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**Dramatic rescue off
Gigha**

See page 3

**Around the
Districts**

See pages 12 and 13

**National accolade
for MOKRUN**

See page 24

Can Alex do it again?

Back to work for the time being

See Page 3

EXCLUSIVE
by JOANNE SIMMS

editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk

HE'S done it before and he wants to do it again.

First Minister Alex Salmond, speaking in an exclusive interview with *The Campbeltown Courier* said that if he and his government fail to save the Skykon factory, it won't be for want of trying.

Negotiations are taking place behind the scenes and he has met with potential buyers.

The Courier asked the First Minister the question that

everyone in Kintyre would ask him, especially the 100-plus workforce left in the lurch at the wind turbine tower manufacturer at Machrihanish after the collapse of its Danish owners: 'Can you save the factory?'

Mr Salmond said: 'Nobody can give an absolute promise. At this stage these are difficult negotiations but I am deeply committed to this plant and I'm going to strain every sinew to save these jobs, not for the first time but for a second time. I am hopeful that it can be done.'

The First Minister added: 'I have been personally in touch with potential buyers

of the Machrihanish factory, I know the area and I think it is a great plant with a great future and a fine work force and these are great assets for a potential buyer.'

The First Minister could not reveal who the interested parties are, or their nationality but he ruled out the Chinese saying this is a major investment in a relatively short time scale; the Chinese investments in Scotland announced at the weekend are the result of negotiations begun last July.

'There is a very great urgency here, the administrators are working hard with a major customer, Siemens,

Continued on Page 2



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Anna coming into Campbeltown Harbour earlier this year to dock and load 14 wind turbine sections. 04_c14boat02

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Here for you

Campbeltown Port sees big trade increase

IT IS said every year that it has been the 'busiest year yet' for the Port of Campbeltown, and with imports and exports booming, 2010 saw an increase in trade yet again.

Already the harbour is fully booked for January, and has started taking bookings for February.

Destinations

In 2010, a total of 156 cargo ships visited the harbour, with 140,000 tonnes of timber exported to destinations within Scotland and Europe,

including Troon and Germany.

'We are expecting next year to be bigger and busier. As well as the number of visiting ships increasing since 2009, the size of the ships has also increased,' said harbour master Stephen Scally.

'Our biggest ship to record was the *Beluga*, which was 145 metres in length and 9,500 tonnes which took away 54 wind tower sections.

'Despite one of the piers being shut for six months for the concrete

to be renewed, we have still managed to put out 140,000 tonnes of timber.

Non-stop

'Our new pilot boat we got in May has been non-stop, with around 10 trips per month.

'Overall we are quite pleased about how everything went in 2010 and hopefully we will see more tankers visiting this year.' This year has started the way last year ended – pretty busy with lots of activity in and around the Port of Campbeltown.'

Can Alex do it again?

Continued from Page 1

in order to allow the plant to continue working; negotiations are ongoing and the workforce have a meeting on Wednesday,' he said.

In October 2008 Vestas announced it was closing the factory and in March the following year Alex Salmond was guest of honour when Skykon took over.

Within two years Skykon went into administration in Denmark and the Machrihanish operation followed weeks later.

'The problem had nothing to do with Machrihanish but to do with developments in Denmark over which management [in Scotland] had no control. The underlying position is that this is a tremendous asset, a tremendous amount of public and private money has been invested; the market place is going to expand in the near future and the plant has plenty of space for development,' said Mr Salmond.

Leader of Argyll and Bute Coun-

cil, Dick Walsh and Sally Loudon, chief executive, Sandy Mactaggart, director for development and infrastructure and Robert Pollock head of economic development are travelling to Edinburgh to meet with the First Minister on Wednesday.

The First Minister has always been deeply committed to renewable energy and wind energy; the factory has a good onshore order book and is ideally placed to take advantage of Campbeltown's deep-water harbour and offshore developments, he believes.

As he said at the official opening of Skykon in March 2009, Mr Salmond spent a great deal of his boyhood at Machrihanish and has an abiding love for the place.

'I am deeply committed to this project, this industry and this area. I had many, many happy times at Machrihanish and I really hope I can come back and see the factory saved under a new owner.'

Card skimming device found on bank card machine

CAMPBELTOWN'S residents are being urged to be extra vigilant after a card-skimming device was found on a cash machine in the town.

Police have issued the warning for anyone to report any suspicious activity to them.

Fixing

Two men were seen driving into the town and fixing an article to an ATM machine at the Bank of Scotland on Longrow South.

The device was detected in the early hours of December 30, and was seized by police 'relatively quickly'.

Police are also keen to speak to a woman who was in the area at around 6am. She was seen walking past the Ceann Loch Diner on Bolgam Street and onto Burnbank Street towards the garage.

Police think she may have seen the men or the car they were driving.

Inspector Tom Harper of Strathclyde Police asked members of the public to be extra vigilant and to report anything untoward to the bank and police.

Unusual

He said it is unusual for something like this to happen in the area, as it is more common in cities.

To report any information contact Campbeltown Police Station on 01586 862200.

Back to work for the time being!

WORKERS at Skykon were given the welcome news on Wednesday that work would begin again the following day with wage arrears met.

Joint administrators Andrew Davison and Colin Dempster of Ernst and Young have agreed a deal with global engineering services company Siemens that saw production resume at Skykon Campbeltown Ltd.

Staff at the Machrihanish-based company were informed of the breakthrough at a meeting with the administrators on Wednesday morning. It was confirmed that all 130 employees will return to work and wage arrears will be met.

The news came as a relief to everyone at the factory, Unite shop steward Jimmy McCallum told *The Courier*.

'It gives us time so that a buyer can come and have a look at a working factory. It is far better if they see work in progress rather than a place that's closed. Hopefully we can keep going on this contract and we can get more orders in.'

The agreement sees Siemens provide short-term funding for an

outstanding order of 30 wind turbine towers – already in situ at Skykon Campbeltown – destined for the Clyde wind farm near Abington, South Lanarkshire.

Andrew Davison, joint administrator, said: 'We were mindful of the uncertainty facing staff at the Campbeltown facility and are therefore pleased to have concluded this arrangement in such a short timescale.'

The administrators are continuing to work through expressions of interest in the site and are currently providing further information to interested parties.

'We are encouraged by this latest development, though the desirable outcome remains the successful sale of the facility,' added Mr Davison.

'We look forward to working closely with Siemens in fulfilling the order.'

Skykon Campbeltown Ltd was placed into administration after its Danish parent company, Skykon, filed for bankruptcy. Skykon had purchased the Machrihanish plant from previous owner Vestas in 2009.



The Royal Navy search and rescue helicopter takes Sean on board for the flight to hospital. Photograph courtesy of Hannah O'Hanlon.

Young fisherman in dramatic sea rescue off Gigha

A YOUNG FISHERMAN is in hospital fighting to recover after a remarkable rescue from the sea.

His family and a small army of friends on his Facebook page are all willing on dad-to-be Sean Taylor, aged 21, from Tarbert, every step of the way.

He was pulled over the side by an automatic creel shooter while fishing for crab on the *Blue Angel* off Gigha on Thursday. It has been estimated that Sean was under the bitterly cold water for eight minutes, at a depth of up to 50 metres.

The skipper Mark Sheldrick cut the gear ropes and got Sean back on board, made a Mayday call and the emergency services swung into action.

Clyde Coastguard organised a direct radio link with a doctor to advise Mark as he worked to keep Sean alive and the boat headed to Tayinloan Pier; the Royal Navy's search and rescue helicopter 177 was scrambled from HMS Gannet, Prestwick.

Police and local coastguard teams went to Tayinloan Pier and the ferry for the Isle of Gigha cleared her berth at Tayinloan and stood off while the rescue took place.

Plucked from the boat by a helicopter

winch man, Sean was flown to Crosshouse Hospital in Kilmarnock.

When he arrived Sean's condition was described as 'critical' he was placed on a ventilator and his family and partner Natasha MacNaughton were called for.

Doctors said he would have died but for the fact that his body all but shut down because the sea was freezing cold. And Sean has proved to be a fighter.

Monitoring

Speaking at the time of the accident chief inspector Marlene Bailie said: 'We are monitoring his condition closely. He is still in hospital and his condition is critical; his family are there with him.'

Slowly but surely his condition has been improving and by the time *The Campbeltown Courier* went to press, the hospital was saying Sean's condition was 'still serious but stable'. Sean and Natasha MacNaughton are expecting a baby soon and just about to move into their first home in Tarbert. Friends of the couple are sending messages of support via Facebook, best summed up by one of them: 'yer doin braw big fla. stick at it.'

VisitScotland says thanks to Shirley for 25 year's service

FROM day to day you never know what you will be asked in a tourist information office, but this is one of things Shirley Bannatyne still enjoys about her job.

Shirley has been working in the office at the Old Quay, Campbeltown for 25 years and during her time has seen many changes.

Shirley began working at the VisitScotland office on January 6, 1986, and has seen the company's name change four times, and her uniform change at least four times to keep up with the times.

Shirley told *The Courier* that she wouldn't still be doing her job if she didn't enjoy it. She said: 'You just don't know what your next question will be, it's just such a pleasure. It's nice to see the same people year after year, some

people have been coming here for years.

VisitScotland Chief Executive Malcolm Roughead said: 'VisitScotland would like to take this opportunity say a huge thank you to Shirley for her dedication, we are lucky to have such hard-working and dedicated staff representing tourism in every corner of Scotland.'



Jan MacDonald (left) with colleague Shirley Bannatyne 04_c02info01

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CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

KINTYRE 2010

Nominations are invited for the recognition of good citizenship in Kintyre.

YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR

The Norman and Phyllis Milne Fund will award a trophy and £200 to the most promising young musician of the year 2010.

Applications by letter in an envelope marked 'Young Musician'

are invited from young musicians in secondary education in South Kintyre or from other persons on their behalf stating name, address, date of birth, telephone number and musical experience.

Nomination forms are available at Keiths Newsagents, Main Street or by letter.

Application and nominations for both of the above should be forwarded in confidence to:

The Secretary
Rotary Club of Campbeltown
Argyll Arms Hotel
Campbeltown.

To be received by 5th February 2011.

Campbeltown Sheriff Court

999 call leads to drink drive ban**Tip-off to police ends in a trial**

A CAMPBELTOWN man dialled 999 when he saw a drunk driver outside his mother's home.

Then as he walked to his own home, he was able to point out the car and driver to police officers who had begun a search.

These actions led to 28-year-old Tomas Urbietis standing trial at the town's sheriff court on Thursday last week.

Denied

Urbietis, whose address was given in court as Dunalastair, Port Righ, Carradale, denied drink-driving on Crosshill Avenue and Meadows Avenue, Campbeltown, on July 25 last year and also failing to co-operate with a preliminary breath test.

The court heard how

Urbietis had been at a house with friends on Crosshill Avenue and he and the householder had been involved in an altercation with the man who made the phone call to the police.

Urbietis' defence agent, Jim McKeown, challenged the man in court, saying he had made the phone call to 'try to get Mr Urbietis into trouble because of some other incident'.

The man denied this but did admit that he too had been drinking, even though the court heard a tape of his 999 call telling a police operator he was 'stone cold sober'.

Police officers told the court that once alerted they were out on patrol, came across the car and were also flagged down

by the man. The car was parked and Urbietis and his then girlfriend were out of the vehicle; he on the driver's side, she by the passenger door.

Breath test

When asked to take the preliminary roadside breath test he had failed to blow long enough for a reading but at the police station he had co-operated and been able to complete a breath test that showed a reading of 88; the legal limit is 33.

Urbietis, a Lithuanian national, told the court he had been to the birthday party of a friend's child; from there a group had gone on to a bar in the town centre and returned to the house in Crosshill Avenue for drinks.

He said he had not been drinking earlier in

the evening. On arrival at Crosshill the argument had taken place and threats had been made to vandalise his car so he had driven it to Meadows Avenue and returned to the party and only then did he drink.

He and his girlfriend had argued, she had gone to sit in his car and he had joined her. They sat and listened to music with her in the driver's seat and the car engine running to keep warm.

Deferred

Sheriff Peter Grant-Hutchison found Urbietis guilty of drink driving and failing to co-operate with the breath test and not guilty of driving without insurance. He was fined a total of £300 and banned from driving for 18 months.

**Campbeltown girls skydive for charity**

Lorraine Thomas and Elaine Harvey of Campbeltown now have all the sponsorship money collected in from their skydive in aid of Ronald McDonald House at Yorkhill Children's Hospital, Glasgow, in memory of Ross Daniel Harvey. Elaine said: 'We would like to thank everyone who sponsored us and helped us raise a grand total of £3,800.' The brave duo are seen here with Kev and Rab, their instructors whom they would also like to thank for safe and enjoyable journey back down to land.

Bite woman placed on probation

A YOUNG Campbeltown woman was placed on probation for 12 months after assaulting a woman by biting her on the face.

Jean Townsley of 12 Glenside, Campbeltown admitted the offence which took place on January 19 last year, when she also pulled the victim by the hair, all to her injury, at an address on Longrow, Campbeltown.

The 24-year-old also

pleaded guilty to assaulting another woman by pushing her on the body, repeatedly slapping and punching her on the face and forcing her onto the ground at an address on Lady Mary Row, Campbeltown on August 1, 2010.

Argument

Depute procurator fiscal Rebecca Hoskins told the court on January 19 the accused attended at the witnesses' address and consumed alcohol

and at around 4am an argument took place between them.

'The two women began to fight and the accused pulled the complainer's hair. They stopped fighting and the complainer went to sit down; the accused lunged at her and bit her on the cheek.'

Sheriff Peter Grant-Hutchison placed Townsley on probation for 12 months for each offence, which will run at the same time.

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Jayden arrives as air ambulance lands

WITH three ladies due to give birth on January 2 in Campbeltown, it was a question of who would have their baby first.

But Jayden Maguire beat the rest to it and

arrived at 10.45pm on January 4 weighing 8lb 7oz.

Delighted parents Heather McKinnon and Campbell Maguire told *The Courier* that they had always planned to

have Jayden in Campbeltown. An air ambulance was called for in case of difficulties but just as it landed, Heather gave birth.

Big sister Dion, aged four, was also born in

Campbeltown with an air ambulance also called in.

'We knew it was a boy we were having and we'd always planned to have him in Campbeltown. We had to have the air ambulance for both children, but both were born just as the air ambulance landed,' said dad Campbell.

The family would like to thank all the staff at Campbeltown Hospital, especially Isabel Cook, for the safe arrival of Jayden.

'The hospital staff were great and we were well looked after by the nurses,' said Heather, who is a nursery teacher at Riverside Rascals in Lochgilphead.



Jayden with his proud big sister Dion. 04_c02baby02



Mum Heather with baby Jayden, dad Campbell and big sister Dion.

04_c02baby01



Eileen meets Justin at Slimming World event

CAMPBELTOWN'S Eileen Foley got the chance to cuddle up to a well-known comedian at Slimming World's annual awards ceremony recently.

Eileen, who manages groups in Campbeltown, was thrilled to meet Justin Lee Collins at the glitzy event in Birmingham recently to celebrate Slimming World's most successful slimmers.

Eileen said that meeting the comedian and TV presenter was the perfect ending to what's been another amazing year for Slimming World.

'At this time of year lots of people will be pledging to slim down and shape up, and we'd love anyone who wants to make their New Year's resolution a reality to come join us. Even if they've struggled to stick to resolutions in the past, there's no need to be put off.'

Eileen Foley from Campbeltown with comedian and TV presented Justin Lee Collins.

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Coming to the White Hart Hotel,
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Planning your retirement

IF YOU'RE planning ahead for your retirement, you'll be more than aware that there's more to think about than just your leaving party.

Everything from getting the most out of your pension to how you'll spend all the extra spare time you'll have will be running through your mind - never mind where you'll go for your first retirement holiday!

Thankfully, whatever it is you seek, there are options aplenty.

Given the current economic climate, your most pressing concern is bound to be money. Pensions aren't exactly what they were and you may be thinking about revamping your finances to make life a little more comfortable.

But before you take a leap of faith, it's worth consulting the experts at Oban chartered accounts, R A Clements. They'll guide you through the pros and cons of the available options and help you squeeze every ounce of benefit from your assets.

Thankfully, they also have offices in Lochgilphead, Fort William and on Mull - so you won't have to venture too far to sort out your finances.

Once that's sorted out, you can start thinking about the fun stuff - what are you to do with your time?

What about keeping fit? Work is no longer an obstacle to getting down to the gym, so now would be the perfect time to give it a go. Energie Fitness, at Lochavullin Road, offer training programmes to suit all, including a personalised plan to get you moving at your own pace.

And because they offer a money back guarantee if you don't see positive results within six weeks, there's no reason not to give it a go.

If your body has been battered enough in your working life though, you may prefer some cerebral training. The University of the Third Age, then, should be your first port of call.

Not strictly a university by modern definition, the U3A is for those that are retired or who work part time and who are free during the day to take part in a variety of interests and

activities in informal, friendly surroundings.

The Oban branch meets at the Caledonian Hotel, Station Square, on the first Tuesday of every month at 10.30am and is the ideal starting point for anyone looking to get involved.

There are, of course, some good causes you may wish to invest your time in. Argyll and Bute Befrienders matches volunteers with children who find themselves in vulnerable positions. Put simply, the service puts volunteers together with children requiring care, with the focus on having fun and providing good, emotional support.

Homestart is another charity that looks for volunteers, this time those with parenting experience, to help families as a whole.

Volunteers effectively give parents a shoulder to lean on, helping keep families together when times are tough. Your time could make a world of difference to someone who just needs a helping hand.

Mind you, now is also the time you might be needing a wee helping hand yourself.

By the time you reach retirement age, you may find your eyesight is starting to falter. With that in mind, it would be wise to take a trip to Wallace Optometrists in either Oban or Lochgilphead at least once a year for an eye examination. All eye tests in Scotland are paid for by the Scottish Government, so it won't cost you a penny. If you do require glasses, you can rest assured that Wallace Optometrists offer highest quality Kodak lenses to match their unrivalled level of service.

Another reality of old age is that you may find making repairs and installing new appliances etcetera to your home can become more difficult. Again, there's no need to worry as Argyll and Bute Care and Repair are there to help. Their assistance is just a phone call away, so give them a call and see what they can do for you.

With all this to consider and more, you'll have your work cut out trying to simply sit down and enjoy a hot cup of coffee!



At R A Clement Associates our staff have spent many years advising clients on their best options for a happy retirement.

If you need some guidance through the maze of different possibilities, we can help you too. Just phone us to make an appointment.

Call us now on **01631 562 643** and take the hassle out of your retirement planning.

It is never too soon to think about retirement - and it is probably not too late either!

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R A Clement Associates

We all hope that our standard of living will remain the same when we retire. To achieve this aim you need expert advice and forward planning. At R A Clement Associates we have experienced staff available to advise you on all aspects of retirement. We tailor our advice to suit each, individual client. For example, we can outline the various pension possibilities available to you and help you to decide which one would best suit your circumstances. For those of you running your own business you may want to start planning an exit strategy so that you can look forward to retiring when it best suits.

The draft 2011 finance bill will change pension legislation giving some savers more flexibility with their retirement money. The existing rules which oblige people to buy an annuity from an insurance company by the age of 75 will end in April 2011. There is also a reduction to the annual amount which people can add to their pension fund tax free.

If you want to know how this will affect you, or if you have any other retirement questions, please call us on (01631) 562643. We have friendly staff who are eager to help.

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CARE & REPAIR**

- Small repairs to your home such as changing a light bulb, installing security chains, flatpack assembly and minor decorating.
- Applying for grants to enable you to remain in your own home

For more information please contact _____
120 George Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NT
Tel: 01631 567780 Fax: 01631 567486 Scottish Charity No SCO033875



Argyll & Bute Care & Repair

Argyll & Bute Care & Repair is a charity that helps the over sixties and/or disabled to remain in their own homes. The range of services offered includes free help with organising major renovations to adapt a home to suit an occupant's needs, to carrying out small safety works such as replacing alarm batteries, lightbulbs, etc.

Contemplating major changes at home can be daunting, but our Care & Repair Officers are there to help throughout the process. They can guide clients through drawing up designs, applying for grants, dealing with planning and building control, obtaining estimates and finding a contractor to carry out the work.

We also employ six Housing Support Officers who can carry out minor/small repairs that can make life so much better, for example changing tap washers, erecting a shelf, small plastering jobs, etc, for which a small charge is made.

We work closely with Argyll & Bute Council, NHS and the emergency services amongst others and cover the whole of Argyll & Bute, with staff living within the communities they help. To find out more about Argyll & Bute Care & Repair's services please contact the Oban office, 120 George Street, telephone 01631 567780.

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We are looking for volunteers to visit families all over Argyll.

Sometimes simply being a friend can make all the difference.

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CALL
01586 551140 for Kintyre, Islay, Jura, Mid Argyll, Cowal & Bute
or 01631 566749 for the Oban area.

Home-Start

Home-Start is the UK's leading family support charity. We support thousands of parents who are struggling to cope. Our families need support for many reasons including post-natal illness, disability, bereavement, the illness of a parent or child, or social isolation.

Home-Start is looking for volunteers to visit families all over Argyll. Real people with real parenting experience can make a real difference to families struggling to cope.

Even if you only have a few hours a week to spare we would love to hear from you.

Home-Start provides support, friendship and practical help to families, helping to provide the best possible start for their children.

We don't need super nannies, we need real people like you.

Training is provided together with any expenses.

For further information about Home-Start services in - Kintyre, Islay, Jura, Mid Argyll Cowal and Bute call 01586 551140

Oban Area call 01631 566749



Thinking of trying on your dancing shoes?

FOR DETAILS OF A SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLASS NEAR YOU, CONTACT SUE PORTER ON **01631 563103**



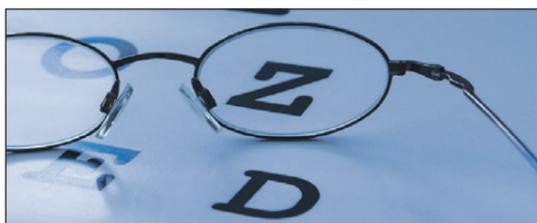
Scottish Country Dancing

You'd like to keep fit and active but want something more than that. An enjoyable evening out and the opportunity to make new friends? That's exactly what Scottish country dancing offers.

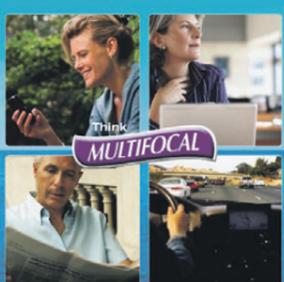
So forget any preconceived ideas you might have and give it a try. The enjoyment and friendship you'll experience for yourself when you join any one of the many clubs that meet throughout the week in the Oban area. Don't worry if you've got two left feet, we'll find the missing right one - we'll even find you a partner if you need one!

As for proof of the fitness benefits then look no further than the recent study carried out by the Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences. To quote the study 'Not only is country dancing enjoyable and sociable but there also appears to be clear evidence that it's an effective recreational exercise for particular types of fitness in later life.'

So what are you waiting for? The Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society Lorn Branch meets in Oban each Monday night. All abilities of dancers, including beginners, will be made welcome. If you'd like to know more contact Sue Porter at 01631 563103.



Struggling with small print?



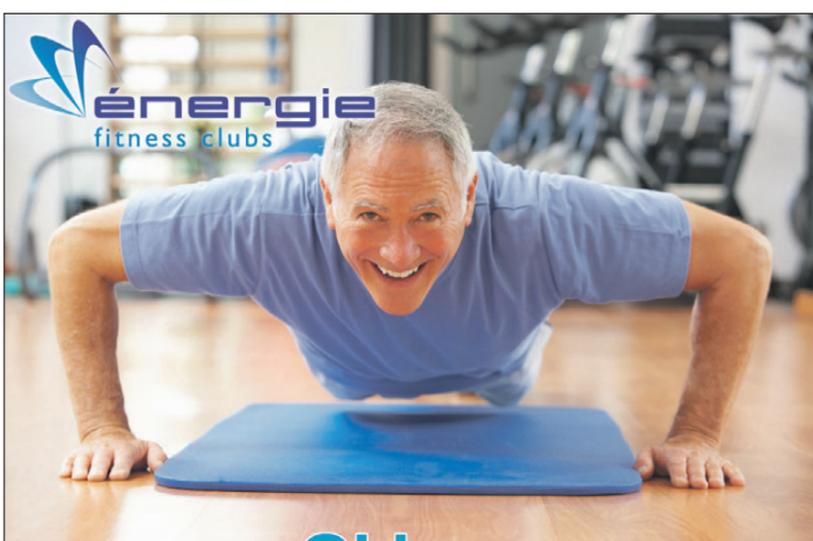
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ITS NEVER TOO LATE TOO EXERCISE!

As we journey through life, it's great to become older and wiser but why not also become fitter into the bargain?

Life can be a tough and lonely old business but here at Energie Fitness, we are committed to empowering you to transform your life for the better. There is a lot of research that tells us that the benefits to our health by starting to become more active are as high in our 50's, 60's and 70's as they are in earlier years. Of course, we are not trying to turn you into Olympic athletes, but it is nice to know your improvement gains achieved can be substantial.

Did you know that during the daytime it is much quieter and that we have specific studio classes designed for the over 55's? We have around 40 classes per week, many during the day, including Hatha Yoga, Pilates and BodyBalance all of which involve great stretching and postural strength exercises.

At Energie Fitness, we have a passion for amazing results and we can help you achieve the goals that you desire. It is important as we get older, especially for women, that we exercise our bones through resistance training to combat the effects of osteoporosis and we can offer you a tailor made programme guaranteed to bring you results.

Come and enjoy the comfortable atmosphere of the club and meet our highly qualified team who really do care about your exercise experience.

Clear Vision in Retirement By John Wallace

With the prospect of thirty or forty years of life left to enjoy retirement clear healthy eyesight is very important. With many retirees being as active in their retirement as they were when working vision correction solutions must take your lifestyle into account.

Perhaps you would be better with varifocals for general use and a separate pair of glasses purpose designed for your particular leisure activity. Contact lenses might be a better alternative if you participate in outdoor sports. Whatever your vision requirements Wallace Optometrists can offer you a fully customised solution.

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11/12 Argyll Square
Oban
Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES)
www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk



We have many daytime interest groups run by our enthusiastic members.

To find out more come to our friendly monthly meeting on the 1st Tuesday of every month in the Caledonian Hotel, Oban or consult our website www.u3ascotland.org.uk and follow the Oban link.



Some members of Oban U3A Geology Group enjoying a trip to Luing last Summer.

Oban U3A

The U3A is a national organisation for those who are retired or who work part time and who are free during the day to take part in a variety of interests and activities in informal, friendly surroundings. Each local group is independent and the activities are set up and run by its members based on their interests.

Oban U3A started in 2008. We now have more than 90 members and 13 interest groups. The current groups are: German, French Conversation, Scottish History, Craft Group, Reading Groups, Choreographed Ballroom Dancing, Playing the Recorder, Walk and Lunch, Personal Memories/Creative Writing, Geology, Poetry Reading, Jazz Appreciation, Beginners Bridge.

There is an informal open meeting on the first Tuesday of every month at 10.30am in the Caledonian Hotel, Station Square, Oban. This is our monthly meeting; we chat and get to know one another over a cup of coffee. This is where we share information about interest groups, excursions, and talk about future plans. If you would like to know more about our U3A please come along to one of these Tuesday meetings - you will be made very welcome or visit www.u3ascotland.org.uk and follow the Oban link.

Befrienders
Because children's lives are never just black and white

Are you retired with some time to spare?
We would value your life experience.

Please contact Cathi Bertin
01546 603144
cathibertin@btconnect.com
PO BOX 9576,
Lochgilphead, PA31 9BB




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www.facebook.com/argyllshireadvertiser

Befrienders

Befrienders offers a one to one befriending service to vulnerable children and young people living throughout Argyll and Bute.

We are looking for more adult volunteers in your area.

As a volunteer befriender you would be matched with a child or young person within your own local area, this matching process is crucial to the success of your friendship so we would have in depth discussions with you prior to making a decision.

Our current befrienders come from a wide age range and also different backgrounds, some are parents and grandparents, and some are not.

The emphasis of befriending is about the quality and supportive nature of the friendship which develops between the child and their befriender, not about expensive treats and outings. (although we do pay volunteer expenses if you do go on trips out)

If you enjoy the company of children then do give us a ring and have a chat. Thank you.

Those Were The Days

Campbeltown Courier
Friday 11 January, 2006

Ferry campaigners fight on

FERRY campaigners in Campbeltown have pledged to fight on in their bid to restart the town's Irish ferry link.

In spite of the news earlier in the week that none of the four short listed companies was prepared to tender, a company headed by a Campbeltown man has said it could have the service up and running by Easter if the Scottish Government is prepared to offer the contract.

It was announced on Tuesday that Harrison's (Clyde) Ltd, Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, Serco Denholm and Western Ferries had all declined to submit an official bid, despite being selected as the Scottish Executive's preferred bidders for the route in September.

Problems with obtaining a suitable vessel and worries that a £1 million annual subsidy would not be enough to ensure the route would break even are believed to be behind the decisions not to tender.

James Robertson, managing director of newly formed Dalriada Shipping, a company set up specifically to operate a route between Campbeltown and Ballycastle, claimed that he could have the service up and running by Easter.

Kintyre group celebrates transatlantic radio

PEOPLE throughout Kintyre marked the 100th anniversary of a historical broadcast this week that saw the first ever two-way transatlantic radio communication between Machrihanish and North America.

Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Shedden



WE were in Glenbarr woods and it was a winter wonderland indeed!

The snow wrapped itself round every branch and twig and the trees reflected on the frozen river below. It was beautiful!

One of the things I love is the silence, the stillness, the softness in the air when it snows. There is a magical feel about it and we can all become children again in the whiteness.

I was also amazed at how much light it gave, as the white blanket, which covered the fields, seemed to banish the darkness of night.

Dunaverty Golf Course was adorned in the same white blanket and little icicles clung to the burn at the end of the 17th fairway. Maybe I should play the course now and my ball, which inevitably finds its way into that burn, might just bounce out again on the ice!

There wasn't a single footprint in the snow and I didn't want to spoil it. The sun created mini starbursts and with snow-covered Sanda and Sheep Island in the background, the whole scene made the perfect photograph.

I looked at my solitary footprints and the marks they made. Did they spoil perfection, or did they represent life? Did their path have a purpose or were they just meandering through life? As I looked at them, I wondered what footprints we leave throughout our lives.

A short distance away is the footprint of Saint Columba. On top of a wee hill this footprint overlooks the small graveyard where other faithful saints from our own community are at rest.

Like Columba, they have followed in the footsteps of the one who is The Way and have found how, in his company, they too could banish the darkness of night.

There are some footprints worth following.



Down Memory Lane

This week's Down Memory Lane photograph comes from Drumlembie, by way of Merseyside, thanks to David McMillan, of St Helens. David writes: 'The team is Drumlembie Amateurs, it was taken around 1959-60. My father, William McMillan, who was the manager, is on the left wearing the tartan shirt. Back row, left to right: William McMillan (manager) H Fairley, D Graham, W Brown, B Clark, M McKay, A Brown, J McKrank, A McKerral (coach) Front row, left to right: N Martin, A Greenlees, R Scott, B McMurchy, W McKinven.' Keep those old sporting photographs coming please!

The system stinks!

Sir,
I am writing this letter to try and see if anyone can give me an answer to why some people can get a rent rebate and others can't.

The reason for this question is that I have been trying to get a rent rebate since March 2010 and tried again in June 2010 and it is now 2011 and heard nothing.

Oh, sorry! I got a letter saying 'no' in November 2010, but I wrote a letter appealing against the decision on November 27 and I am still waiting to hear. What I can't understand is that it has taken this long for me and yet some people hear within a couple of weeks.

I think that this is beyond a joke!

The trouble with this town is that if your face fits then you seem to get everything that's going!

I am on a low wage and pay full rent. No wonder

Letters to the Editor

Main and Longrow South,
Campbeltown,
Argyll
PA28 6AE

Telephone: 01586 554646
Fax: 01586 553006
E-mail: editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk

people would rather stay on the dole than go to work; they say you are better off going to work. Well, believe me you are not, you are worse off, thanks to all this fighting to get a rebate.

I am thinking of giving up a job I love and I am sick and tired of trying to better myself.

All I can say is that the system is one big joke, so anyone thinking of coming off the dole to start work: take a long hard think and make sure you are going to be better off working, because believe me, it is not worth it unless you are getting a really good wage.

If I knew then what I know now, I would not have started work and stayed on the dole as I was better off.

Like a said before: the system thinks and is one big fat joke.

Wilma Campbell,
Campbeltown.

Back street farmers' market

Sir,
As a regular customer of the Argyll Farmers' Market I am wondering why it is subjected to a muddy back street car park.

Farmers' Markets are popular everywhere else in the country and are seen as a good thing by every sensible person.

Most English villages close off their main streets to markets of all descriptions at least once a week and the atmosphere they create is generally a positive one

and they bring business into the town centre.

Just who is deciding on behalf of the customer to keep the Farmers' Market out of the town centre in Campbeltown and how can we override them?

Anne Norrie,
Balegreggan House,
Balegreggan Road,
Campbeltown.

Make Robin Hood proud

Sir,
I know we are in difficult economic times. But there is one easy decision that could spare a lot of the 'tough ones'.

A tax on the banks could raise £20 billion in the UK to help those hit by the financial crisis in this country and around the world.

For every cut I hear the government announce I keep asking: could a tax on the banks have paid for that?

The situation we find ourselves in started in the financial sector and we spent £1.4 trillion bailing them out.

We are all paying for a party we weren't quite invited to. I want to see my MP and leaders start fighting for a tax that would make Robin Hood proud.

James Mcsporrnan,
18 Dewar Avenue,
Lochgilhead.

Decision welcomed

Sir
I welcome Argyll and Bute Council's decision to abandon the consultation process on school closures and to go back to the drawing board.

However it is important to remember that the main cause of the council's financial problems is the decision by the SNP Government that Argyll and Bute Council should be the victim of the biggest cut in grant of any council in Scotland.

The SNP are cutting Argyll and Bute's grant for next year by £5,500,000 more than the Scottish average. To give an idea of the scale of this loss of income, closing all the 26 schools on the council's original hit list would have saved £2,000,000 a year.

I find it astonishing that Mike Russell and Jim Mather are in agreement with this cut. Mr Russell's response was to hand the council a secret list of eight to nine schools he thought they should close.

If Mr Russell had not interfered in Argyll and Bute in order to boost his chances of re-election to the Scottish Parliament, he could, in his role as Education Minister, have saved as many of our schools as he wanted, because he would have been the final court of appeal.

Mr Russell, Mr Mather and their SNP colleagues are responsible for slashing public expenditure in Argyll and Bute. On behalf of the people of Argyll and Bute, I appeal to them to think again and give us our £5,500,000 back.

Alan Reid MP,
Argyll and Bute

press policy

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

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to the Senior Reporter, *The Campbeltown Courier*, Main and Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6AE, giving your daytime telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

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The views expressed in *The Campbeltown Courier* are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

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 Campbeltown Courier*, Main and Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6AE. Fax (01586) 553006.

email editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk
E-mailed letters can only be considered if they have a name, full address and telephone number.

Autism in Argyll

Talking to 'anyone who will listen' two Argyll women tell Edel Kenealy how they bring advice, help and support to people affected by autism in some of the most isolated parts of the country

FRIGHTENED, relieved, shocked, all emotions that a parent may feel when their child has been diagnosed with autism or Aspergers syndrome.

But for the last ten years one organisation has been helping Argyll parents deal with those emotions - Autism Argyll.

At the helm of this organisation are two mothers with family members on the autism spectrum - Autism Argyll coordinator Maureen Macintosh and chairwoman Alison Leask.

A lifelong neuro-developmental disorder - people with autism have trouble with communication, social skills and relationships.

'I just wanted to find out more about this condition,' Maureen says, remembering when her son was diagnosed with autism, aged four. 'I thought I want to help him, to be as equipped and as prepared as possible.'

'I was the same,' said Alison, when a family member was diagnosed as having Aspergers Syndrome.

Combined

This combined will to learn more about autism resulted in a meeting between the pair at an event in May 2000. That August Autism Argyll was born.

Together with seven other parents Alison, from Campbeltown and Maureen, from Lochgilphead, joined forces to support those living and working with people on the autism spectrum within Argyll and Bute.

From the nine parents who founded the initial support group, a charity has grown which boasts a membership of 158, a third of which is made up of professionals.

In the last 10 years, having given up work,

gone to university, trained, studied and achieved post graduate certificates and a Masters qualification in Autism - the Autism Argyll dynamic duo is a force to be reckoned with.

As chair of the organisation Alison has been involved in a number of national initiatives including The Autism Toolbox, an autism resource distributed to

every school across Scotland, and SIGN 98, the National Clinical Guideline providing recommendations for a wide range of professionals on assessment and intervention for children with autism spectrum disorders.

Alison is also a member of the Scottish Government external ASD Reference Group.

And world-renowned

speakers such as Professor Tony Atwood, Wendy Lawson and Ross Blackburn have all visited Argyll upon the invitation of the charity.

The Autism Argyll resource booklet, produced for parents whose child has recently been diagnosed with Autism,

was also adopted nationally and rolled out across Scotland in 2006.

The pair continue to provide awareness and education workshops across Argyll and Bute with the impact having a lasting effect on parents and professionals alike.

Tricia Grey, a local area coordinator who works with people on the autism spectrum, said: 'It is good to have the support of a local group with a national outlook and who appreciate the role of local area co-ordinators.'

'The challenging behaviour training days led to a lot of follow on discussion with families. Because the families felt that others were experiencing difficulties it made by job easier.'

Teacher Anne Brown, who became a member of Autism Argyll in 2003, said the organisa-

tion 'allows people to discuss openly and confidently some very difficult issues.'

Looking ahead to the next decade of Autism Argyll adult services is a priority for Alison and Maureen.

Diagnosis

'Many adults, some as old as 50, are now getting a diagnosis of being on the autism spectrum but what is out there for them - very little at the minute,' said Alison.

'What has been highlighted in our most recent series of workshops is the significant difficulties for adults across the authority, particularly those without a learning disability, in accessing appropriate services in health, support services, employment and housing.'

Maureen added: 'It is true that parents never stop worrying about their children no matter how old they are but that is even more true for parents of autistic children. They will always need someone to interpret the world for them even if they are capable in other ways. Negotiating the social world is very difficult for them.'

'Someone once told me professionals are sprinters and parents are marathon runners - we are here to help parents on the journey, to equip them with all the knowledge and tools available to ensure that both they and their child get the most out of life.'

For more information on Autism Argyll log on to www.autismargyll.co.uk



Autism Argyll committee members celebrate their 10-year anniversary with a special cake.

t41autism01



(L-R) Autism Argyll chairwoman Alison Leask and co-ordinator Maureen Macintosh. 04_c18aut01

GRADUATIONS



Iain MacLugash recently graduated with an MSc in Actuarial Science with distinction at Heriot-Watt University. Iain is now a student member of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries and is working in York. Iain is the grandson of Duncan and Ann Hendry, Inveraray and the late John and Dolina MacLugash, Hillview Ardrishaig



Jenna Samborek graduated from the University of Dundee with a degree of Bachelor of Nursing (Child Nursing). Jenna is the Granddaughter of Mr and Mrs Alexander Samborek, Lochgilphead and the late Dr D Lamont and Anne McNab, Ardrishaig

Please note that insertions for graduations and wedding photographs must be submitted no later than Friday 4pm for publication the following week

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Peter takes on the challenge of a lifetime

TAKING on a challenge of a lifetime next month, Campbeltown's Peter Graham, is aiming to raise £4,000 for charity.

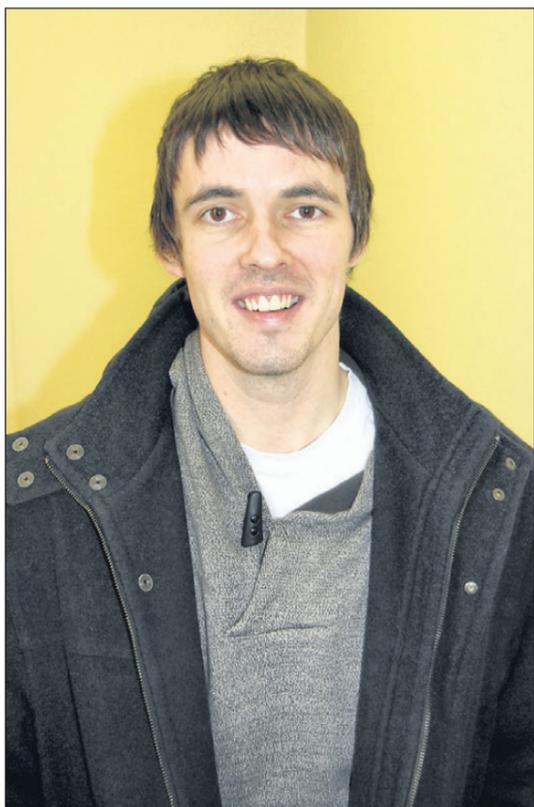
Not satisfied with your usual fundraising events, Peter wanted something prolonged, and both physically and mentally challenging to push himself to the limits.

On February 21, Peter, along with around 30 others from the across the UK, will climb Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest freestanding mountain in the world, to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Organised

Peter has organised a comedy night in Campbeltown at the end of the month to try to boost his fundraising, and as well as this will be putting sponsor sheets in various shops in the centre of the town.

Peter, who went to Dalintober Primary School and Campbeltown Grammar School, said: 'I've never done anything like this before, and just fancied a prolonged challenge. I signed up for it in July and will be trying



Campbeltown's Peter Graham will be taking part in the trek of his life to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care. 04_c01peter01

to get as much training in over the next few weeks. The challenge will last 10 days.'

Well-known comedians from Glasgow will entertain on January 29 at Campbeltown Grammar

School; there will also be a raffle with the chance to win hotel packages and football stadium tours.

Tickets for the night are available at AP Taylors, Main Street, Campbeltown.

Stand up comedy show comes to Campbeltown

HOT ON the heels of the comedy event organised by Peter Graham on January 27 comes another hosted by Choose Life timed to mark Breathing Space Day. Breathing Space is Scotland's National Helpline providing a listening ear to anyone struggling with any of life's challenges.

Once a year around February 1, it invites people to take a bit of 'breathing space' and do something that makes them feel good.

What better way to lift your spirits than to have a good laugh, especially at this time of year when its dark, cold and all the fun of Christmas seems a long time ago.

People are invited to come along to the White Hart Hotel on Friday February 4 where an intimate can-

dle lit comedy club is being created to host three hilarious Glasgow based comedians who have honed their craft across the country, on TV and radio as well as stand up who will be offering their own unique perspectives on life and wellbeing.

Compere for the evening is Susan Morrison, described as 'the Glaswegian wit for whom the word feisty was invented'.

Credited

Bruce Morton is credited as one of the founders of the Scottish Stand up scene with headline act Gary Little with his performance being described as 'punchy, perceptive and puerile'.

All proceeds from the night going to Campbeltown Young Farmers group and the recently launched Gatepost

service, a listening and support service for the agricultural community provided by RSABI. As well as great comedy, there is a buffet provided in the ticket price.

Some great prizes will be up for grabs in a raffle that will benefit Homestart too.

The evening is also supported by The Co-Operative. This is going to be a fantastic night out and a bit of light relief at what can feel like a bit of a bleak time of year.

For tickets contact Tracy Preece on 07748 740939 or tracy.preece@nhs.net.

Kintyre Piping Society concert and ceilidh

A CONCERT and ceilidh, organised by Kintyre Piping Society, will be taking place in the Victoria Hall next weekend.

The event will feature the Grade One Inveraray and District Pipe Band and the Kinloch Ceilidh Band, ably supported by Kintyre Schools Pipe Band.

The Inveraray Piping Project was created in 2003, with the Inveraray Pipe Band formed in 2005.

Since then it has worked its way up through the different grades.

Placed

In 2008 the band was placed in every major competition entered starting with a second place at the Scottish Championships and winning the British, European, World and Cowal Titles at Juvenile Grade.

In 2009 the band did slightly better seeing them complete

a remarkable clean sweep in all the majors at Grade 2 also winning the Champion of Champions in both piping and drumming.

Fantastic year

This was followed by another fantastic year with the newly promoted band finishing in the top ten at every major competition, a real credit to the commitment and dedication of a very young band led by the mercurial PM Stuart Liddell.

Talented

In 2010 the band also included three talented pipers from Campbeltown Julie Blue, Fiona Mitchell and Sarah Muir.

The Novice Juvenile band was also to the fore being placed in numerous competitions throughout the years.

Doors open at 7pm on January 22 for the concert and ceilidh and tickets are available from AP Taylors and Campbeltown Pottery.

Community Noticeboard

Do You Enjoy Choral Singing?

Tarbert Gaelic Choir
Invites
New Members
Particularly Sopranos

Knowledge of Gaelic Not Required!

Weekly practice in Tarbert
Monday evenings

Further information from
Mary Macalister Hall
Tel: 01583 431233

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Dochas Carers Centre Carers Training Sessions

25th January - Stress and Anxiety Management
22nd February - First Aid
29th March - Welfare Benefits
All sessions will be held at
The Dochas Carers Centre, Lochgilphead from
1.30pm - 3.30pm

Places are limited to book call Maggie on 01546 600022

SOUTHEND BURNS SUPPER

Friday 28th January 2011

Argyll Arms Hotel, Campbeltown
7.30pm for 8.00pm

Names to the Committee or Telephone
01586 830256

Dalriada Accordion and Fiddle Club

Argyll Inn, Lochgilphead

Tuesday 18th
January 2011

Guest Artists
Ian Lockhart
Scottish Dance Band
7.30pm
Admission £4
All welcome

Introduction to Buddhist Meditation

Saturday 22nd January
10am - 2pm at Lochgilphead
Community Centre
Come along on the day or for
more details and bookings
contact
Lesley on 01546 600267
email artistlesleyburr@gmail.com

Royal British Legion Scotland

Campbeltown Branch
Monthly meeting will be
held in the Masonic Lodge
on Friday 14th January
commencing 1930.
Any new members wishing
to join should arrive at 1900.
Medals may be worn.

Kintyre Antiquarian & Natural History Society 'Trees of the Old Farms'

An illustrated talk
by Peter Quelch
Wednesday 19 January
2011 at 7.30 p.m.
in Argyll Arms Hotel,
Campbeltown
(Non-members £2.50 at door)

Highland Parish Church

**GATHERING WITH
JIMMIE MCGREGOR**
on Friday 4
February 2011
in Kirk St Hall
at 7.30pm
Admission £5

IF YOUR CLUB OR CHARITY WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE A COMMUNITY FOCUSED, INDIVIDUAL LEISURE EVENT ON THIS NOTICEBOARD PLEASE CONTACT

Rebecca on (01586) 554646 or
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ALL ADVERTISEMENTS MUST BE PREPAID

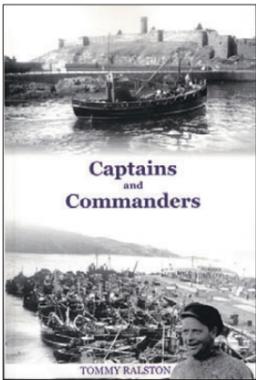
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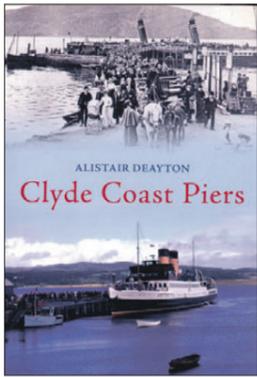


Captains and Commanders

TOMMY Ralston, Campbeltown born and bred, has been a fisherman, fish-buyer and life-boat coxswain.

His other talent is he can not only tell a good yarn, he can write them down beautifully.

His latest book, *Captains and Commanders*, is bursting with nostalgia for those old enough to remember. For the rest of us it is a wonderful insight that will make you cry with laughter about the fishing industry all along the West Coast of Scotland. The last four pages will also make the tears well up for a time, a way of life and men all but gone from the West Coast. The book is published by Mallaig Heritage Centre and can be bought from Tommy Ralston, 36 Links Road, Lundin Links, Fife, KY8 6AU or Mallaig Heritage Centre, Station Road, Mallaig, Inverness-Shire PH41 4PY.



Clyde Coast Piers

ALISTAIR Deayton has brought together a feast of old photographs to celebrate a bygone era in his book, *Clyde Coast Piers*, from Amberley Publishing.

Kintyre and Loch Fyne have a section all to themselves, as does Cowal.

It's hard to believe that so many people flocked to this part of the world for their holidays and day trips. Not to mention the running of day-to-day life and transporting cargoes to and from here.

By 1914 there were 70 piers in use and more than a dozen ferries and from then on it was all down hill.

By 1945 there were 34 and more fell into disuse when the excursion services ended in the early 1970s. Steams, paddle-steams and puffers are all here.

Do you remember the iron pier at Carradale or The Second Snark in the harbour at Tarbert?

Glorious concert by Fejes String Quartet

THE FEJES String Quartet's tour brought to Argyll and Bute the best of string chamber music composed by three of the best composers and performed by four outstanding players from the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

Its concert opened with Mozart K421 and you were immediately aware of the 'maestro'. The players lifted the music off the page and brought Mozart himself into the hall. The final movement especially left you full of wonder and full of delight. Its second piece was Bartok String Quartet No 3 and the instruments immediately struck you forcibly.

Its opening clashes settled to a reasonable conversation, which grew in tempo and volume to another loud climax of conflict and disharmony.

This very exciting pattern was repeated.

The last section opened with a glorious folk melody on the cello, the viola joined it with a few bars of beautiful harmony, which was all too soon



The Fejes Quartet played in both Ardrishaig Hall and Campbeltown. They are pictured here in Ardrishaig. Left to right: John Holt, secretary, MAAA; Mike Lloyd, viola, Rachel Lee, cello, Elita Bungard, violin, Tamas Fejes, leader, Sheila McCallum who chairs the MAAA.

06_a02maaa01

cut by painful slashes on the violins. The folk song moved on to folk dances but always with the excitement of four outstanding performers with four marvellous instruments.

The quartet's final composer was Debussy String Quartet No 10 (although we had it on good authority it was actually his first). Each player was a paint brush creating vivid and beautiful pictures. Sometimes they were

in bright colours, sometimes subtle with two or three players adding depths and soft edges, all this with frequent strong solo line images most memorably by the viola in the final movement of delightful variations.

Glorious

It was a glorious concert by four talented players who returned to Mozart for an encore with the joy of one of his 'Divertimentos'.

John Kerr.



21st January 2011
Volunteering Extravaganza

Come along and talk to local voluntary organisations to find out what they can do for you

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- No obligations
- Move your career Forward
- Make new contacts

Lochgilphead Community Centre, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead
10.30am - 2.30pm

info at www.argyllcommunities.org

Festive fun for residents

VARIOUS groups and individuals visited Auchinlee Nursing Home in Campbeltown to entertain residents over the festive season.

These included Lorne and Lowland Church, Meadows Nursery, the Barber Shop Quartet, Roger Gillespie with Peter McShannon, Angela McMillan and Kate Bradley on fiddle and Alex Irvine Fiddler's Group and Dalintober School children.

Staff and friends and family of the residents have been raising funds to build a sensory garden at the home.

Around £500 was raised at its Christmas tea, with more fundraising events over the next couple months.

THE PICTURE HOUSE

Saturday 15 January for 6 days at 8.00pm

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Please note children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult of 18 years or over

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Saturday 22 January for 6 days

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of The Dawn Treader (PG)

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THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Synopsis: A massive unmanned locomotive, nicknamed The Beast and loaded with toxic cargo, roars through the countryside, vaporizing anything put in front of it. A veteran engineer and a young conductor, aboard another train in the runaway's path, devise an incredible plan to try and stop it -- and prevent certain disaster in a heavily populated area.

Visit the wee pictures website for more what's on and coming soon.

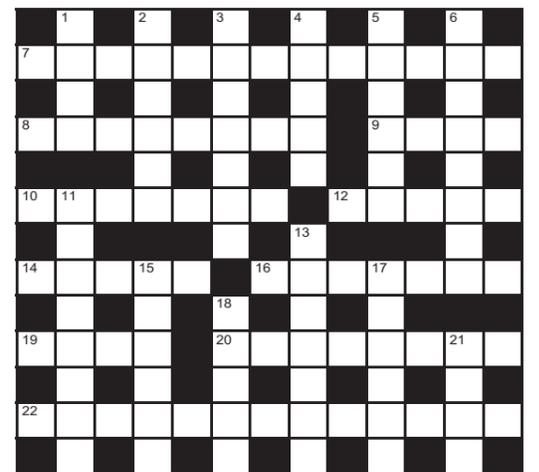
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- 7 Time to tease? (5,5,3)
- 8 Make someone nervous (5,3)
- 9 Black (4)
- 10 Threesome (7)
- 12 Church assembly (5)
- 14 Analyze grammatically (5)
- 16 Impractical (4-3)
- 19 Jug. (4)
- 20 Most powerful (8)
- 22 Testing place (7,6)

Down

- 1 Composition (4)
- 2 Found in vitamin B complex (6)
- 3 Undies (1-6)
- 4 Direction (5)
- 5 Harden (6)
- 6 Write for pay rather than enjoyment (8)
- 11 Behind (8)
- 13 Feathers (7)
- 15 Endeavored (6)
- 17 Creamy yellow drink (6)
- 18 Food from heaven (5)
- 21 Sound muscles? (4)



Last Week's Solution



GIGHA

Kenny decides to call it a day

ONE of Gigha's best-known residents, Kenny McNeill, retired last week from his job as engineer on the island's car ferry *MV Loch Ranza*.

A popular member of the crew, Kenny, of Keill Cottages, was employed by Caledonian MacBrayne for the past 12 years.

As well as looking after the ferry's main engines and generators, Kenny carried out many other 'hands on' tasks, both mechanical and non-mechanical.

Ferry colleagues gathered in the Gigha Hotel to present Kenny with a token of their appreciation – a nautical clock with tidal prediction facility and a book on Hebridean shipping.

Handing over the gifts, Skipper Freddy Gillies paid tribute to his shipmate's diligence and expertise in *Loch Ranza's* engine room.

Oyster trestles

AN APPLICATION for the siting of trestles for oyster farming off the Isle of Gigha has been validated.

To be sighted at East Tarbert Bay, Gigha, Argyll and Bute Council



Kenny McNeill (left) receives his retirement gifts from Loch Ranza Skipper Freddy Gillies. Also in the picture (left to right) are Skipper John Bannatyne and crewmembers Ian Wilson, Alasdair McNeill and Jane Rennie.

validated the application on December 27, 2010.

The application for the proposed oyster farm is due to be decided on February 26.

CLACHAN

Clachan WRI

JANE Griffiths invited members of Clachan SWRI to her beautifully decorated home on December 15 for what has become their annual Christmas party.

She had prepared a variety of amusing and

entertaining games, and many carefully gift wrapped prizes.

There was wine and laughter in abundance.

A wonderful selection of food, followed by a couple more games.

Barbara Bell gave out the 'Secret Santa' surprise parcels. Jane was thanked for all her hard work, and everyone left reluctantly for home just before midnight!

CARRADALE

Drama club in rehearsal

CARRADALE Drama Club are in rehearsal for the Kintyre Drama Festival on February 17 and 18; they will be defending their title, having won last year.

For 2011 they will be performing, *A Little Box of Oblivion*, produced by Tony Leighton; a com-

edy with cast of five. They hope to take the play to the Lorne Drama Festival in Oban and also the Argyll Drama Festival at Ardrishaig.

Take care when parking

POLICE have asked residents in the Carradale Pier area to take extra care when parking in the bus turning area.

Complaints have been received recently after the bus has had difficulty turning in the circle because of parked cars.

Police have asked residents to take extra care where they park their cars.

SOUTHEND

Christmas celebrations

MEMBERS of Southend SWRI enjoyed their

annual Christmas celebrations in the Muneroy Tearooms Southend. A lovely buffet was all laid out for everyone to enjoy, followed by beautiful sweets.

Lynda Smith photographed baby photos for everyone to identify who's who, the winning group members where Elizabeth Semple and Jen Ronald.

Raffles were then drawn.

Competition results
Yule Log: Margaret Bakes, gold; Fiona Rowland, Margaret McLean, Jean Ives, Eve Taylor, silver. Stocking: Josephine Milligan, gold.

Controlled explosions

BOMB disposal experts were called in to carry out controlled explosions on a number of items found on a Southend beach. A

member of the public came across dangerous items on January 6 that had been washed up on the beach.

The local coastguard unit seized the items and on January 7 bomb disposal experts carried out controlled explosions in the Southend area.

Southend Manse

WORK on Southend's church manse are well under way with completion scheduled for a few months time.

The village has been without a minister for over a year and Southend Parish Church is unable to apply for a new one until the church manse is made habitable.

A member of congregation told *The Courier* earlier this week that it is hoped the works will be completed in the next few months.

'The outside of the manse has been re-rendered, and the joinery works are complete with parts of it being painted. Part of the building's roof has also been re-slatted.'

The works started last August and since the last minister, Rev Martin Forrest left, four locums in the area have taken services in the church.



Southend Manse.

LARGIESIDE

December meeting

IT WAS almost a full house for the December meeting of the Largieside SWRI which took the form of a Christmas dinner.

Only two ladies were missing from the event at Ferry Farm Tearoom, Tayinloan on December 17, with members enjoying their meal, which was followed by games with everyone taking part.

Despite the inclement weather and adverse travelling conditions everyone made it safely to and from the venue.

STEWARTON

Bingo will be back

THE prize bingo held at Stewarton Village hall between Christmas and New Year is always a highlight in the village calendar.

This year it had to be cancelled because of the bad weather conditions.

Have no fear; Anne Thomson says the event will be rearranged, probably for early February.

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A stitch in time: Fisher knitters wanted

DO YOU belong to a fishing family? The chances are that you know your ancestors had special fishermen's jerseys knitted for them by kinsfolk and that these skills are still used locally today.

To celebrate these and other skills, there will be an exhibition in the town during May to coincide with the Campbeltown Shipyard Reunion.

The organisers feel that this would be a good time to take a look at the skills passed on through the generations and where better to start than with knitting patterns unique to Campbeltown.

Shetland jumpers have been in the news as the latest fashion item and are much sought after, especially ones made locally, with authentic patterns.

As the recession bites, more and more people are buying quality items, which are both practical and look good.

There is already a demand for this exclusive Campbeltown look, but if the exhibition is as successful as it is hoped, there may be a greater interest in buying the garments; but the skills need to be passed on to keep this great tradition alive.

Interested

If you are, or were, a traditional fishing family knitter, or are interested in learning his highly skilled craft, come along to the Ardsheil Hotel, in Campbeltown, for a coffee to discuss the history of knitwear in the town and possibilities for its future.

George McMillan from the Heritage Centre will be present with garments from the

centre and give a brief history of the local fishing folk who knitted this remarkable attire.

The informal meeting will begin at 10.30am in the Ardsheil Hotel on Wednesday January 19; but if you are unable to attend but would be interested in knowing more then give your name and contact details to George McMillan at his shop, Keith's Newsagents on Main Street.

Come along with your family members to find out about your heritage; the organisers would be pleased to meet mothers, fathers, aunts, and uncles who can pass on these skills to a new generation of Campbeltown folk.

Even better, bring along anyone who you know who used to wear them. See you there.

SKIPNESS

Flats nearly ready

THE conversion of the old stables come garages at Skipness House into five flats is nearing completion and a building warrant will soon be sought, Melissa James told *The Courier*.

The idea is to offer the tenancies to families with young children in the hope of keeping Skipness Primary School open. The school was one of the rural schools earmarked for closure by Argyll and Bute Council and at present has only one pupil.

Anyone for tapas?

THERE are plans afoot to host a Spanish evening at Skipness Village Hall, depending on the amount of support shown.

Anyone interested should contact John Hunt, or Steve Smith, who will be doing the cooking.

Superb ceilidh

THE Gunna Sound Ceilidh Band lead by Campbell Brown from the Isle of Tiree and Johnny Scoular from Lochaline, Morvern, packed the Skipness Village Hall on December 30 for a superb ceilidh which was enjoyed by villagers and visitors alike.

BOWMORE

Hogmanay party

MORE than 200 people attended the Hogmanay party in Bowmore Hall.

JURA

Top of the music charts

A RECORD producer on the island is celebrating after a record he



Primary 4 in Dalintober were thinking of others when they made up food boxes for the Salvation Army Food Parcel Appeal.

The party, organised by the hall committee, started after the bells and carried on into the small hours with music from Bowmore band Bandit - Jim Smith and Peter MacTaggart.

The committee has invited celebrity impersonator Jesse Garron to perform at the hall on January 22.

All money raised from the event will go to hall funds.

produced and played on has topped the European music charts.

'PoetsandLighthouses' by BBC World Music award winner Albert Kuvezin and Yat Kha is at number one in the World Music Charts Europe (WMCE) which reflects the most requested and played world music across Europe.

The recording was made by producer and musician Giles Perring at his Sound of Jura studio. The album features the vocals of Albert Kuvezin, a singer from the Tuvan Republic in Mongolia, who travelled to Jura in 2008 to record.

Also prominent on the recording is Jura piper Neil Cameron. The CD sleeve was designed by Jura's Deborah Bryce of graphics arts firm Creative Hound.

This is the third CD album to emerge from Sound of Jura since it opened in 2006. Giles said: 'The chart placing confirms we have something special on Jura.'

PORTNAHAVEN

No New Year Dance

IT WAS not possible to hold Islay's traditional 'New Year Dance' in the Rhinns Hall, Portnahaven, this year, as a result of increasing costs and staff shortages. It is hoped the dance may be held again in the future.

STEWARTON

Soup's on!

THE Wednesday lunch club at Stewarton Village Hall held its first meeting of 2011 on Wednesday after bad weather cancelled the first event.

The club is open to all ages and runs from noon to 2pm, for soup and a roll and tea and biscuits.

There's also the chance to socialise with games

of cards and carpet bowling.

BELLOCHANTUY

Christmas party

LADIES from Bellochantuy SWRI enjoyed their Christmas party in December at the Argyll Hotel in the village

KILCHENZIE

Laptop help for Haiti

THE orphanage in Haiti which has been supported by Kintyre people following the earthquake in January has been donated some reconditioned laptop computers.

That's the good news; the bad news is that shipping them will be expensive. If you would like to donate towards the cost of shipping Rev Martin Grashoff, Minister in Kilcalmonell, Killean and Kilkenzie Church of Scotland, would be pleased to hear from you.

When the earthquake struck on January 12, the 45 children in the orphanage were unhurt, but surrounding villages and towns had more damage and casualties; the digging of its own water supply has also enabled the orphan-

age in Bohoc, 60 miles north of Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital.

Donations can be left at the manse at Muasdale or you can contact Rev Grashoff on 01583 421249.

Reward for recovery of ancient ring

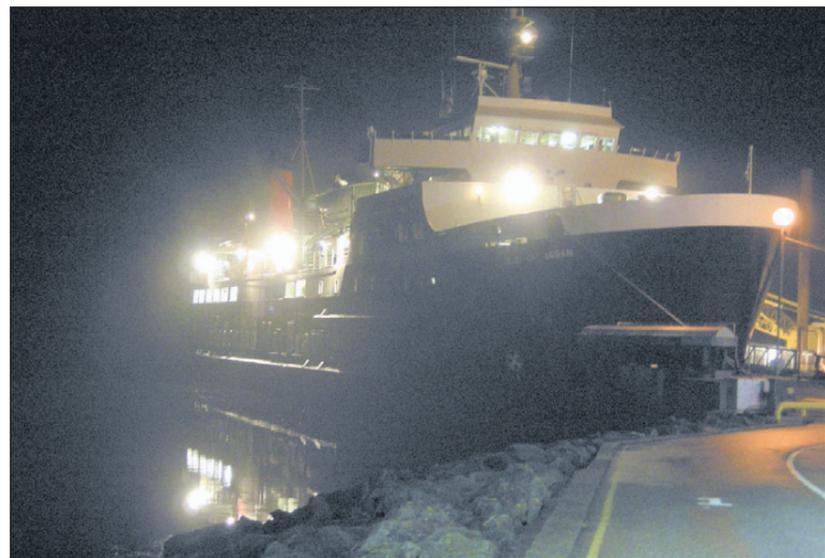
A REWARD for the recovery of an ancient ceremonial ring stolen from a house in Argyll and Bute has been offered. The Church of Scotland is offering a reward for the Moderator's ring, which was taken from his house in Helensburgh on Christmas Eve.

It was stolen from the Right Reverend John Christie between 11pm on December 23 and 4.30am in the early hours of Christmas Eve.

The ring is gold with a large amethyst stone and bears the church's Latin motto, nec tamen consumebatur, meaning, yet it was not consumed-referring to the biblical story of the burning bush.

The Church today offered a three-figure sum of money for information that leads to the safe return of the ring.

Anybody with information should contact the Church of Scotland on 07854 785 051.



The MV Isle of Arran, shrouded in fog, berthed at Kennacraig Pier this week. CalMac reports that the ferry service to Islay was very busy over the holiday period. 0_c01fog01

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THE lambing season is underway in Kintyre and *The Courier* visited Graeme McMillan at Balloch Cottage to take photographs of his Suffolk lambs born on Saturday evening. The sire is a Wells tup from Gartvaigh Farm in Southend, with the ewe a home-bred Suffolk cross.

04_c02lamb01/02

First Milk members receive return on investment

OVER the course of this financial year, First Milk has made significant progress and the business continues to improve its trading performance.

Whilst milk price remains the company's main focus, this per-

formance has provided it with the opportunity to pay out a return on our members' investment in First Milk.

The return will be paid out with the January milk cheque at an annual interest rate of three per cent for active and

retired members.

Chairman Bill Mustoe, said: 'As we have made moves to develop First Milk, a key aim for the Board and Executive team was that we start to establish a track record of regular returns on capital invested in the

business. The purpose of a co-operative is to do the best for its members so we are paying this out now, rather than waiting until the year end as most organisations do, as it's better off in your pocket, especially at this time of year.'

Sam is top dog at nursery trial

LARGIE'S John Casey took the top spot at the second nursery trial which was held at Ronachan in Kintyre on Saturday.

Judge for the day was I McConnell of Skipness with 10 dogs running in the first class and six in the second.

Results:

Class 1: 1 J Casey with Sam, Largie, 71pts, 2 B

Strachan with Bill, Roybridge, 70pts, 3 B Strachan with Lark, Roybridge 67pts outbye work, 4 P Clark with Jill, Stewarton 67pts, 5 B Strachan with Robbie, Roybridge 66pts, 6 A McCuish with Rock, Skipness 65pts.

Class 2: 1 B Strachan with Sweep, Roybridge 80pts, 2 J Casey with Moss, Largie 77pts, J Main with Roy, Largie 72 pts.

The third nursery trial will be held at Ronachan tomorrow, Saturday January 15.

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Milk price war is sending out the wrong signals

'Family farms are not looking for special treatment; just fair treatment'

NFU SCOTLAND this week insisted that kicking off the New Year with a renewed supermarket price war on milk is sending out all the wrong signals both to Scottish farmers and Scottish consumers. Consumers shopping in the major supermarkets can purchase eight pints of milk for £2 at the moment, cheaper than some of their bottled water.

While in the short term this may look incredibly appealing to consumers, it is potentially a further blow to dairy farmers, many of whom are already struggling to survive.

Price wars

The history of price wars show that it is not supermarket profits that suffer the consequences,

but those of their suppliers. While dairy farmer confidence in the future of the industry remains at an all-time low, the majority of major retailers are continuing to undermine the value of our Scottish milk industry by using milk as a loss leader to draw customers into their stores. Chief executive of NFU Scotland, James Withers, said: 'The retailers have renewed their cut-throat battle for customers and we really fear that family farms, and ultimately shoppers, will pay the price.'

'We have already seen Asda pledge that their groceries will be 10 per cent cheaper than their rivals and now we see milk being sold at huge discounts.'

'What makes this latest price war even more galling is that the plight of the dairy industry was highlighted just last month in a series of high profile protests by farmers across Scotland.'

Cheaper

'With this drop in price, offering eight pints of milk for £2, in many supermarkets you can now buy milk far cheaper than bottled water.'

'Family farms are not looking for special treatment; just fair treatment. The average milk price for a Scottish dairy farmer is three pence below the cost of production. And whilst they lose money on every pint produced, retailers are making millions on milk and other dairy products.'

Market reports

STIRLING; United Auctions (Thursday 6th January 2011) 3726 prime sheep including 2698 lambs averaging 171p/kg (+1.8p) and 1028 ewes and rams.

Lambs (2698) Guardswell (Tex) £92; Luckenburn (Btex) £87.50; Penston (Suf) £84.80; Ciar-mhor (Cha) and Bush (X) £79.50; Outwards and Dalbrack (BF) and Airtnoch (Che) £74. Lambs (2698) Coilavoulin (Btex) 201p; Kipperoch (Tex) 197p; Highholm (Suf) 188p; St Mungoes (BF) 184p; Hillhead (X) 175p; Airtnoch (Che) 168p; Shearerston (Cha) 164p.

Ewes and rams (1028) Kilwinnet (tex) £106.50; Kinloch (Cha) £97.50; Ardormish (Tex) £96.50; Craigend (Suf) £91.50; South Cassingray (Che) £87.50; Penston (X) £83.50; South Flanders (Mul) £77.80; Middle Ballat (Btex) £71; Clunbeg (BF) £63.50.

STIRLING - United Auctions (Wednesday 5th January 2011) sold 1587 store cattle and 134 cows and 604 store lambs.

Bullocks (968) - averaged 156.94p (-0.66p) to 207.7p per kg for a 378kg ChaX from Calton and £1150 for a 683kg ChaX from Holehouse.

Heifers (619) - averaged 157.38p (+1.91p) to 194.9p per kg for a 431kg LimX from Monzie and £1150 for a 716kg ChaX from Point Farm.

Cast Cows (112) - averaged 99.66p to 136.7p for a HEX from Drumbo and £1140 for a ChaX from Point Farm.

Forward Cattle (22) - averaged 134.56p to 149.8p per kg AAX from Mountquhanie and £985 AAX from Lindsayston.

Bullocks Up to 250kg Pendreich £400, 161.3p; 251-300kgs Flenders £425, 155.1p; 301-350kgs Calton £700, 199.4p; 351-400kgs Calton £785, 207.7p; 401-450kgs Wester Boreland £800, Taiglim 180.5p; 451-500kgs Point £855, 182.3p; 501-550kgs Wester Boreland £950, 183.4p; 551-600kgs Holehouse £955, Sauchrie Mains 167p; 601-650kgs Elmscleugh £1060, 169.9p; 651-700kgs Holehouse £1150, 170.4p; 701kgs+ - Hoprigshiels £1060, Hardens 148.9p.

Heifers - 251-300kgs Flenders £480, 160p; 301-350kgs Taiglim £605, 180.1p; 351-400kgs Wester Boreland £700, 180.9p; 401-450kgs Monzie £870, 194.9p; 451-500kgs Wester Boreland £905, Monzie 193.6p; 501-550kgs Wester Boreland £905, 165.8p; 551-600kgs Point £895, 157.1p; 601-650kgs Auchinstarry £940, 151.9p; 701kgs+ Point £1150, 160.6p.

OTM Cows - Point (Cha) £1140, 94.1p; Drumbo (HE) £965, 136.7p; Roughlands (AA) £925, Quixwood 128.4p and Meikle Camoquhill (Mon) £925, 134.1p; Quixwood (Lim) £915, 127.4p; Chesterstone (BDA) £895, Shawbraes 118.5p.

OTM Bull - South Slipperfield (Sim) £1215, 128.7p; Point (Cha) £1140, 93.60p; Craigend (AA) £865, 103.12p.

Store Sheep - (604) Leading prices Lambs; Auchnafree (BF) £51; Urlar (BF) £49.50; Rhodders (BF) £48.50 Ewe lambs; Craighead (Mul) £71; Harelaw (SuffX) £68; Craighead (Lley) £65; Harelaw (TexX) £56.

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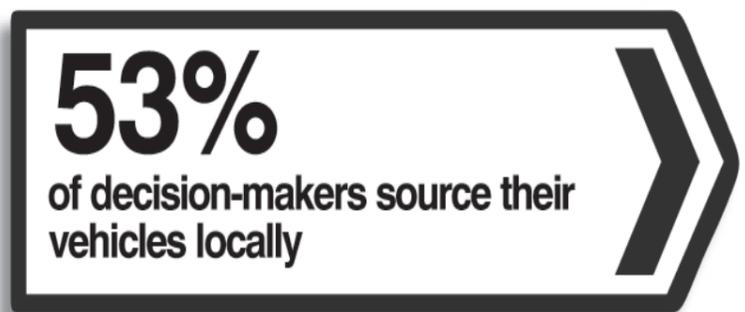


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We want to provide the best possible Museum facilities for the community and for our visitors. We are considering a number of options to improve the service we provide and to help us identify these we have commissioned Jura Consultants and Malcolm Fraser Architects to carry out a Feasibility Study.

WE WANT YOUR VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF THE MUSEUM

Jura Consultants will be carrying out drop in consultation events so you can tell us what you think.
Drop in to Glebe Cairn café at Kilmartin House Museum any time on Thursday 20th January between 12pm and 4pm or between 5pm and 8pm
www.kilmartin.org museum@kilmartin.org 01546 510 278

Lochgilphead Soccer Centre EGM

Thursday 20th
January 2011
7.30pm

Community Centre, Lochgilphead
All welcome

Argyll (South) Branch of the Pony Club

AGM and parents meeting

Friday 21st January
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7.30pm
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Lochgilphead Angling Club

AGM

Wednesday 26th
January 2011
7.30pm

Lochgilphead Community Centre

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES : EDUCATION

REGISTRATION OF INFANT BEGINNERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS SESSION 2011/2012

Children who attain the age of five years between 1 March 2011 and 29 February 2012 should be registered for education during the week commencing 17 January 2011.
Parents concerned should take their children to the appropriate local primary school on one of the school days during the above week between the hours of 10.00am and 3.00pm.
Gaelic Medium Education
Gaelic Medium Education is available in the following schools:- Bowmore Primary School, Islay; Tisee Primary School, Tisee; Salen Primary School, Mull; Rockfield Primary School, Oban; Strath of Appin Primary School, by Oban and Sandbank Primary School, Dunoon.
The child's birth certificate should be produced. A leaflet providing information for parents on enrolment of children in school and giving details of placing request procedures (including under age placing requests) may be obtained from any school or from Community Services, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon, PA23 8AJ (Tel: 01369 708508).

CLELAND SNEDDON
Executive Director of Community Services

PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at 67/ 69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services 67/ 69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX by the 04/02/2011

- **Ref No: 10/01948/PP**
Applicant: Mr Les Brodie
Proposal: Upgrading of access and formation of footpath
Site Address: Land South Of Caoruinn Carradale Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Carradale
- **Ref No: 10/02038/MFF**
Applicant: Anthony John Walker
Proposal: Siting of trestles for Oyster farming.
Site Address: Proposed Oyster Farm Site East Tarbert Bay Gigha Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Gigha
- **Ref No: 10/02046/PP**
Applicant: Mr David Adams And Ms Jean Bell
Proposal: Installation of replacement windows and front door
Site Address: 26 Shore Street Campbeltown Argyll And Bute PA28 6BS
Location of Plans: Burnet Building St John St Campbeltown
- **Ref No: 10/02066/PP**
Applicant: J S Salmon Limited
Proposal: Installation of micro hydro power scheme
Site Address: Allt Mor Burn Clachan Tarbert Argyll And Bute PA29 6XL
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Tarbert

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications can be viewed on the Council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.
A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning and Regulatory Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.
Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document. Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site. The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy. Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.
Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

NOTICE OF DECISION

Gilkes Energy Ltd
ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000

Further to the notice of an application for consent to construct and operate a hydroelectric scheme at Ederline Estate, Loch Awe, of 1.7MW.

Notice is hereby given that Gilkes Energy Ltd has been granted consent by Scottish Ministers to construct and operate a hydroelectric generated power station, together with planning permission under section 57(2) of the Town & Country Planning Act (Scotland) 1997.

Copies of the decision statement and consent documentation can be obtained from:

Energy Consents Unit
Scottish Government
4th Floor
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow
G2 8LU

Or by email to energyconsents@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Or on the Energy Consents website:
www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/business-industry/energy/energy-consents

Copies of the decision statement and consent documentation have been made available to Argyll & Bute Council to be made available for public inspection by being placed on the planning register.

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Experience completing client assessments and implementing plans of care desirable
SVQ3 or equivalent, or willingness to undertake, essential

Campbeltown/Mid Argyll areas – Homecare workers
full time/part time & bank
Care experience is desirable but not essential as comprehensive training is provided.
A full driving license and access to a vehicle is essential for all the above posts.

For further information and an application pack please contact 01546 600333
Closing date: 28th January 2011
All staff are subject to an enhanced disclosure check

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The ideal candidate must have:

- Recent experience in a management position within the care at home and support services as a Registered Manager
- Awareness of current initiatives within the Social Care industry
- Expected to develop the branch and its commercial success whilst ensuring that a high quality service is delivered.
- A car driver is essential as this role covers the whole of the Argyll & Bute area and will be required to travel.
- Ideally you will hold an SVQ4/RMA or hold a similar professional qualification.

To apply email your CV to theresa.cull@nestorplc.co.uk
All applicants will be required to complete a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosure. Part of the Nestor Healthcare Group, an equal opportunities company.

 **The Scottish Salmon Company**
Companaidh Bhradan na h-Alba

The Scottish Salmon Company is a leading independent producer of high quality Scottish salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

We are currently recruiting for 3 Marine Operatives. Two are located at Toward, by Dunoon, and one at Portavadie, Argyll

2 x Marine Operatives – (Ref: MO/TD/11/2/C) – TOWARD

1 x Marine Operative – (Ref MO/PE/11/3/C) - PORTAVADIE
(Salary £15,221.75 based on 40 hours per week)

Candidates will be enthusiastic, self-motivated and be able to demonstrate prior experience in working within small, focused teams. Day to day duties will include fish welfare, sampling, grading and moving of the fish, site maintenance, net changing and boat handling. Previous aquaculture experience is desirable for this post; the company can offer further development and training opportunities through in-house training and also by external training providers. Preference will also be given to those candidates who can offer transferable, related skills and qualifications.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company pension scheme after the qualifying period. A full, clean driving licence is also essential.

For an application form and job description, please contact:
HR Department, The Scottish Salmon Company Ltd, Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH
Tel. No. 01499 600 415
Email: cairndowhr@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date for applications: 5.00pm 28th January, 2011
Visit our website at www.scottishsalmon.com

Thomas Robertson Carriers
require a
HGV DRIVER (CLASS C)
Must be over 25
Contact Catherine Robertson
on **01586 552996**

 **The Scottish Salmon Company**
Companaidh Bhradan na h-Alba

MARINE SITE MANAGER (Isle of Harris)

The Site Manager will be responsible for the management and development of the salmon sites at Grosebay and Stockinish which are currently being upgraded, plus the newly acquired site at Plocropool which will be developed from initial stages using the latest technology.

Our ideal candidate will be an experienced and enthusiastic salmon farmer with excellent fish husbandry skills, strong management and leadership qualities and proven organisational skills. Applicants must also have experience of automated feed systems, fish health, growth curves and feed management. The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate commitment to the safety and welfare of the staff for whom they are responsible, to the livestock within their control and to the environment in the local community and beyond. Current driving licence essential.

Job descriptions and application forms available from
The Scottish Salmon Company, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis HS2 0DB.
Tel: 01499 600622/600601
E-mail: sandra.macrae@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date Friday 28 January 2011

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Loch Arkaig

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We are currently looking to identify a suitably qualified and highly motivated individual to undertake the role of Assistant Farm Manager at the Company's Freshwater site at Loch Arkaig.

Potential candidates should possess several years' salmon farming experience, have a sound understanding of fish husbandry and be conscientious in relation to recording and maintaining reliable data records. Good communication & planning skills and a high degree of computer literacy are also essential. It is also a requirement of the post that the incumbent be an effective deputy for the Manager as and when required.

At present, the farm has 20 cages with approximately 1.5 million smolts under its management. The post therefore brings with it significant responsibility and the appointed Assistant Farm Manager will be required to be flexible in terms of total hours worked, in order to satisfy the demands of the role.

If you feel you have the necessary skills to rise to this challenge, please apply in writing no later than Friday 21st January 2011 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT.

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www.ckdgalbraith.co.uk

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Hydroplan undertakes the design, construction management and commissioning of small hydro stations throughout the UK. We are seeking an experienced Project Engineer to start in February 2011 at our offices in Fort William or Loch Lomond.

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An interest in Scottish history and foreign languages an advantage

TEAROOM ASSISTANTS

For further information, please apply to:-
Mrs J Young, Castle Manager
Inveraray Castle, INVERARAY PA32 8XF
E-Mail - manager@inveraray-castle.com

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Community Services - Adult Care

27 hours

Tel: 01546 604034

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Tel: 01546 604742

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Closing Date: 28 January 2011.

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www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

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Graduate Placements: Renewable Energy: Biomass Heating

HWenergy, based in Fort William, are Scotland's leading biomass heating specialists. Our growth plans within the exciting renewable heat sector require us to recruit the following:

Engineering Graduate: This is a varied role mainly encompassing design as well as project engineering, research and practical skills.

Marketing Graduate: This role will include setting up and implementing marketing strategy and working on business development.

The roles will at times require extensive travel throughout Scotland (A driving licence is required) The successful candidates will be offered fixed term 12 month graduate placements with a salary of £17,000 p/a. Please send a copy of your CV and covering letter to craig.sutherland@hwenergy.co.uk, or by post to HWenergy, Lochaber Rural Complex, Torlundy, Fort William, PH33 6SQ. Closing date for applications: January 26th 2011.

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Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series to be 'refreshed'

'Over the last couple of years we realised that the event needed rejuvenating'

THIS year's Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series will see a refreshed offering, which will benefit competitors and spectators.

Organisers Clyde Cruising Club announced the exciting developments for the event that takes place over the bank holiday weekend from Friday May 27 to 30 in Tarbert.

Clyde Cruising Club's main aim has been to provide fresh challenges for competitors, which has prompted changes.

These included new courses for all fleets, providing variety to the standard windward/leeward course, the introduction of an Inshore Coastal (daytime) race for IRC classes, which will take place during the weekend and limitations to crew numbers.

This year's event will introduce a 'Laird of the Loch' event, an invitational competition between 2010 class winners in One Designs, which will take place immediately before the

Series on Thursday May 26.

Commodore John Watson, who takes over the role from Howard Morrison for the 2011 event, said: 'This is an exciting time for us, the event and the competitors.'

'Over the last couple years we realised that the event needed rejuvenating and thought it was time to give it a bit of a shake up. Our main aim in changing the event has been to inject more fun and ex-

citing elements of sailing to Tarbert. We hope that this refreshed offering will encourage more sailors from across the UK and further afield to consider entering the event and that past competitors will continue to return to the stunning waters of Loch Fyne.'

Further details and race entry forms for this year's event are available now from the Brewin Dolphin Scottish Series website www.brewin-dolphin-scottishseries.com.

Machrihanish winter league returns to action after weather relents

AFTER what seemed like an eternity to the players normal service resumed in Machrihanish Golf Club's Winter league when the weather and festivities relented and week 12 games were played.

The Royal Navy, in the guise of Calum MacLean and super sub A N Other, sailed on at the top of the league with another convincing victory.

Calum has now stretched his lead at the top of the league and clearly has his eyes on the winners voucher.

In probably the game of the day Jim McCallum and Iain Reid blew away former champions Rankin and Anderson.

Iain, still playing off his massive handicap, stormed to the turn in a gross 36 to destroy the

boys and give greens convener Rankin plenty to talk about for the rest of the day.

Elsewhere, in the battle of Springbank, Messrs McHardy and Reppke in the Blue Liz sailed past the formidable partnership of Nillby and Campbell with a hard fought victory.

At the bottom of the league Mundy and Tuesday showed they have the appetite for a battle and secured two victories over the holiday period to move off the bottom of the league.

In the wooden spoon position are now the Mighty Gwynne and John Biggins. A string of bad results leave the boys marooned at the bottom of the table and in dire needs of inspiration, or according to Norman, a holiday for John.

Members would like to express their thanks to William Miller for once again organising his magnificent Christmas raffle which was voted a resounding success.

Amateur football fixtures

PREMIER Division - Arkleston v Oban Saints.

Premier Division One - Kings Park Rangers v Campbeltown Pupils A.

Premier Division Two - Port Glasgow OBU v Tarbert.

Division One - Lochgilhead Red Star v Duncanrig B.

Division Three - Campbeltown Pupils B v Bothwell and Uddingston Albion.

All games are scheduled to kick off at 2pm, wather permitting.



WIN £700 JACKPOT

All you have to do
We have removed the football from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 10 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons. The game starts with a jackpot of £250 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright.
To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact

centre of the ball.
Entry will be void if crosses overlap. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.
If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 10 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Ball" Competition, The Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown,

Argyll PA28 6AE by 4pm on Tuesday.
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.

Spot the BALL

Competition



I enclose £1 (note) for 10 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 10, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish.
No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.
How to enter: **Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen.** Ten crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.
Crosses must not overlap

Name _____
Address _____
Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Ball' Competition, Campbeltown Courier,
Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6AE

LAST WEEK'S BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners who each receive £25 are:
A Wylie, Meadows Avenue, Campbeltown and F Brodie, Meadows Avenue, Campbeltown

Promotional material
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www.krispprint.co.uk

Good win for Pupils B

CAMPBELTOWN Pupils' B-side took a 2-0 victory on Saturday in a division three fixture when they travelled to play Hamilton FP.

The team is due to play at home this weekend against Bothwell and Uddingston Albion with the kick-off scheduled for 2pm. Referee is Jimmy Litster.

The first team's fixture last Saturday was postponed but they hope to travel to play Kings Park Rangers tomorrow (Saturday) in a premier one fixture.

In a premier two fixture, Tarbert will travel to play Port Glasgow Old Boys Union tomorrow.

Volunteers wanted

ACTIVE Schools are on the look out for more volunteers in South Kintyre to help out with sporting events.

The Argyll and Bute Sports Coaching Conference 2011 takes place next month in Oban and with more than 30 national body qualifications on offer, Active Schools is keen to get as many people as possible from the area involved.

If you would like to attend any of the courses in Oban, please get in touch with Lindsay Ramsay, Active Schools coordinator for South Kintyre to discuss funding options that may be available on 07917073424.

Lottery numbers

TARBERT Football Club's lottery numbers: January 10: 11 and 16, no winners. A £500 jackpot will be rolled over for the January 17 draw.

Islay golf

RESULTS from Islay Golf Club's January Medal: 1 Norman Macdonald 71 less 3 net 68, 2 Donald Logan 88 less 19 net 69, 3 David Livingstone 78 less 8 net 70. CSS 69.

MOKRUN voted top event

THE Mull of Kintyre (MOKRUN) Half Marathon has been voted as the top event in the UK by Runner's World readers.

In the magazine's February edition, the event took the top spot in the magazine's 2010 Ultimate Race Guide.

Organisers have increased numbers for this year's race to 750

entrants for the 10K and half marathon as its popularity grows up and down the country.

The MOKRUN's half marathon event was also voted best for atmosphere and beginners.

MOKRUN's organising committee is delighted to be ranked the number one half marathon in the UK.

'We are also extremely

pleased to win two other categories, we are overwhelmed with the positive feedback,' said the committee. 'It's such a fantastic achievement to be voted by the runners themselves, who nominated MOKRUN ahead of hundreds of other deserving and exciting races.'

This year's race will take place on Sunday



Runners make their way up Longrow. Photograph courtesy of John McFadyen

May 29, with events organised throughout the weekend, including a pre-race pasta party and a post-race ceilidh.

Already this year's races have attracted run-

ners from around the globe and entries are filling up fast.

'We hope that this year's race will be just as great a success as last year,' said the committee.

Junior fun run forms can now be downloaded from www.mokrun.com and you can enter online for the 10k or half on www.runnersworld.co.uk/mokrun.

Latest information on the proposed all weather pitch in Campbeltown

CAMPBELTOWN has sent more letters of support for a 3G synthetic pitch, than PMR Leisure has received for any other bid in the country.

'The town has been amazing; it's not just the sporting community but the general community who have written to show their support,' said Penny Lochhead of PMR Leisure.

'There has also been support from three

schools in the area, with a petition which previously circulated Campbeltown also being put forward as support.'

'We would like to thank everyone for their energy and support so far, the support has been fantastic.'

As part of Argyll and Bute Council's commitment to working with the community it has employed PMR Leisure, Community Sport and

Leisure consultants to continue to work with them and the community to ensure that the 3G synthetic pitch proposals have the best interest of the community at heart, and that these where possible are shaped and supported by community needs and community partnerships.

Kinloch Green in Campbeltown has been identified as the site for the pitch, and this week bore holes were being dug as part of site investigations.

The draft pitch strategy will go out to consultation in the next few months with it going before Argyll and Bute Council for approval and recommendation around April time.

There are also plans to refurbish the changing rooms, which are currently on Kinloch Green.

South Kintyre Sports Council, which has campaigned for the provision of the all-weather pitch in Campbeltown for several years, asked for one last push from the community with re-

gards to letters of support.

A spokesman said: 'We have one week to send letters of support to sportscotland before PMR send the stage two application off. The support from the community has always been fantastic and continues to amaze us with letters of support coming from all sources. If you haven't sent a letter of support we would urge you to do so by the January 19.'

Anyone who has questions, or has not yet submitted their support still has time and can contact PMR Leisure. The deadline for letters or emails of support is January 19.

The letters should be addressed to: To whom it may concern, sportscotland, Doges, 62 Templeton on the Green, Glasgow G40 1DA.

Once you've written the letter send it to PMR Leisure 4 Douglas Court, 15 Market Place, North Berwick EH39 4JF; by email: info@pmlreisure.co.uk; by fax: 01620 890740.

Sport in brief

Dunaverty ladies monthly medal

DESPITE the chilly conditions on Saturday, the ladies of Dunaverty got seriously wrapped up and played their monthly medal.

Margaret Macfarlane took her good winter league form onto the course again and romped home finishing four strokes clear of Elizabeth Morrison and breaking her handicap in the process.

Margaret Macfarlane 95-29=66, SSS 65 CSS 68.

Santa Dash takes place tomorrow

THE re-scheduled Santa Dash, which was due to take place in December, will start at Aqualibrium at 10am tomorrow (Saturday).

The money raised will go to local charities, with runners and walkers donning Santa suits for the occasion.

For any queries please contact Lindsay Ramsay, Active Schools on 07917073424.

Campbeltown darts results

CAMPBELTOWN District Darts Association's week 10 results: Fiddlers 9 Ailsa 1,

Hunting Lodge 4 Argyll B 6, Kinloch 5 Commercial 5, and Burnside 7 Southend 3.

There were 180s by Tommy McGuire, Garry Howells and Kenny Brown.

Junior prize-giving at Machrihanish

MACHRIHANISH Golf Club's junior prize-giving will take place this Sunday, January 16, after it was previously re-scheduled.

Christmas competition

FROST-hardened greens, cold winds, sleet and rain all added to the difficulties of the Dunaverty golfers participating in the postponed Christmas competition last Saturday.

New member Stewart McGougan Jnr, playing off 18, revelled in the conditions by posting a winning nett score of 63 to edge out 12 handicapper Mark Eagers by one stroke.

The combined handicap score of the New Year and Christmas events went to an informant Robert Allan Jnr with a

59 and 67, respectively to finish six strokes clear of runner up Mark Eagers. CSS for the day was 65.

Results: 1 Stewart McGougan Jnr 81-18=63, 2 Mark Eagers 76-12=64, 3 Alister O'May 83-17=66, 4 Robert Allan Jnr 78-11=67, 5 Alan Hair 85-16=69, 6 Duncan Watson II 75-4=71.

Scratch: 1 Duncan Watson II 75, 2 Mark Eagers 76, 3 Ian McKinnon 77, 4 Robert Allan Jnr 78, 5 Campbell MacBrayne 79, 6 Sandy Watson 80.

Combined New Year and Christmas: 1 Robert Allan Jnr 59+67=126, 2 Mark Eagers 68+64=132, 3 Ian McKinnon 63+71=134, 4 Duncan Watson II 66+71=137, 5 Alan Hair 69+69=138, 6 Bill Brannigan 69+72=141.

Dunaverty's three-number lottery is another rollover. The next draw, for £600, will be held on January 24.

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