst of our festivities with family and friends, we may wish to stop for a moment and consider

others for whom the holiday season can be a difficult or lonely time. I send them warm wishes with the hope they may find comfort amidst the festivities. 'The uninhibited goodwill has been extended by our communities towards the families who have come to Bute and who will soon arrive in Campbeltown from Syria. The goodwill, too, of the Scottish people, and communities throughout the UK who are offering sanctuary and peace to those who have arrived on our shores from war torn countries.' He wished everyone a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Police files

Driving without insurance

A YOUNG driver was found to be driving without insurance after a routine stop and check in Lochgilphead.

The 21-year-old man was stopped on Manse Brae on Sunday December 13 at 3.20pm.

A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Drunk driver

POLICE who attended a crash scene suspected the driver of the vehicle to be under the influence of alcohol and driving carelessly.

The car had left the road and crashed into a tree just after midnight on the A83, near to Kilmory Industrial Estate in Lochgilphead, on December 18.

A 20-year-old man was thought to be intoxicated and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Abusive telephone calls

A MAN was arrested in Tarbert after a woman reportedly received abusive telephone calls.

Police followed up the report at 6pm on December 18 and a de-

tained the 54-year-old man.

He was later arrested and charged with a communications act offence and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Possession of drugs

IN A house in Lochgilphead a man was suspected to be in possession of cannabis.

Police made the discovery at a house on McIntyre Terrace on Saturday at around 11pm.

A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Fixed penalty notice

A WOMAN was fined for abusive behaviour in Lochgilphead at the weekend.

Police who investigated a noise complaint at a flat on Campbell Street at 2am fined a 35-year-old woman £40.

Anyone with information relating the incidents above, or to any other incident, should contact their local police office on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Crash witness appeal

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a lorry was struck by another vehicle on the A83 outside Lochgilphead.

The cab on a Lochgilphead bound lorry was damaged after an item on the back of a yellow lorry, which was Inveraray bound, hit it.

The incident happened at around 6.15pm on Tuesday December 15 near to Lingerton Waste Disposal site.

Police investigating are appealing for any witness to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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

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Lochgilphead flat blaze drama

THERE was drama in the centre of Lochgilphead earlier this week as fire crews tackled a 'significant fire' at a flat in the town's Argyll Street.

Tarbert firefighters joined the Lochgilphead crew to attend the blaze, reported shortly after 12.45pm on Monday December 21. An Inveraray fire appliance also attended as the incident was

brought under control.

A spokesman for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service said: 'Four firefighters with breathing apparatus went into the building to extinguish the fire, on the first floor of a three-storey tenement. It is believed to have started with a small fire at a fusebox in the property. Crews used a thermal imaging camera to check

for fire spread and hot spots. All persons were accounted for, and firefighters got to work ventilating the building.'

At the request of fire officers, staff from Scottish and Southern Energy attended to isolate the electricity supply to the property.

The spokesman added: 'This was a significant and well-developed fire.'



The scene as fire crews tackle the blaze in Argyll Street. 06_a52fire01

Gamblers fined for forged notes spree

A PAIR of swindlers who went on a gambling and shopping spree with forged notes have been fined at Campbeltown Sheriff Court.

In January and February this year, two Clydebank men, Sean Coleman, 23, of 3 Parkhall Terrace, and Michael McElhinney, 20, of 21

Sycamore Drive, travelled the length of Argyll and Bute gambling, eating out and shopping with counterfeit bank notes. Both men were fined £500 after pleading guilty to 12 charges of passing off the fake currency as genuine. The court heard that starting on Mon-

day January 26 this year the two men placed bets at bookmakers William Hill and two branches of Ladbrokes in Oban using counterfeit £5 and £10 notes.

In February the pair headed for Lochgilphead where they scammed the Bargain Zone and R S McColls with further £10 and £5 notes.

However, the proprietor of the Bargain Zone managed to capture the men on CCTV and an alert was sent out.

At the time The Bargain Zone's Samreen Choudry said: 'A man tried to pass a fake £10 note but when we noticed he immediately swapped it for a genuine one. He was quite nervous.' The same day the men took a trip to Campbeltown where they paid

for an Amelia's bistro meal with fake Royal Bank of Scotland £10 and £20 notes.

They spent further counterfeit cash at Wally's newsagents, McKellar's on ice cream and the newsagents, £20 at the Factory Shop, Wee Toon Trends and Kintyre Crafters.

They were finally identified from photo boards put together by Police Scotland in July.

During sentencing, on Thursday of last week, Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC, said: 'Neither of you are a stranger to these courts. This was a deliberate course of criminal actions. I would like to make a compensation order but the amounts are quite small and the logistics complicated.'



Dee Carrick in Mary's Meals Lochgilphead examines a note on the day of the men's spree. 08_a08forged01



Two counterfeit notes spent at McColls in Lochgilphead during the spree. 08_a08forged02

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2015 success for Tarbert Castle

'Thanks must go the hard work of volunteers'

TWENTY-three new members have joined Tarbert Castle Trust (TCT) this year, it was heard at the annual general meeting.

The boost in members has brought the trust's total to 125. The increase in members and the 15,000 visitors to the castle site were said to be helped by trust secretary Robert McPhail's book about the castle, his appearance at Tarbert Book Festival and the trust's participation in a doors open day in September.

TCT was also hoping to see the return next year of Tarbert primary school pupils, who used the site as an outdoor classroom in the spring.

Planning for 2016, Mr McPhail said: 'In the coming year, we are trying to raise funds for new grass and rashes cutting equipment so that our volunteers can reduce maintenance costs by bringing more of the site into condition, where it can be grazed by our Hebridean sheep. This will also increase the area of ac-

cessible ground for community use.'

It was also noted that the pond in the woodland was attracting more wildlife than before including dragonflies, frogs, damselflies and newts.

Mr McPhail added: 'Of course, all of these developments at the castle and the woodland could not be done without the hard work of a band of volunteers and thanks must go to every one of them for their contributions over the past year.'

Defibrillator handed over at Tarbert



From left: Neil Martin, RES; Lynne Clark, paramedic; Duncan McNeil, Corner House; Duncan MacGregor, Scottish Fire Service and Nicola Beaumont, RES.

RENEWABLE energy company RES presented Tarbert with a defibrillator at a recent quiz night held at the Corner House.

The quiz night was to let people in the town know the equipment had arrived and to encourage people to undertake the training necessary to use it. This training will be provided by local paramedic Lynne Clark. Extra funding came from a variety of people including £410 from the quiz night on December 11 and a coffee morning organised by Donald Blair, which raised £300. Local businesses donated a further £250 with Tarbert fire station giving £120 and Tarbert Bowling club donating £500.



Many hoverboards have been found to be unsafe, leading to overheating and fire.

Argyll and Bute Council issues warning over the safety of 'hoverboards'

ARGYLL and Bute Council has issued a warning over the safety of 'hoverboards' following a series of safety scares involving imported products.

More than 88 per cent of the self-balancing scooters, or hoverboards, checked at UK ports were deemed 'unsafe' in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Safety issues with plugs, cabling, charg-

ers, batteries or cut-off switches within the board have been found.

Many had non-compliant plugs without fuses, which increases the risk of the device overheating, exploding or catching fire.

Councillor David Kinniburgh, policy lead for regulatory services, said: 'We have not found any unsafe products for sale in Argyll and Bute shops,

however we are aware that these products are available through online sellers, and we would urge consumers to think carefully before buying from any online site, even if the trader appears to be based in the UK.

'If buying online, please follow advice from the National Trading Standards Board.'

The council offers the following advice:

Never leave the device charging unattended.

Check the device, the shape of the plug and for traceable information, such as the name and contact details of the manufacturer or importer.

Does website look genuine, and do they have a landline number? Read the small print.

Don't be dazzled by a bargain.

If in doubt, report it.

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Lochgilphead pupils enjoy Snowball

BEAUTIFUL dresses and sharp suits were the order of the day at Lochgilphead High School's annual Snowball. The youngsters gathered at Lochgilphead Joint Campus and enjoyed a ceilidh with music from former Lochgilphead pupil Chris Coates and his

band, with plenty teenagers dancing the night away.

Highlight

The highlight of Lochgilphead Joint Campus' social year took place on December 16 just before the school broke up for its Christmas holiday.



Chris and his band entertained the audience. 08_a52snowball05



The party starts in traditional style with a Gay Gordons. 08_a52snowball03



The girls donned their best dresses... 08_a52snowball11



...And the boys their sharpest suits. 08_a52snowball10



Carys Kidd, Lauren Cole, Kirsty Walker and Chelsea McMillan. 08_a52snowball06

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The 24-hour Freephone Emergency Number will of course continue to operate throughout this holiday period

REMEMBER – 0800 592276

Christmas Holidays - Closed 25th./26th December
Re-open Monday 28th. December.

New Year Holidays – Closed 1st. – 4th. January
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Count your blessings

SO, IT'S Christmas once again. You might be reading this as you enjoy a wee aperitif on Christmas Day, or perhaps you're busy digesting a big feed of turkey and sprouts, half-awake, perusing the Squeak to perk you up.

It's a time of year when families get together to eat, drink, be merry, fall out, fall back in, fall out once more, and so on until they go their separate ways.

It may not be everyone's cup of tea, but there are plenty of people who will be facing a bleak time while others are being festive all around. Think of those who have lost loved ones in recent times. And we may complain about our own family, but there are plenty of people out there with no family, alone.

It is a time of year when we really should count our blessings rather than our presents.

But for the grace of God, or pure chance, we could be a refugee from Syria, facing a precarious future crossing the stormy Mediterranean that is preferable to fear and starvation at home.

Think of how these Syrian people must feel when they land on the Isle of Bute, or in Campbeltown. Wet, cold and confused, for sure - but also safe. We take our safety and security for granted. We take our family and friends for granted.

But we should cherish each of these fragile things, and spare a thought for others while racing for our fourth helping of trifle this Christmas Day.

A very happy Christmas to all our readers and advertisers.

who's who at your advertiser

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Argyll Street
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Chief Reporter:

Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Reporter:

Eala MacAlister
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Receptionist:

Lisa Smith
adverts@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Head Office:

Wyvex Media
Lochavullin Industrial Estate
Oban
PA34 4HB

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SNP should stop passing the buck

Sir,
Local services are set to suffer again after the Scottish Government decided to pass the buck on to councils through budget cuts.

As part of its recent budget the SNP have slashed funding for every one of Scotland's 32 local authorities by £300m.

In 2015/16 the Scottish Government allocated £9.9 billion to local authorities but that figure has dropped significantly to just £9.6 billion in 2016/17.

Councils will now be forced to make their own tough decisions to protect local services which will all be hit by the huge cuts.

The reduction in funding will also have an effect on jobs, economy and local communities across Scotland. The Scottish Government have also rejected the chance to increase the size of its budget through tax changes after finance secretary John Swinney said the rates would stay the same.

If the SNP is truly against austerity then why doesn't it put up taxes and/or lift the council tax freeze to plug the funding gap?

While I would not support increasing taxes on Scottish families it's very perplexing that the SNP is so quick to complain about Westminster's spending choices when it is choosing not to raise taxes but instead choosing to cut spending.

It's high time the SNP took some responsibility and stopped trying to always pass the blame onto Westminster and our local councils.

Alastair Redman,
Islay.

The Rest should be a priority

Sir,
Having driven west along the A83 on Monday December 7, en route to Lochgilthead, the news that the debris protection barriers on the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful prevented a landslide closing the road during the recent storm Desmond is very welcome indeed.

It is also a tribute to all the hard work of engineers who have installed these protective measures over the past three years. Nevertheless, the fact that hundreds of tonnes of debris once again came down the mountainside is another demonstration of the fragility of this key transport artery.

I will continue to support local residents and businesses across Argyll and Bute who are calling on the Scottish Government to look at long term, permanent solutions for the A83 and not just investment in mitigating the effects of landslides.

With the Scottish Government due to receive significant extra funding from the UK government for infrastructure projects, securing the future of the A83 trunk road should be a priority.

Donald Cameron,
Scottish Conservative candidate for Argyll and Bute.

Nobody should be fearful of the future

Sir,
At this time of year we like to look forward to making resolutions for the year ahead.

Even in these uncertain times, most of us can plan ahead with relative confidence, but I'd like to ask your

readers to think about those for whom the future might be a cause of nothing but worry.

Millions of people in the UK are disabled or care for a disabled loved one. In many cases they are bound together 24/7 through the need to give and receive care and are reliant on the support of others to have even the most basic quality of life. We believe that the right to shape one's own destiny is fundamental to a life with choice and independence.

I work for Revitalise, a wonderful charity that provides much-needed respite holidays for disabled people and carers. We already know that regular respite is absolutely vital in sustaining a healthy relationship between carer and cared for. But, at this special time of year, we also wanted to find out about what else was important to disabled people and carers. So we did some research and found out that eight out of 10 are fearful about what the future holds for them.

They told us they were concerned about not getting the support they need from social services, worried about diminishing opportunities to take time off and fearful of ending up isolated and alone.

In fact, many told us that things are so bad for them right now that it was better for them in the past. In this day and age we think this is simply not good enough.

Would your readers like to help Revitalise change this sorry situation? Our new study clearly shows that disabled people and carers need more respite opportunities - such as the breaks we provide - and we need your help to reach out to them.

So please help us by support-

ing our Fundraising Appeal. To find out how, visit www.revitalise.org.uk or call 0303 303 0147.

Colin Brooke,
Revitalise

ACHA to the rescue

Sir,
I refer to the article under the headline 'MacLeod Construction to the rescue' in your edition of the December 11, relating to ACHA's new build in Inveraray.

You refer in the article to the site being abandoned following the administration of the original contractor, Stewart McNee (Dunoon) Limited.

Can I state for the record the development was not abandoned, as the site was under the control of the administrators, KPMG and ACHA, with a security company on-site.

When any company goes into administration on a building site a legal process has to be gone through which includes an agreed way forward with the appointed administrator.

ACHA followed this and then re-tendered to building companies for the remaining works to be completed. MacLeod Construction was successful in that tender process like any other.

If anyone rescued this development, it was the ACHA investment and regeneration staff, who diligently went through the due legal process following the administration of the previous contractor, which will result in us having 12 much-needed homes by April 2016.

Alastair MacGregor,
chief executive,
Argyll Community
Housing Association.

Letters to the Editor, Argyllshire Advertiser,
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Argyll PA31 8NB

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

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

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

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

Busy Lizzie wed in secret before Tarbert party

A LOCAL entrepreneur and community volunteer finally had her own big event and threw the 'schwedding' of the year.

Elizabeth Miller, formerly Perkins, surprised family and friends when she and fiancé Paul eloped to Gretna Green in October and married a year ahead of their scheduled date.

The couple had planned to marry on October 1 next year and instead enjoyed a private ceremony with close friends in the Scottish village famed for runaway weddings.

Elizabeth, who is known for initiating community events, such as Mid Argyll Music and Arts Festival (MAMA-Fest) and fundraisers for charities, said: 'We were talking about it while I was in the middle of MAMAFest in September and thought, 'why don't we just do

something small on our own - then we thought well okay, let's just run away'. It sounds like madness, but then why not? So we went to Gretna, spent two days and got married there. It was such a last minute decision and we just took our closest friends Morven and Alan Peacock, who were our witnesses.'

The couple got married on the balcony of a penthouse suite at the venue with a piper, photographer, registrar and friends. Elizabeth said: 'It was perfect, absolutely perfect.'

Later, over a drink, the couple messaged their families and told them the good news.

Elizabeth said: 'They were brilliant, just really happy for us. We told them we would have a party when we got back.'

'We both have such big families that we thought that we should have a kind of wed-

ding and instead had a schwedding.'

The newlyweds threw their schwedding in Tarbert Village Hall on November 28 to celebrate with friends and family. The event was described as a mini festival and was likened to MAMAFest. Guests enjoyed performances by Inveraray's Camans and the bride's own nieces and local up-and-coming stars the Anderson Sisters, as well as Lochgilphead guitarist Vinny Hutton and Bar None choir.

Elizabeth, 49, walked down the aisle on the arm of her Edinburgh-based brother Donald MacCallum to band the Ram Jams hit Black Betty.

Their friend David MacGillp 'married' them with a witty speech sprinkled with profanities. Elizabeth said: 'He knows me very well and he was fabulous and



Couple Elizabeth and Paul Miller on their wedding day in Gretna on October 1.

very funny. All of our guests had tears streaming down their faces with laughter.

'Paul is shy and is not a confident public speaker, so we had his speech on a flipchart, it was perfect for us.'

The couple have been together for two years and soon after meeting Paul, 47, relocated from Cumbria to Lochgilphead to be with his love.

Elizabeth said: 'We are just meant to be, there's no other way

to describe it. I feel really lucky to have met Paul. He is my back-up man for everything and is always there for me. I have so many ideas and plans and he just absolutely supports me with everything.'

Liz's next big plan

ELIZABETH is planning to create a town hall in Mid Argyll, where musical and arts gigs can take place.

Her dreams stretch bigger than just any gig and she would like to see prestigious artists performing and would like to build a venue that could become an iconic concert hall.

She said: 'My vision takes in all of Mid Argyll; a real attraction for this area and no dream is too big. I want to create something flexible and open to a wide range of arts and musical events.'

The single-handed community events organiser will also bring back 'Bogies Not Bed Race', an old event that used to cause a stir in Lochgilphead and would see families turn out to race beds from the top of the town to the bottom.

She hopes the race with return in June 2016. She is appealing to anyone who can seriously get involved to call her on 07788767359.

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Your Big Festive Quiz

Politics

1. Which comedian ran against Nigel Farage during the 2015 general election campaign?
2. How many Westminster parliamentary seats have there been in Scotland since devolution?
3. Which Labour politician was the inaugural First Minister of Scotland?
4. Which TV actress stroked MP George Galloway as he pretended to be a cat on the 2006 version of TV reality show, Big Brother?
5. Name the Islay man and MP at the centre of a political row over a leaked memo ahead of May's general election.

Sport

1. Which football team won the 2015 Scottish Cup - the first major trophy in the club's history?



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The victorious GB Davis Cup team.

2. Scots tennis star Andy Murray played a big part in Great Britain winning the 2015 Davis Cup. In what year did the country last win this prestigious trophy?
3. Which club ran out winners in the 2015 MAYDS-sponsored Argyll and Bute Cup, hosted in August by Lochgilphead Red Star?
4. What was the final score in Scotland's controversial Rugby World Cup quarter-final match with Australia in October 2015?
5. Which champion boxer did Britain's Tyson Fury defeat in November to win the heavy-weight championship of the world?

Entertainment

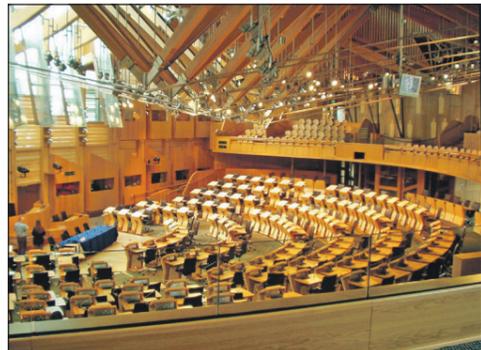
1. Who won the 2015 Scottish Album of the year award?
2. Who sang the most recent James Bond theme?
3. And what was the film called?

4. Where did T in the Park move to this year?
5. And which band were announced as the first 2016 headliners after putting lemons around Manchester?

Scotland

1. After being arrested in 1605, who said that he wanted to blow the Scots back into Scotland?
2. Which body of water in Scotland contains more water than all the English and Welsh lakes put together?
3. Which Scottish city was famous for its three Js - Jam, Jute and Journalism?
4. What is the national animal of Scotland?
5. Which is the only football club in the Scottish League to be based in England?

Answers on page 12



Politics - the Scottish parliament building.

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Santa Claus is coming to town . . .



Rory Todd, two, with his Christmas hat on. 06_a52tots01



Wee Carly Cranston, three, and mum Laura wore matching dresses for the Christmas party. 06_a52tots02



Kayla MacDonald, 20 months. 06_a52tots03

SANTA Claus was welcomed to Lochgilphead Community Centre with a rendition of the Christmas classic Jingle Bells.

Mums and babies at Fyne Families parent and toddler group sang and played instruments as the man in red himself arrived into the main hall at the centre.

He gleefully engaged with children as he passed around presents and heard what each would like for Christmas.

Co-ordinator Jenny Pendreigh said: 'We've enjoyed having Santa. The children were having party food and a dance to Christmas mu-

sic. Some even had a sing-along. It is a nice way to finish off the year.'

The group will return after the Christmas break on Wednesday January 6.



Young Baxter Charlton, two, with Santa Claus. 06_a52tots04



The singers, conducted by Sue Stubbs. 08_a51singers01

Festive treat for café diners

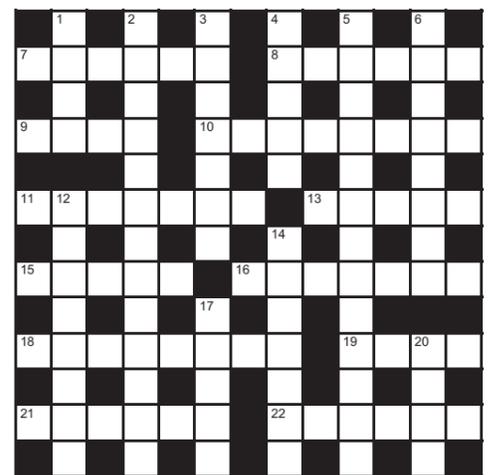
A GROUP of singers treated diners at the café at Lochgilphead Parish Hall to a concert of Christmas carols.

The Lochgilphead Singing for Pleasure choir only formed in September to meet and have a sing song under the guidance of singing tutor Sue Stubbs. Sue said: 'Many of the group hadn't sang before so to

do this performance is a big deal.'

Sarah Wyatt from Argyll and Bute Council adult learning services, which runs the group, added: 'Coming together to sing has proven health and social benefits. The Singing for Pleasure choir suggested doing a performance, and we were happy to help.'

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



Across

- 7 Informant (6)
- 8 Tall slim tree (6)
- 9 Alternative to steps (4)
- 10 Bombast (8)
- 11 Futile (7)
- 13 Class (5)
- 15 Fetch (5)
- 16 Distinguished (7)
- 18 Open air building (8)
- 19 Certain (4)
- 21 Pious (6)
- 22 Take without permission (6)

Down

- 1 Tranquility discipline (4)
- 2 Ship securer (9,4)
- 3 One to inherit (7)
- 4 Discomfit (5)
- 5 Taking advantage of circumstances (13)
- 6 Bells (8)
- 12 One who bares all in public (8)
- 14 Come from (7)
- 17 Ski trail (5)
- 20 Amble (4)

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The academic focus of the school is clear. All pupils study for GCSEs and A levels, with a curriculum spanning 25 subjects in the Sixth Form offering an excellent basis for entry to university and higher education. Every year a good number of pupils achieve places at Oxford and Cambridge, a high proportion get places at Russell Group

universities (the top 24 UK universities).

At Glenalmond every pupil is helped to recognise and develop their strengths. They are encouraged to develop a spirit of academic enquiry and an interest in learning for its own sake as well as to secure good exam grades.

Academic work is balanced by an extensive range of creative, sporting, social and adventure activities, with a programme of leadership skills training running throughout the school.

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Dollar Academy has a single, 70-acre campus with extensive indoor and outdoor sports facilities, which include many

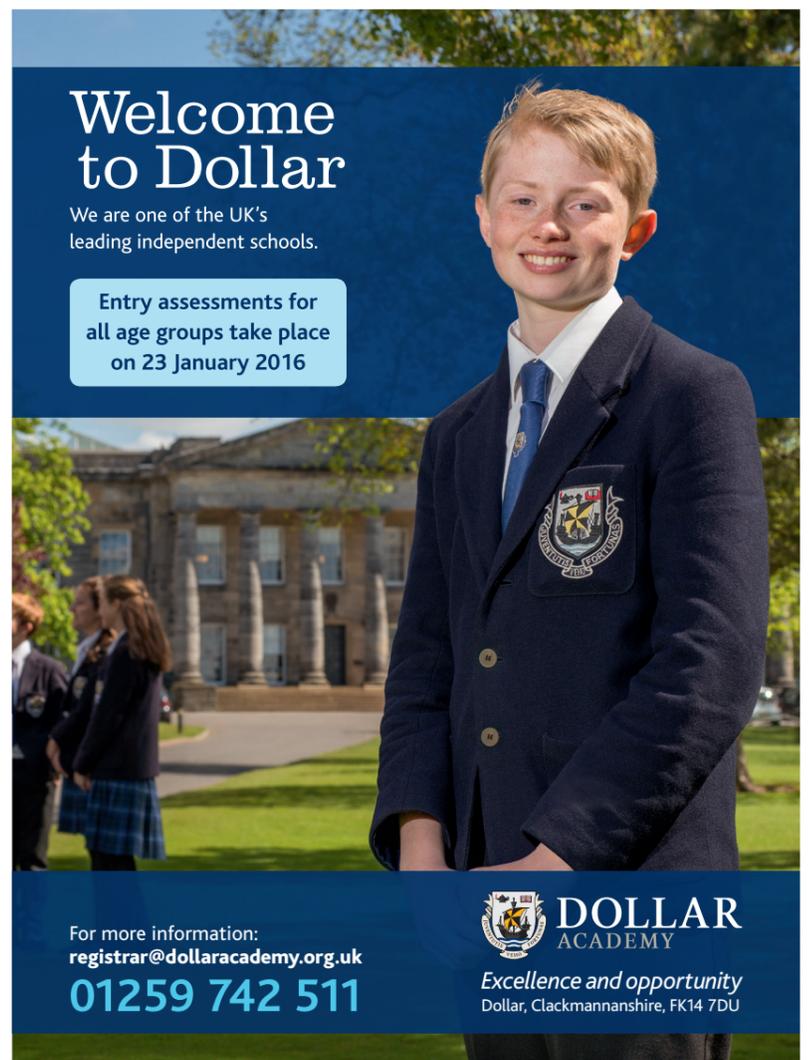
acres of sports fields, pitches and courts; a well-equipped fitness suite; a full-length swimming pool, with private pool time available for boarding pupils and a rifle range. The main school building is a striking neoclassical design by the eminent Scottish architect, William Henry Playfair, and the numerous other buildings on campus are a mixture of period and modern design, including specialised teaching areas for Languages, Science, Music and Art large performance venues and first-class accommodation for boarders.

The 200-year-old school is famous for its pipe band which has won two consecutive world championship titles. More than 160 pupils practise the instrument and tuition is available at all levels, with the opportunity to participate in national competitions. The sight and sound of the pipes are synonymous with Dollar Academy. Each day of the summer term begins with the massed pipes and drums performing on the school lawns. Dollar Academy is a very popular option for Scottish families. Entry can be arranged at any stage in a child's education,

with many children opting to join before their senior school examination years. Whether you are considering a possible change in school for your child now or at some point in the future, this school is worth your consideration. Boarding scholarships and fee-assisted places are available for hard-working and ambitious children.

CONTACT DETAILS

Entrance assessments for all age groups will take place on 23 January 2016. Email registrar@dollaracademy.org.uk for more information.



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Strathallan School

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For more than a century, Strathallan School has stayed true to the vision of its founders by providing a rich variety of academic, sporting and extra-curricular activities so that every pupil has the opportunity to excel.

Set in 153 acres of magnificent rural Perthshire, yet easily accessible from elsewhere in Scotland, the school enjoys a wonderful balance of campus buildings, modern residential accommodation and exceptional outdoor facilities.

It's a beautiful location; lush, green countryside with an array of outdoor pursuits on the school's doorstep.

Top of the class

Academically, Strathallan engages children. Our teachers are committed professionals who are experts in their fields and our achievements at A-level speak for themselves. It's no surprise that many of our pupils move on to the best universities after their time at the school, with Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh popular destinations of choice. In sport and the Arts, we have so much to offer. From enthusiastic beginners to elite



performers, we can help each individual to reach their potential. We take our sport seriously and offer an extensive programme. Many individual pupils and teams compete at national level. At the same time, individuals' development as elite athletes is supported in school with the specialist training and dietary regimes that are the cornerstone of success in modern sport. We believe the benefits of a healthy, active lifestyle extend into all areas of school life. We have the facilities too with numerous rugby and hockey pitches, tennis courts, crick-

et square and practice nets and our recently completed indoor multi-sport facility. It's a huge playground - and everyone is encouraged to use it to the full.

Music, drama and dance

In our junior house, Riley, almost all the children have individual tuition in a musical instrument. They keep playing on through the senior school too and our musicians perform over 60 concerts a year - including performing for the Royal Family at Crathie Kirk. Our new dance and drama studio will be

completed soon adding to the fabulous facilities we already enjoy for the Expressive Arts.

A caring community

Most importantly, Strathallan is a close, caring community. Catering for children aged 9 to 18, it's a school where effort is rewarded, where pupils feel valued and happy and where they are given the time and encouragement to grow into capable, confident young men and women ready for the challenges that their lives will bring.



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Anna Turner and Mhairi Weldon from the Cub Scout group were kept busy selling raffle tickets.

19th Argyll Cubs help raise cash for MS Centre

A MID Argyll charity raised £300 after a local youth adventure group turned out to support a coffee morning.

Boys and girls from the 19th Argyll Cubs fundraised for the MS Centre in Lochgilphead and helped out at its St Andrew's Day coffee morning.

The children were said to be enthusiastic to volunteer on the day and their parents and cub

leaders also went along to enjoy the fun.

A raffle held on the day raised £100 of the total.

Centre manager Karen McCurry said: 'It was good to have the younger generation in supporting our work.'

Thanks

She also gave a special thanks to everyone who baked cakes and biscuits for the event and said: 'What an amazing selection of cakes we had.'



Two of the Anderson triplets lent a hand at the coffee morning.

Your Big Festive Quiz answers

Politics

1. Al Murray (the Pub Landlord)
2. 59 of the total 650 MPs
3. Donald Dewar, who held the position from May 1999 until his death in October 2000
4. Rula Lenska
5. Alistair Carmichael

Sport

1. Inverness Caledonian Thistle
2. 1936
3. Oban Saints
4. Australia 35 - Scotland 34 (groan...)
5. Wladimir Klitschko

Entertainment

1. Kathryn Joseph for Bones you Have Thrown Me and Blood I have Spilled
2. Sam Smith
3. Spectre
4. Strathallan Country Park
5. The Stone Roses

Scotland

1. Guy Fawkes
2. Loch Lomond
3. Dundee
4. Unicorn
5. Berwick Rangers



Wind farm windfall in spotlight at presentation and free ceilidh

LOCHGILPHEAD Community Council is hosting a presentation and free ceilidh to find out what people want to do with its share of the money from the A' Chruach wind farm.

The wind farm is expected to be fully

operational next year and the community council will get a share of the £120,000 community benefit money.

It is going to hold a presentation in the Argyll Hotel followed by a ceilidh which will

feature the Mid Argyll Pipe Band and local Gaelic choir as well as other local musicians.

The presentation will begin at 7pm on January 15 and the ceilidh and a buffet will follow immediately afterwards.

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

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Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The company's decision will be final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any persons otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



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McGrigor takes aim at land reform bill

War time farm squeeze 75 years ago

AS THE latest far-reaching Land Reform Bill works its way through the Scottish Parliament, an MSP representing Argyll has aimed both barrels at elements of the proposed legislation.

Speaking last week as the bill was debated in the Scottish Parliament, Conservative MSP, Jamie McGrigor, said: 'There has been a lot of rhetoric from the Scottish Government and its political supporters over land reform and land ownership, so I want to start by putting two basic facts on the record.

'Fact one - private landowners currently contribute significantly to the Scottish economy, as economic studies have shown, and there are many examples of good practice and significant investments being made which are helping to sustain jobs, provide affordable rural housing and boost economic growth in often fragile and remote rural communities. All of us should welcome this.

'Fact two - the costs of maintaining land and estates in good order are very significant; drainage, fencing, upkeep of agricultural and domestic buildings, cross-compliance issues, to name just a few, are all practical costs. In many cases these costs would fall on the public purse if ownership was transferred from individuals and this must be factored in to decisions on land tenure. When there is such

pressure on public expenditure this is a very serious consideration.'

He went on to say that he believed community ownership could play a positive part in land management, but so too did private land ownership. Mr McGrigor expressed his party's support for proposals in the bill to increase community engagement, but continued: 'I share the concerns expressed in relation to aspects of part five of the bill around community right to buy. It is to be regretted that this risks stopping investment from estates and that these provisions could impact on landowners who already manage their land well, whether through agriculture, forestry, sporting or any other land-based activity.

'We are all aware that, with the Salvesen-related claims, we are in the midst of the fallout of a previous breaching of the European Court of Human Rights as a result of previous land reform legislation. How big does the Scottish Government think the compensation bill will be for settling claims and what assessment have ministers made of the cost of future compensation claims if certain provisions in the bill are passed as they stand or indeed taken further?'

'On part six, the reintroduction of non-domestic rates for shootings and deer forests, I

in some of our most under-pressure rural communities.

'I couldn't agree more with the NFUS briefing which states that 'any land reform must focus on what is done with the land, rather than who owns it'. I also concur with Alex Ferguson about the need to revisit the Agricultural Holdings section outwith this bill because, as drafted, it cannot achieve the twin aims of reinvigorating the tenanted sector while creating an availability of land if it is encouraging an environment that discourages the amount of land available.'



Jamie McGrigor MSP.

have serious concerns that imposing extra taxes on rural businesses is a retrograde step that can only lessen the viability of enterprises that employ people

FARMING IN ARGYLL

[To THE EDITOR OF THE *Oban Times*]

Drimnin, Argyllshire,
December 2, 1940.

SIR,—If the Government really believe that a campaign for the destruction of rats, rabbits and bracken is going to make hill farming solvent I fear they will be sadly disappointed.

This estate has been worked along these lines for the last ten years and, although the productivity of the land has been greatly increased thereby, the expenses continue to exceed the profits, and there is no money to improve houses or repair farm roads, dykes and fences, still less to meet interest on capital.

Formerly we killed 1,800 to 2,000 couple of rabbits each winter, but for the last 5-6 years we have not been able to get 20. After several years work with the scythes and motor machines we have so thinned and stunted our bracken that we can no longer obtain what we need for bedding and have to ask a neighbour for leave to cut on his ground. We have hardly a rat on the place, every fresh influx being promptly dealt with.

Drimnin is fully stocked with sheep and cattle, our hogs are wintered at home and neither gardener, chauffeur nor gamekeeper is employed, but only a skilled staff exclusively for the upkeep of the land.

It is unnecessary for the Government to preach patriotism to hill farmers, who are already doing their best to increase food production. Our allotted share of additional ploughing has been done, a large quantity of silage made, in spite of the difficulty of obtaining material to construct containers, and additional labour taken on.

The prices fixed for milk, wheat, oats, barley, etc., appear calculated to enable producers of these commodities to carry on their business efficiently. Those for hill products are quite uneconomic,—e.g. we receive 12½d for our 1940 wool, whereas in 1937 we got 12½d, although running expenses are now far higher.

Unless the price for 1941 and subsequent years allows for the cost of production, a living wage for the farmer and a modicum of profit to enable maintenance and urgent improvements to be financed, the steadily growing stream of insolvent farmers will become a flood.

I am, etc.,
MARY TERESA GORDON,
(Mrs Gordon of Drimnin).

THIS letter was published in The Oban Times 75 years ago - in December 1940.

Britain at the time was in the grip of war, long before the USA joined the conflict.

Air raids were a constant threat, and the British government was determined to squeeze as much production as possible out of the land in all corners of the country.

In this letter, Mrs Gordon of Drimnin Estate, Ardnarmurchan, complains about the futility, in her view, of trying to squeeze more from a Highland estate that was already worked hard, while under pressure from fixed prices for farm produce.

Out of interest, the 12 1/2 pence received for her wool in 1940 is the equivalent of £3 in today's money.

Copy of the letter printed in The Oban Times in 1940.

06_a52oldletter02

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thanking them for their
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Jesus - He's the reason for the Season'

MID ARGYLL

ST MARGARET'S RC CHURCH LOCHGILPHEAD

Thursday 24th December
Midnight Mass
Carols from 11.30pm
Christmas Day 10am.

ST. KIERAN'S, CAMPBELTOWN Thursday 24th December

Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 10am
Fr. David Connor
01546 602380
All Welcome
(SCO002876)

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

Charity Number SC001002

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

Thursday 24 December

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

Friday 25 December

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

Sunday 27 December

Tayvallich Church 10 am
Morning Worship
For more information please see our website
www.argyllcommunities.org/nknapdalecofs

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH

Christmas Eve 24th December
11.15pm - WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

Mince Pies & Mulled Wine from 10.45pm

Christmas Day 25th December

Family Service 11am
Children bring your presents!

Rev. Hilda Smith
All Welcome

More info. at www.lpchurch.co.uk
Lochgilphead (Church of Scotland)
SC016311

ARDRISHAIG & SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES

Christmas Eve
Carol Service

"Stamps of Approval"
Achahoish at 7:00pm

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

Sunday 27th December

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

Sunday 3rd January 2016

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

KINTYRE

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday 27th December
All Age Service

"No need for a telescope at Christmas"

Sunday 3rd January 2015
New Year Communion Service
"This is how we know what love is"

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

SADDELL & CARRADALE PARISH CHURCH LINKED WITH SOUTHEND PARISH CHURCH

SADDELL & CARRADALE

Thursday 24th December
11.30pm Watchnight Service

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

Sunday 27th December
10.00am Morning Worship

SOUTHEND

Thursday 24th December
8.00pm Carol Service

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

Sunday 27th December
11.45am Morning Worship

SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT, LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Thursday 24th December 2015

Watchnight Services
Skipness Family Service 7pm
Kilberry Service 7pm
Tarbert Service 11.30pm
All congregation led

For all church enquiries and pastoral care

Contact Rev. Hilda Smith, Interim Moderator
on 07826 235735
Everyone very welcome
Tarbert & Kilberry SCO02622
Skipness SCO04280

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Christmas starts with Christ

Thursday 24th December Christmas Eve
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 3rd January 2016

11am Family Communion Service with Songs of Praise

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

LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

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

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

ST KIARAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Friday 25th December
Christmas Day
Holy Communion 10.45am

Sunday 27th December
Christmas 1
Holy Communion 10.45am

GIGHA & CARA LINKED WITH KILCALMONELL LINKED WITH KILLEAN & KILCHENZIE

(Interim Moderator: Rev Catriona Hood)

GIGHA CHURCH

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

KILCALMONELL CHURCH (CLACHAN)

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

KILLEAN & KILCHENZIE CHURCH (A'CHLEIT)

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



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until 31/12/20
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£24,563 - £26,844 Location negotiable Ref: DVE00223






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Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR REFUSE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS

MID ARGYLL
Refuse and recycling collections due on Friday 25th December will be collected on Sunday 27th December. Refuse and recycling collections due on Friday 1st January will be collected on Sunday 3rd January. Lingertown Recycling and Civic Amenity Site will be closed on 25th/26th December and 1st/2nd January.

KINTYRE
Refuse collections due on Friday 25th December will be collected on Sunday 27th December. Refuse collections due on Friday 1st January will be collected on Sunday 3rd January. Roding 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.

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



PLANNING

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

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

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/03246/PP	Installation of biomass boiler cabin with associated flue	Lochgilphead Joint Campus Lochgilphead Argyll And Bute PA31 8AA	Mid Argyll Area Office
15/03308/PP	Variation of condition 10 relative to planning permission reference 13/02855/PP -amendment to foul drainage system	Land Adjacent To Clock Lodge Lochgilphead Argyll And Bute PA31 8NH	Mid Argyll Area Office
15/03314/PP	Erection of two storey rear extension, demolition and replacement of existing gatehouse to form ancillary residential accommodation	Green Oak Low Askomil Campbeltown Argyll And Bute PA28 6EP	Burnet Building St John St Campbeltown
15/03315/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South East Of Ballochroy Tayinloan Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Harbour Street
15/03334/PP	Installation of biomass boiler cabin with associated flue	Ardrihaig Primary School Glegilp Ardrihaig Lochgilphead Argyll And Bute PA30 8HF	Mid Argyll Area Office

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

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/03245/PP	Installation of biomass boiler cabin with associated flue	Inveraray Primary School The Avenue Inveraray Argyll And Bute PA32 8YH	Sub Post Office Inveraray
15/03286/PP	Sub-division of one flat into two flats	33 Lochnell Street Lochgilphead Argyll And Bute	Mid Argyll Area Office

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



The Scottish Government

Riaghaltas na h-Alba

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

CREGGAN WIND FARM SECTION 36 APPLICATION FOR CONSENT AND DEEMED PLANNING PERMISSION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE CREGGAN WIND FARM, NORTH EAST OF GLENBARR, KINTYRE AND

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

PLANNING PERMISSION APPEAL: ERECTION OF 14 WIND TURBINES (UP TO 110 METRES HIGH TO BLADE TIP), UPGRADING OF ROAD JUNCTION WITH A83T AND IMPROVEMENTS TO C20. CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESS TRACKS, CONTROL BUILDING AND SUBSTATION, TRANSFORMERS, ANEMOMETER MASTS AND ANCILLARY DEVELOPMENT AT BLARY HILL WINDFARM, LAND NORTH OF LOCH ARNICLE, BARR GLEN, BY GLENBARR, KINTYRE

NOTICE OF INQUIRY SESSIONS TO BE HELD AS PART OF THE PUBLIC INQUIRY

Scottish Ministers have appointed Mr Scott Ferrie MSc MRTPI and Mr Christopher Warren BA(Hons) DipTP MRTPI to consider and submit reports to them:

- on an application under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for the construction and operation of Creggan Wind Farm north east of Glenbarr, Kintyre; and
- under the terms of the Town and Country Planning (Appeals) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, on an appeal made to them by RES Ltd in respect of the erection of a wind farm at Blary Hill, by Glenbarr, Kintyre.

The Reporters will hold a public inquiry to obtain more information on certain matters before they report to Scottish Ministers on the cases. The matters to be considered during the oral sessions of the public inquiry are:

- the landscape and visual impacts (including cumulative impacts) of both Blary Hill and Creggan proposals;
- those other topics identified as being relevant to the Creggan proposal (national energy policy; national planning policy and advice; development plan policy and supplementary guidance; noise impact (including cumulative noise impact); shadow flicker; impact on local economy, tourism and recreation; impact on forestry; impact on habitats and species; impact on cultural heritage; peat stability and peat management; hydrology and hydrogeology; transportation; impact on aviation/air safety; telecommunications; suggested conditions/legal agreement);
- those other topics identified as being relevant to the Blary Hill proposal (national energy policy; national planning policy and advice; development plan policy and supplementary guidance; noise impact (including cumulative noise impact); shadow flicker; impact on local economy, tourism and recreation; impact on forestry; impact on habitats and species; impact on cultural heritage; peat stability and peat management; hydrology and hydrogeology; transportation; impact on aviation/air safety; telecommunications; suggested conditions/legal agreement)

No other matters relevant to these cases will be considered at the inquiry sessions.
The sessions will be held in public and will begin at 10:00 on Monday 25 January 2016 within Tayinloan Village Hall, Kintyre. The public inquiry is estimated to run for 10 working days.
Members of the public are welcome to attend and observe the sessions. All inquiry documents may also be viewed at Glenbarr Village Hall, Kintyre, until the start of the sessions.
All key documents relating to the appeal can also be viewed on our website: <http://www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk> using reference WIN-130-1 for Creggan and PPA-130-2052 for Blary Hill.

DAVID HENDERSON
Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals
4 The Courtyard, Callendar Business Park, Callendar Road, Falkirk FK1 1XR
Our ref: WIN-130-1 and PPA-130-2052

Goods Vehicle Operators Licence

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

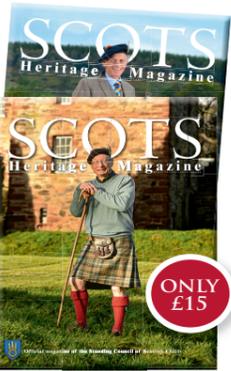


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**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011**

The proposed Blary Hill Wind Farm is located to the east of Glenbarr on the Kintyre Peninsula within Argyll and Bute (grid reference NR 710 365) and is subject to assessment under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2011.

Notice is hereby given that additional information in relation to an environmental statement has been submitted to the Scottish Ministers by RES Ltd relating to the application for planning permission for the Blary Hill Wind Farm that comprises 14 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of 110m together with associated infrastructure and works. The planning application has now been appealed to the Scottish Ministers.

A copy of the additional information together with the environmental statement (August 2014), Supplementary Environmental Information (February 2015), the associated application and other documents submitted with the application may be inspected during opening hours during the consultation period specified in this notice at:

Argyll and Bute Council
Planning and Building Standards
1a Manse Brae
Lochgilthead
PA31 8RD

Argyll and Bute Council
Campbeltown Service Point
Burnet Building
St John Street
Campbeltown, PA28 6BJ

Electronic copies of the additional information can be made available from RES Ltd (email neil.martin@res-ltd.com) free of charge. Hard copies of the additional information may be purchased from RES Ltd at a cost of £2.00.

Any person who wishes to make representations to the Scottish Ministers about the additional information should make them in writing on or prior to 29 January 2016 (quoting reference PPA-130-2052) to:

Liz Kerr, Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals, 4 The Courtyard, Callendar Business Park, Callendar Road, Falkirk, FK1 1XR

Or by email to: liz.kerr@gov.scot

PERSONALS

Happy 70th Birthday

Ali Bali
on 25th December
Lots of love,
Mike, Anne &
family.



THANK YOU

Moira would like to thank Dr Lazarus, Dr Hair and all staff at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital for their care over the last few weeks. Also to my family and friends for all their help since coming home. "Thornhill".

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XMAS PERSONALS

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all our relatives, friends, neighbours & colleagues from Alisdair, Lorraine, Rachael & Campbell, 89 Ralston Road.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives & friends from Donald M Gillies, Lochgilthead.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to family & friends from George & Margaret, The Old Rectory.

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Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Shedden



IT WAS a very exciting day for two wee boys as they waved their daddy off and watched him roar off into space.

Tim Peake is the first British astronaut to join the crew of the International Space Station and the event was beamed across the world.

It was beamed across a world which Tim would soon view from the vastness of the universe.

He said that this was one of the things he was most excited about seeing on his space voyage.

I felt sad that he would not be with his family on Christmas day.

Then I wondered just what it must be like looking at the planet we call home, and seeing it as a globe floating and spinning in space.

I thought of the beginnings of this planet.

Cosmic forces exploded with energy and heat and brought light.

Science and religion can agree on this.

Those of us who will soon celebrate once again the birth of Jesus Christ, believe that he is the Light of the World.

I wonder what Tim Peake will think as he looks on the earth on Christmas morning.

No doubt he will think about his family.

But I wonder what his thoughts will be about the planet.

What would we think if we were able to look down on our world?

We would not be able to see the scars and wounds on our planet.

We would not be able to see the sorrow and the suffering, the wars and the fighting.

I am told that the earth looks beautiful from space.

I believe that is how God intended it to look.

So on Christmas morning I will think of the words in a very old carol:

'Hush your strife ye men of war, and hear the angels sing.'

This is my prayer for our world.

May God bless you this Christmas.

TARBERT

Soup group celebrates Christmas

TARBERT Soup Group has been getting in the festive spirit with different Christmas activities.

There was a visit from a class of primary one pupils who sang a selection of Christmas songs for the group. Soup group organiser Heather Belshaw said it was lovely to see so many happy faces, both young and old.

There was also a special Christmas dinner at the Tarbert Hotel that was enjoyed by all.

The soup group has also secured £10,000 from Awards for All to continue the group, which is a lifeline to many older people in the area. The group would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas.

INVERARAY

Kids on the run ends on a high

INVERARAY kids on the run ended their autumn term by welcoming new member Aray MacLellan to the group.

Coll MacKay won a sprint game rushing between Rudolph, Father Christmas, some jingle bells and two Christmas stockings.



The children had a great time performing the Nativity in Scots.

MINARD AND FURNACE

A wean in a manger at Minard hall

THE CHILDREN of Minard and Furnace primaries performed their version of the Nativity on Wednesday December 16 to

friends and families in a packed-out Minard village hall.

Christmas story

The show was called 'The McTivity', telling

the Christmas story in Scots. The children had been studying the Scottish language and enjoyed writing stories in Scots.

The McTivity was a marvellous dramatic way to follow up the topic, and something the children had a great time performing.

Next was a shuttle run game with a collage picture to be assembled as the runners, including leader Fee Corner, raced with reindeer antlers on.

The traditional end to the term was the fairy lights run with a change of leader each time a fairy light is passed and there are a lot of fairy lights in Inveraray.

Back at the school Ac-

tive Schools co-ordinator Eilidh MacPherson presented everyone with a Christmas and Janet provided festive biscuits for everyone.

Fee Corner would like to thank Janet Riddoch, Florence Aura, Jacqui Patrick and Paul Honey for their support and help and wish a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year to Ash-

ley, Aray, Ewan, Manon, Coll, Archie, Eilidh, Dillon, Jill, Tilly and Erin.

ORMSARY

Hogmanay party fun in social club

ORMSARY and District Social Club will celebrate the new year with

its annual hogmanay party. Performing on the night will be local band Ceilidh's Homet, with a mixture of ceilidh and modern classics.

Partygoers should take their own bottle. Food will be provided.

The club wishes everyone a happy new year and looks forward to a busy 2016.

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YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

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instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

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

TEXT FOR THE WEEK

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

ENGAGEMENTS



LIVINGSTONE - INNES

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Laura Jane, only daughter of William and Margaret Livingstone, Emerivale, Lochview Avenue, Campbeltown, to George Alexander, only son of Wilson and Eileen Innes, Auchmillanhill Farm, Sorn, Mauchline.

GOLDEN WEDDING



MCGOUGAN - MACDOUGALL

At Martha Street Registry Office, on December 24, 1965, Duncan to Kathleen. Present address, Glen Roy, Dell Road, Campbeltown.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Peacefully, at the Beatson Hospital, Glasgow, on December 17, 2015, Jean Craig Patterson Gillies, in her 71st year, Glenholm, High Askomil, Campbeltown, dearly beloved wife of James F Campbell, much loved mother of Alasdair and Catriona and a loving and much loved grandmother. A private service will be held in Cardross Crematorium. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

JAMES - Peacefully, at the Campbeltown Hospital, on December 18, 2015, Margaret Colville, in her 85th year, formerly of Elindon, Ardnacraig Avenue, Campbeltown, dearly beloved wife of the late Ken James, much loved mother of Hedley, mother-in-law of Isobel, much loved and loving grannie of Neil and Naomi, and great grannie of Imogen and Kal.

MCNAUGHTON - On December 17, 2015, suddenly, but peacefully, at Perth Royal Infirmary, Neil, formerly of Glendaruel, in his 75th year, beloved husband of Flora Pearson, and loving father and papa to his children, grandchildren and foster children. Funeral service at Tarbert Loch Fyne Parish Church, on Tuesday, December 29, at 12.00 noon, interment thereafter at Carrick Cemetery, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, donations if desired, to Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance, Scone, Perth.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AITKEN - Andrew and Ruth would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards, visits and phone calls received following the recent sad passing of Nettie. Special thanks to doctors and nursing staff at Mid Argyll Hospital and Ardfenaig Care Home, and to the staff of Argyll Home Care for their care and attention over the last few years, which allowed Nettie to live comfortably at her home. We would especially like to thank all our neighbours, friends and the wider local community for their friendship, help and support shown to all of our family over the years. Our grateful thanks to Rev Derek Gibson for a comforting and uplifting service and to Rev Angus McNeill for a personal eulogy. Thanks also to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their professional services and to the Stag Hotel for catering. Finally, our thanks to all who attended at the church and graveside to pay their respects. The retiral collection has raised over £275 the Dochas Centre and Marie Curie.

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IN MEMORIAM

CHISHOLM - In loving memory of Johny, who passed away December 28, 2011. Loved and remembered always.

- Netta and family, at home and abroad.

MACIVER - Billy, December 2007.

The words we put upon your stone aren't suffice for you alone you were so respected, loved and held dear, in so many ways over so many years, A wonderful papa to the wee ones, now four, a lovely son, good friend and more, but for the role of being My Daddy you were Simply the Best. I still miss you, still love you and you know the rest. - Your Trina.

SELFRIDGE - In loving memory of my husband, Fred, taken from us on December 26, 2013. Gone but not forgotten, - Think of you every day, Myra xx.

SELFRIDGE - Not a day goes by when we don't think about you...and smile. - Love Carol, Ali, Colin, Siobhan and Rebecca xxxxx.

SELFRIDGE - In loving memory of my darling Pops, died December 26, 2013. Love you always Pops, the place is sad without you. - Angela, Josh and Fred xxx.

LORNE AND LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity Number SCO11686

Sunday 27th December
Service 11.15am
Creche
Rev P Wallace

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

Charity Number SC001002

Thursday 24 December
Tayvallich Green 4 pm
Carols on the Green
Tayvallich Church
11:15 pm
Watchnight Service
Friday 25 December
Inverlussa Church 11 am
Christmas Celebration
Retiral offerings at these services
for EMBRACE the Middle East

Sunday 27 December
Tayvallich Church 10 am
Morning Worship
Rev. C. Acklam

Monday 28 December
Prayer meeting 10 am
Tayvallich Church

All welcome
Enquiries 01546 606926
www.argyllcommunities.org/nknapdalecofs

Scottish Episcopal Churches

Everyone Welcome

Christ Church
Bishopton Road, Lochgilphead
(SC013787)

Sundays 11.00 am
Eucharist service
Coffee & Cake follows the service
Christmas Eve 24th December
11.30pm
Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
25th December
11am
Christmas Eucharist

St Columba's, Poltalloch, nr Kilmartin
(SC031391)

Christmas Day
25th December
9am Holy Communion

All Saints, Inveraray
(SC025646)

Christmas Eve 24th December
5pm
Mass of Christmas with Carols

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



LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 27th December 2015

11.00 am WORSHIP SERVICE
Rev. Hilda Smith

CHRISTMAS EVE
11.15pm Watchnight Service
Warm Mince Pies and Refreshments from 10.45pm

CHRISTMAS DAY
11.00am Family Service
All Welcome

Note Church Cafe closed until 13th January 2016

More info. at www.lpchurch.co.uk
Lochgilphead (Church of Scotland)
SC016311

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND WEST LOCHFYNESIDE

Sunday 27th December 2015

Cumlodden Lochfyneside and Lochgair
Charity No. SC016097
Minister:
Rev. Dr. Roderick D. M. Campbell

Morning Service in Cumlodden Church at 10 am (with Church Choir)

Glenaray and Inveraray
Charity No. SC016665
Morning Service in Inveraray Church at 11.30 am

All Welcome

SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

Sunday 27th December 2015
Skipness Service 10.00am
Rev Walter Ritchie
Tarbert Service 11.30am
Kilberry Service 2pm
Mrs Margaret Sinclair

For all church enquiries and pastoral care
Contact Rev. Hilda Smith, Interim Moderator on 07826 235735

Everyone very welcome
Tarbert & Kilberry SC002622
Skipness SC004280

ST MARGARET'S R.C. CHURCH

LOCHGILPHEAD
Holy Mass Sunday 10am

ALL SAINTS, INVERARAY
Holy Mass Sunday 12.30pm

ST KIERAN'S CAMPBELTOWN
Saturday 5pm Fr. David Connor
01546 602380
All Welcome (SCO002876)

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Lochgilphead 11.30am, located on

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Mondays 1.15 - 1.45pm
Soup lunches last Thursday of the month - 12.00 - 1.30.

All welcome.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GLASSARY KILMARTIN and FORD PARISH CHURCH

Thursday 24th December
Christmas Eve - Watchnight Service
Kilmartin 11.30pm

Friday 25th December
Christmas Day - Family Service
Kilmartin 11am

Sunday 27th December
Sunday Worship
Ford 11.45 am
All welcome
SCO 02121

LIVING STONES CHRISTIAN CENTRE KILMARTIN

SUNDAY 27th December 2015
11:00am
Morning Service for all ages followed by a light lunch
SPEAKER: George Stewart
'A New Beginning'
All Welcome

Lochgilphead Baptist Church

All Welcome
Pastor Rev Derek Gibson

Friday 25th
Christmas Day Service
10.30am
"remember the reason for the season"

Sunday 27th December 2015
11.00am
Scottish Charity SC015187

St. Kieran's Scottish Episcopal Church

Argyll Street, Campbeltown
St Kieran Episcopal Church: Campbeltown
Scottish Charity No SC023277

Friday 25th December
Christmas Day
Holy Communion 10.45am

Sunday 27th December
Christmas I
Holy Communion 10.45am
Holy Communion

Details of services are on the church door.

Enquiries Tel: 01586 551141
The Scottish Episcopal Church is a Province of the Worldwide Anglican Communion



George Street, Campbeltown

Sunday 27th December
11.15am Worship Service
Rev Jeremy Middleton

Wednesday 30th December
12.30pm Bible Study and Prayer

All Welcome
www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SCO09980



Sunday 27th December
11.00 am

Family Service
"No need for a telescope at Christmas"
Refreshments after the service.

Pastor Chris Holden
We meet at the Guide Hall, Kinloch Road
www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk



Campbeltown Corps
Church and Community Centre
Registered Charity No. 214779 and in Scotland SC009359
Burnside Street, Campbeltown
01586 552046

Sunday 27th December
10.30pm Sunday Service
All welcome

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH

75 Longrow, Campbeltown

CHRISTMAS STARTS WITH CHRIST
Thursday 24th December
Christmas Eve
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 3rd January 2016
11.00am Family Communion
Service with Songs of Praise

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

For details, contact the church office on 01586 551200 or the Church Secretary on 0586 551237.
www.springbankchurch.co.uk
SCO14646

Highland Parish Church

SCO02493

Thursday 24th December
Watch night service at 11.30pm
Come along and celebrate Christmas

Sunday 27th December
The service will be in the Church at 11.15am and will be conducted by Mr K Muller

The badminton club will start again on Tuesday 5th January in Kirk Street Hall

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Sporting memories of 2015



The Mid Argyll All Stars won the male team event.

ALMOST 140 triathletes took part in the MacQueen Bros Mid Argyll Triathlon in Lochgilphead. Neal Robertson of Glasgow Tri Club was first home in a time

OCTOBER
of 1:04:15. Madeline Robinson wasn't too far behind as she won the female event in 1:15:08.



Duncan Henderson with the Camanachd Cup.
Photo, Kevin McGlynn.

AS KYLES fell to a shock Camanachd Cup final defeat at the hands of Lovat, an Argyll man was marking a 'record' of attending 59 consecutive Camanachd finals.

SEPTEMBER
Taynuilt's Duncan Henderson has been at every final tie, man and boy, since 1959.



Dolphins on the left and swimmers from Ardvreck gather for a group photo. 08_a10gala02

THE MACPool spring gala went swimmingly for the Mid Argyll Dolphins swimming club.

MARCH
Many local swimmers knocked lumps out of

their personal best times over the two-length course, competing against Ardvreck School from Crieff.



Andrew McCuish of Oban Camanachd and Inveraray's Douglas Dando in semi-final action.

Photo: Stephen Lawson

GOALS from Euan McMurdo and Lewis MacNicol saw Inveraray through to the 2015 Macaulay Cup final after a hard-fought semi-final versus Oban Camanachd.

'Aray went on to play

JULY
Newtonmore in the August final. A gallant Inveraray pushed the league champions all the way before succumbing 3-1.



The Red Star 99s squad and coaches with players who won special awards at the front. 08_a25redstar99s01

LOCHGILPHEAD Red Star signed off for the season with a 2-1 home win over Drumchapel in the under-16 league.

The club's player of the year and the play-

JUNE
ers' choice was Keiran Moore. Top goal scorer was Scott Soudan, goal of the season, Ryan

Caskie. Most improved player was Cammy Simpson.

A special award was given to Cammy Thom, as he was moving away from the area.



The Mid Argyll athletes, all smiles in the Emirates Arena.

JANUARY

SIX YOUNG athletes from Mid Argyll Athletic Club travelled to the Emirates Arena in Glasgow to take part in the national under-12s Superteams competition.

Both boys and girls competed very well, and did the local area proud.



Jilly Lefebvre was first in the 11-13 group.

NOVEMBER
MID ARGYLL Sports Centre hosted the Caledonia Kyokushin Karate tournament, primarily for juniors. Lochgilphead Kyokushin Karate Club took seven medals, and placing in every category except one.

APRIL
THE second round of the Scottish Twinshock 2015 championships was held near Lochgilphead. British championship contender John Adamson won the Members' A Monoshock race.

John Adamson (right) imperious as he laps a back marker in mid air. 06_a18motocross01



Don't miss next week's edition for more favourites from the last 12 months of Advertiser sport

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