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YOUR GUIDE TO CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WITHOUT THE STRESS

Councillors agree on Dalintober Pier

...but cash will be difficult to allocate to restoration group

by LOUISE LEE
editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk

DALINTOBER pier is set to become a community asset - but it is 'highly unlikely' that funds will be allocated to the community if the property is transferred. Dalintober Pier Restoration Group has asked Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay (MAKI) area committee to transfer the Argyll and Bute Council asset on Campbeltown Loch to the group.

Unanimous

While MAKI councillors were unanimous in their support for the project, it was clear that differences arose when it came to helping the

group out with cash.

Councillor Donald Kelly wanted to allocate funding to the group - but area chairman Rory Colville said it was a matter for the policy and resources committee, to decide. Councillor Sandy Taylor suggested the money could come from the council's CHORD waterfront re-development funding.

The committee was told by officials there was a difficulty in allocating cash along with an asset transfer. The group has asked for £35,000 to re-establish the pier.

VisitScotland's marine



Craft fayre and concert at Castlehill

These flute players were among 25 Castlehill primary musicians who performed at the school's craft fayre and concert. 08_c50cast03

expert, David Adams McGilp called the plans for Dalintober, 'an opportunity'.

He said: 'I can foresee a time when tired crews will be delighted to make a landfall at Dalintober, especially if

there is no capacity at the marina.

'I would also urge the Dalintober folk to think about other users and how their requirements could be built into any capital works associated with their proposals

- parking, visitor information, slipway. If they think about this very carefully they could develop a suite of complementary facilities and appeal to certain sectors, users and markets that the marina might

not necessarily be able to.'

Tourism

The project, if it gets the go-ahead, will see the pier, built in 1756, developed for tourism attractions at the top of the loch.

Weather bomb storm

WIND, rain and 'phenomenal' waves were battering Kintyre as the Courier went to press.

The storm, set to last three days, is known as a weather bomb or an explosive cyclogenesis.

This is when a storm intensifies as the pressure at its centre drops rapidly, by more than 24 millibars in 24 hours.

The 'bomb' brought strong winds, hail stones, snow and thunder and lightning overnight on Tuesday.

Some areas had power cuts in the days leading up to the storm and during the storm itself - but police were reporting no major incidents.

Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) said it was on yellow alert and was anticipating power cuts.

Back on screen

FILM fans may soon be watching big-screen movies again in Campbeltown.

The town suffered a loss in the summer when its historic Picture House closed its doors.

However, the cinema's operators have revealed plans to see films put on two days a month in the town's Victoria Hall.

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Reid puts pressure on Cameron over Royal Mail

ALAN Reid MP has urged prime minister David Cameron to make sure Royal Mail maintains its commitment to rural areas. At the House of Commons last Wednesday, the Argyll and Bute MP explained how Royal Mail's Universal Service Obligation, guaranteeing delivery of mail to every premises in the country and collection of mail from every post box six days a week, is vital to rural communities, and asked the prime minister if he would 'give an assurance to never allow the watering down of the obligation in any way.' Mr Cameron answered: 'It is very important that it is maintained.'

Fynesiders to perform at Nelly B's

NELLY B's Café at the Network Centre, Carradale will host an informal session with The Fynesiders barbershop chorus on the afternoon of Sunday December 14. The chorus will perform barbershop classics, doo-wop tunes and carols, from 4pm.

Picture perfect award for James and his team

JAMES Lafferty and his Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) team's hard work restoring some of Campbeltown town centre's most vulnerable buildings has been rewarded at Scotland's Empty Homes Conference.

The Campbeltown THI was awarded the prize for the category of Best

Before and After Photo, showing the drastic improvement made to 13-15 Kirk Street over an 18-month period.

Delegates from across Scotland discussed the importance of empty homes work in promoting town centre living.

Delighted

Mr Lafferty said: 'The THI team is delighted to

receive recognition after all its efforts on this development project.

'Credit must go too to the building's owners, Margaret and Willie Livingstone, for their commitment to the project from start to finish.'

Argyll and Bute Council was crowned Empty Homes Champion of the Year in the category of Outstanding Project at the event in Glasgow.

Graeme Brown, director for Shelter Scotland, said: 'These awards for Argyll and Bute show what can be delivered to address empty homes problems with a cohesive strategy.'

The Scottish Empty Homes Partnership is hosted by Shelter Scotland and funded by the Scottish government.



13-15 Kirk Street in Campbeltown before its redevelopment.



The massive improvement to the building which won the THI the Best Before and After Photo award at the Empty Homes Conference.

House building backed by council's £9 million

MONEY to help with the building of 330 houses over the next three years has been approved by Argyll and Bute Council.

Tarbert and Carradale along with Bowmore, Port Ellen and Port Charlotte on Islay stand to benefit.

Councillor Robin Currie, the council's policy lead for housing, said that 'the programme was ambitious but achievable and it was good news for people looking for housing, good news for the house building industry and good news for the economy of Argyll and Bute'.

He added: 'The construction sector is crucial to the economy and investing in house building is paramount.'

'I'm particularly pleased that Argyll and Bute Council will contribute nearly £9m over the next three years in getting new units built all over Argyll and Bute and enable housing associations to keep rents at affordable levels and at the same time make the houses more energy efficient so that we can tackle fuel poverty.'

Helen's pick wins her a grand prize

THE Big Apple beckons for Helen Gilchrist - and she will be £1,000 richer after winning a Campbeltown Picture House competition.

The community-owned cinema ran its Pick a Peck of Pixels competition during the autumn and Helen could not believe she had won £1,000.

Helen said: 'When Jane came into the Fish Shop and told me I had won I was shocked - normally I only win a bottle of wine or something in these competitions.'

'I am heading to New York on holiday next year so some of the money will go towards that. To win an amount like that is just a great feeling.'



Jane Mayo, left, director of Campbeltown Community Business Group, presents Helen Gilchrist, Pick a Peck of Pixels winner, with a cheque for £1,000. 20_c50helen01

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New inspector looks to the community

CAMPBELTOWN'S new police inspector Mark Stephen left the mean streets of Glasgow for a taste of rural life - and hopes a move to Campbeltown from Mull will be his friendliest beat yet.

Inspector Stephen from Glasgow has been a police officer for 21 years, working in a variety of roles from uniform patrols to specialised surveillance.

Mr Stephen said: 'When I started out as a uniform officer walking the streets of places like Maryhill and Pollok there were so many different challenges.'

'We handled a lot of serious crimes and later I was also involved in work with the drug squad around Glasgow city centre for two years.'

'I spent four and a half years based at Tobermory on Mull and it was a completely different environment to urban policing - the community could not have been more helpful.'

'Even if the surroundings were quieter I still learned a lot; for example there was the spectre of wildlife crime, something I had never experienced in previous roles.'

'It is a change from travelling the length and breadth of Scotland, and often in England, monitoring organised criminals, but I hope to carry the lessons I learned on Mull, such as engaging with the community to tackle key crime issues more effectively, to Kintyre.'

Mr Stephen has a shared role between Campbeltown and Lochgilhead.

Shop a dealer campaign launched in time for Christmas

PEOPLE do not have to tolerate the scourge of drugs, drug users or dealers in their areas any longer.

That's because a new campaign launched by Police Scotland in Campbeltown will take any information on users in the area.

The Shop-a-Dealer campaign sees Police Scotland in partnership with Argyll Community Housing Association, Fyne Homes, West Highland Housing Association, Kintyre Crime Prevention Panel and Oban, Lorn and the Isles Substance Misuse Group, team up to gain as much information as possible about the problem in the area.

The scheme is designed to allow people concerned about drug dealing in their local communities to give information anonymously to their local police office.

Leaflets will be avail-

able in public buildings, local shops and distributed by local housing associations which contain a tear off sealed post card that allows information to be sent back freepost to local police offices in Campbeltown, Lochgilhead and Oban. The scheme will allow police to gather intelligence directly from local people in an effort to disrupt the illegal activities of individuals involved in selling and supplying drugs in the area.

Area commander, chief inspector Marlene Baillie said: 'Drug dealing can cause individuals, their families and the wider community significant harm and it is important that we work together to tackle this issue.'

'The scheme allows people to give information directly to local officers but without having to go into a police office or make a formal



Inspector Mark Stephen, centre, with Andrew Hemmings of Kintyre Crime Prevention Panel, left, and Sarah Campbell from ACHA, are pictured promoting the Shop A Dealer campaign in Kintyre. 20_c50inspect01

report. Any suspicions they have they can simply fill in the postcard, return it free of charge and without the need to give any details as to their identity. I would encourage anyone who has concerns about drugs to let us know.

Every piece of information will be fed into our intelligence systems and it may just be the missing link we need to capture a drug dealer.'

Andrew Hemmings, chairman of Kintyre Crime Prevention Panel, said: 'Kintyre Crime

Prevention Panel are pleased to support this campaign. It is hoped it will give people who have very legitimate concerns the confidence to submit their observations anonymously and in confidence. By doing so this will assist the de-

tection of those who so negatively impact on the lives of many people in Kintyre and may positively contribute to the improved health and well being of those users genuinely motivated to address their addiction problems.'

No point in asking questions at area committee, says councillor

AN ISLAY councillor said there was 'no point' in asking questions at last week's Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay area committee because there was no-one there to answer them.

Councillor Robin Currie was speaking in the response to a pa-

per brought before the committee on the transfer of funds from grant making trusts to an Argyll-wide fund.

Mr Currie said he wanted more information on the way the funds could be allocated.

He continued: 'I am

sure there will be officers there to talk about all the papers in places like Oban. It is a shame they are not here.'

Council officers assured Mr Currie that officers were not being allocated to any of the meetings as the paper was 'for noting' only.

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Kintyre Turbine Watch group restarts in response to power plans

KINTYRE Turbine Watch has been restarted in response to the number of wind power companies looking to develop in the area.

A meeting in Tayinloan Village Hall last Wednesday evening was well attended by residents from Glenbarr to Tarbert.

A spokesman for the group said: 'Discussions took place regarding the turbine applications already in the pipeline and those still at an early stage.'

'Concerns were raised regarding the new power connection between Kintyre and Hunterston making Kintyre an easy target for more wind-farms.'

'Further meetings are being arranged for the new year at dates and venues to be confirmed and anyone worried that not only Kintyre, but Argyll as a whole, is being changed for the worse by windfarms will be welcome to attend.'

Top role and award for former Campbeltown man

A FORMER Campbeltown man is set to become the chief operating officer of one of the UK's biggest and most successful companies.

Robin Watson, 47, chief executive of Wood Group PSN, is to take up his new role during the first half of next year.

Wood Group, a multi-national oil and gas services company based in Aberdeen, had a turnover in excess of six billion pounds last year and is listed in the FTS 250 Index.



Robin Watson.

Mr Watson also recently won an award for global director of the year at the Institute of Directors' annual awards final.

The son of Beth and the late Lawrence Watson, who worked as a joiner, Mr Watson went to Dalintober Primary and then Campbeltown Grammar before studying mechanical engineering at Heriot Watt University.

He lives in Aberdeen with his wife, Lorraine, and their three children.

Mum Beth told the Courier: 'He has done very well for himself and I am naturally very proud of him.'

Mr Watson, a chartered mechanical engineer and fellow of the Energy Institute, has led Wood Group PSN since the start of last year. He was previously the division's UK managing director.

Before Wood Group, he worked for Petrofac and Mobile Oil in the UK and internationally.

Machrihanish Dunes named golfing resort of the year

THE Village at Machrihanish Dunes - which is attracting golfers from around the globe - has been named 'Resort of the Year' in the inaugural Golfas Awards.

National Club Golfer Magazine said Machrihanish Dunes won the award for overcoming transportation challenges and providing superb accommodation and service for the more than 10,000 guests who make their way to the resort.

The Resort of the Year award was given in association with Golfbreaks.com.

'It's an honour to be chosen as the best golf resort, said David Southworth, president and chief executive of Southworth Development which owns and operates The Village at Machrihanish Dunes.

'The Golfas Award is another example of the calibre of our great staff and resort at Machrihanish Dunes.'

'It's been a good year with the Ryder Cup visit, the recent success of the ice rink and we're looking forward to 2015 and working with all of



When opened in 2009 on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Machrihanish Dunes was the first course to be built on such a site and also the first course to be built on the west coast of Scotland in more than 100 years. Pictured is the 17th hole.

our partners in Campbeltown and beyond.'

Heralded as one of the most environmentally-sustainable courses in the world, the Machrihanish Dunes Golf Course was also runner up for the prestigious GEO Award twice at the International Association of Golf Tour Operators' annual awards.

Award-winning

The Village at Machrihanish Dunes consists of two historic, four-star, award-winning hotels, newly-built luxury cottages, and the award-winning Machrihanish Dunes Golf Course.

The resort's two hotels, The Ugadale Hotel in Machrihanish and The Royal Hotel in Campbeltown, were fully restored and reopened in 2012, along with casual and formal dining options, spa and fitness room.

The links golf course is consistently ranked as one of the most ecologically-friendly courses in the world.

Designed by David McLay-Kidd, it opened in 2009 on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

It is the first course to be built on such a site and also the first course

to be built on the west coast of Scotland in more than 100 years.

It has won a number of prestigious awards since opening.

Grants and support for the restoration of the Ugadale Hotel in Machrihanish and The Royal Hotel came from Highland and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Campbeltown Town Centre Regeneration Project (Argyll and Bute Council) and Historic Scotland under the Historic Environment Regeneration Fund.

Architects' housing design rewarded

ARCHITECTS who designed a Campbeltown housing development opened last year by Alex Salmond have been commended for their work.

Glasgow-based company Coltart Earley received a special commendation in the Affordable Housing Development of the Year category at the Herald Property Awards for Scotland 2014 for designing Park Terrace, featuring 32 new flats on the site of the former Park Square.

The two-year construction project by MacLeod Construction

from Mid-Argyll was completed in August 2013 and provided work for more than 60 employees, with the overall project costing £5.267 million.

Ceremony

The Herald's awards ceremony was held in Glasgow and MacLeod Construction, which carried out the design, were not forgotten by the designers.

Greg MacLeod, business development manager, said: 'We were kindly invited along to the ceremony and it is always nice to be involved in winning an award. We are glad to



The impressive Park Terrace, whose designers Coltart Earley won a commendation at the Herald's Property Awards for Scotland 2014.

08_c50park01

have carried out the architects' vision for their Park Terrace develop-

ment and this commendation in some way recognises that.'

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MACC needs more support from council

PLANS for developments at Macrihanish Airbase Community Company (MACC) need to be supported more by council officers, Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay (MAKI) area committee heard last week.

Councillors wanted to know how much support had been given to the community company from Argyll and Bute council. MACC bought the base for £1 from the Ministry of Defence in 2012.

Speaking at the MAKI committee, councillor Donald Kelly asked the head of economic development Fergus Murray how many times he had been out to support the MACC voluntary board, which runs the former military air base.

Councillor Kelly said: 'Up until now MACC has not had the engage-

ment with the council that it would like.'

Mr Murray said the group had received support and that his officers were continuing to look at the work that was being done at the base.

He said: 'I engage as often as they ask me too. I often speak to officers about the matter.'

'We introduced the board to Fergus Ewing [MSP and energy, enterprise and tourism minister].'

Mr Murray explained there had been aquaculture investment at the base and support from the council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

'There is a programme of visits arranged in the new year when Pippa Milne, executive director development and infrastructure, will go to the base.'

School fayre and concert aids dialysis fund

CASTLEHILL Primary School last week held a craft fayre and Christmas concert in the school hall. Twenty-five pupils played musical instruments in front of a packed audience. Money raised from the afternoon will be shared between the school and the Kintyre Kidney Dialysis fund.



Castlehill primary's pipers and drummers are accompanied by South Kintyre schools piping tutor Iain McKerral. 08_c50cast02

A packed audience at the Castlehill primary's craft fayre and Christmas concert. 08_c50cast03

Frightened to speak out

A GLENBARR man has come out in favour of a wind farm proposal saying others in the area are afraid to speak out on the matter. Last week The Courier reported on the potential for increased traffic on the A83 after a public meeting held in Glenbarr.

The news report included a number of people who were speaking out against the increased traffic from two separate wind farm applications in the area at Creggan and Blary Hill.

Donald Campbell, a Glenbarr resident, told the Courier he felt there was hesitation among neighbours to speak up in favour of the development for fear of arguing with other locals.

He said: 'There are those who are attempting to speak for everyone in the village, however they do not speak for me. I welcome the development and the future benefits that it could bring to Glenbarr residents.'



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An opportunity to wipe out the scourge of drugs

DRUGS debilitate and demoralise and the shop-a-dealer campaign by Police Scotland in Campbeltown and the rest of Argyll to have a zero tolerance approach to illegal substances should get the full backing of the community.

Given the mainly law abiding citizens who live in the town it is very clear this campaign could make a real difference.

That is, if there is a will and determination to wipe out drugs and not to tolerate criminal behaviour.

There might be a case for some softer drugs to be decriminalised but that's not for the people of the town to decide.

There should be no tolerance to illegal drug taking, drug supplying or drug selling - it kills people. If not physically, it certainly kills them mentally.

Being the neighbour of an illegal drug user or a family member of someone with a habit is vile for everyone involved. Whole lives enthralled by a drug - the getting, the using, the effects and so it goes. The police are offering everyone the opportunity to escape, to tell their story - confidentially - about what they know about drugs.

Even the smallest piece of information might be the final piece in the jigsaw for officers.

We should all be able to live free from illegal drugs - whether that is as a user or a family member of a user, or the neighbour of a dealer.

No-one wins with drugs - apart from some drug baron in South America.

This is Campbeltown's opportunity to wipe out the scourge of drugs - let's do it.

who's who at your
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Carers need to know their rights

Sir,
New Carers UK research has found that more than two million of us will start providing care for older, sick or disabled loved ones every year and many will go without the vital advice and information they need.

With an ageing population and people living longer with disabilities, caring for a loved one is increasingly a reality for families. In fact, as our research found, 10.6 million people across the UK will take on a caring role over the next five years and £1.1 billion of carer's allowance goes unclaimed each year.

It's vital that anyone caring for a loved one seeks advice to ensure they are getting the services and support they are entitled to. Without help and assistance carers can find themselves facing financial hardship, health problems, emotional stress and relationship breakdown. They can be pushed to breaking point. This has serious consequences for individuals, families, employers and the UK economy as a whole.

With new rights in the Care Act coming into effect next year, carers locally need to be informed about how it will impact them.

Carers UK has launched a new Carers Rights Guide available at www.carersuk.org which contains important information on how to get support, including details on upcoming changes to carers' rights.

We're also ready to answer questions via our advice line. Readers can call 0808 808

7777 between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday or email advice@carersuk.org with any specific queries.

Helena Herklots
Chief Executive
Carers UK.

Stamp duty burden

Sir,
Housebuyers across Argyll and Bute and the rest of our United Kingdom are set to benefit from significant reductions in stamp duty announced by Chancellor George Osborne.

However, these fairer rates will cease to apply in Scotland from April, when the punitive rates of the SNP's new tax take effect.

After that, under the Scottish Government's Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT), someone buying a home worth £350,000 will pay £12,300 in stamp duty.

However, following reforms announced by the UK Government, those elsewhere in Britain will pay only £7,500.

For a home worth £395,000, the SNP's stamp duty will be £16,800 but for the rest of the UK it will be £9,750.

It means the new tipping point for homebuyers under LBTT - where they pay more than they would have done previously - is now £254,000, compared to the £325,000 the SNP previously said it would be.

The chancellor recently unveiled new bands for stamp duty.

They involve similar thresholds to the Scottish Government's LBTT, but the percentages applied are considerably lower.

Both sets of proposals involve exemptions for prop-



A painting by former Carradale fisherman Angus MacDonald.

erties at the lower end of the market, then two per cent on homes up to £250,000.

However, the SNP then jumps to a 10 per cent rate for homes between £250,000 and £1 million.

The SNP seriously needs to reconsider its assault on aspiration in Argyll and Bute, and reducing the tax burden on our families instead of increasing it.

Alastair Redman
Unionist and
Conservative
candidate
Argyll and Bute.

Did anyone know my grandfather?

Sir,
I would like to know if any readers have any information about my grandfather, Angus MacDonald, who stayed in Carradale until his death in 1962?

He worked as a fisherman and also did art work in oils.

He and Eliza lived at Rowan Lea with family Ian, Angus, Colin, Donald, Margaret, Marjory and Betty.

I would be delighted to get a response from anyone.

Peter MacVean
Dalvore
Kilmichael Glassary
Lochgilthead
PA31 8SU.

Stand up and be counted

Sir,
I am sure your readers must be fed-up reading about the friendly community wind farms that are going to make Glenbarr the Mecca of all villages and one of the richest in Kintyre - a big statement one would think.

However, the reality of the situation soon reveals itself.

Burcote Wind, the developer who I spoke to last week at a meeting in the village, informed me that, in their words, they 'do not need to be here' and after me asking in response why the company was here they could not give me an answer.

It was reminiscent of the recent survey conducted by Burcote claiming 40 percent of Glenbarr residents wanted

Letters to the Editor, Campbeltown Courier,
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opinion

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FACEBOOK

LETTER

ed these wind farms, despite not being able to name a villager in favour of the proposal when pressed to do so.

The villagers - unlike those outside the six-mile radius - do not want these turbines so I call on them to stand up for themselves and not to listen to West Kintyre Community Council which covers other villages as well.

I am sure they are doing a good job but to the people of Glenbarr I say stand up and be counted or your village will become something of a monstrosity.

**Boyd Sneddon,
Glenbarr.**

Burcote's proposals for Creggan wind farm

Sir,
It was disappointing to read coverage of our recent Public Exhibition in Glenbarr Village Hall on November 27: Burcote Wind would like to take this opportunity to state it was very pleased to be able to hold the event.

It enabled the company to present in detail its improved proposals for Creggan wind farm and provide the local community with an opportunity to ask questions and share their feedback.

As well as information boards, there was an innovative 3D visual computer display showing precisely how the turbines would look in the landscape - this enabled residents to view the project from their own home location.

Burcote has liaised closely with local people, listening to what they have to say and taking on board any concerns. It has held three public exhibitions and hosted no fewer than six community liaison group meetings.

This is precisely how Burcote was able to utilise residents' feedback for the new and improved wind farm de-

sign, which includes reducing the size and number of the turbines and relocating them more than 1km farther from the village.

It was suggested by Friday's Courier editorial that the exhibition's aim was to 'make the right public relations noises'.

Nothing could be further from the truth. We have a genuine desire to show the people of Glenbarr and West Kintyre how we have limited potential impacts by completely redesigning the wind farm.

In fact, we have gone to extraordinary efforts to engage positively with the local community. Feedback from this most recent exhibition indicates 50 per cent of people who came to the exhibition and filled in a survey form were supportive or very supportive of the wind farm.

While we recognise the sample size is relatively small, this survey is completed by people who have a strong interest, either for or against the development, and who make the effort to come along to find out more and have their say.

There is a small minority who are extremely vocal in their opposition to the wind farm - and are given a regular media platform - to the point where other residents tell us they now feel unable or unwilling to voice their own opinions.

We understand there are people who are opposed to the development and we would hope that, having visited the exhibition, they would agree the revised design is an improvement over previous proposals.

**Fraser Campbell
Operations director
Burcote Wind.**

Flagging up a weak decision

Sir,
After reading your article in last week's Courier (Response flags to Saltire proposal, December 5) I wish to ad-

dress this open letter to Sally Loudon and all Argyll and Bute councillors.

I find the quasi-decision from your administration not to fly Scotland's national flag, the Saltire, from public buildings a disgraceful one.

Writing as a Scot and not from any political angle, Sir William Wallace and Robert the Bruce must be turning in their graves at such a weak decision.

Is this more dumbing down of our nationhood? Whether you voted Yes or No in the recent referendum has got nothing to do with the issue. Councillors are elected to serve their constituents and not to dictate to them.

I urge you all to reverse this decision - the Saltire should always be flown with pride.

**T H Brown
Sound of Kintyre.**

Royal Mail should not have been privatised

Sir,
The warning from the Royal Mail that competition from rival delivery firms is putting the Universal Service Obligation (USO) at risk is utterly predictable.

This obligation ensures the delivery of letters to all areas of the UK at a single price and is hugely important to businesses and individuals in rural areas of Scotland. However, increased parcel delivery competition is naturally hitting Royal Mail revenues.

The sell-off of the Royal Mail has been nothing but a shambles since day one. A privatised postal service in a competitive market will undoubtedly put pressure on government to reduce the terms of the USO, as its competitors cherry pick the profitable urban routes leading to a reduced service in rural and less affluent areas. Now we are told there is a 'material risk' to the USO - and that the delivery ser-

vice across the UK will come under 'unmanageable strain'.

Royal Mail should never have been privatised and it is painfully clear that the UK government should never have sold off a valuable public asset at well below its true value and despite all the warning about the end of the USO.

We know the majority of Scots were totally opposed to the privatisation of Royal Mail, more than any other part of the UK.

What we need is a postal service that meets the needs of our communities and which is brought back into public ownership.

**Alex Orr
Leamington Terrace
Edinburgh.**

Shocking count of animal dead

Sir,
A shocking new report by Animal Aid, based on government and farming industry figures, estimates that around 43 million farmed animals die every year, before they can be slaughtered, as a result of disease, exposure, starvation, fires, floods, road crashes and neglect.

Some of the harrowing incidents recorded in The Uncounted Dead: Farming's Unofficial Victims include; the 700,000 chickens which drowned on adjoining farms located on a flood plain (the company is rebuilding its sheds on the same site); and the 2,000 pigs which perished in a fire at a Lincolnshire farm - only for 670 more to die at the same farm in another fire just six months later.

Animal Aid is asking the government to publish accurate pre-slaughter mortality figures.

We are also asking why farmers can rear animals in sheds located on flood plains and why no legal obligation exists for them to develop effective emergency animal evacuation plans, even though their sheds might hold thousands

of pigs or tens of thousands of chickens.

Happily, people can take matters into their own hands by adopting a humane and healthy animal-free diet.

For free information and recipes, see www.animalaid.org.uk or contact our Tonbridge, Kent office.

**Andrew Tyler
Director
Animal Aid
The Old Chapel
Bradford Street
Tonbridge
TN9 1AW.**



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Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Shedden



AS we tumbled into Glenbarr Abbey last Sunday, huddled against the hail and the viscous wind, I thought how appropriate the words of the Christmas song were for that dreadful day - 'the weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful'.

How welcoming it was to toast by the roaring fire in the hall of the Abbey as huge logs threw up flames that warmed us all.

The Abbey was buzzing as it welcomed guests to its annual Christmas open house.

Warm soup and friendly smiles soon thawed out our frozen bodies. The ladies who looked after us brought cheer and laughter as well as delicious offerings of home baking.

Santa was there with his cheery chat and the Abbey glowed with the warmth of Christmas.

It was just a moment that caught my attention. Noah had been speaking at great length to Santa and explained his requests.

I was then chatting to Noah about this when he suddenly stopped talking and returned to Santa.

Very politely he said: 'Excuse me Santa, but I forgot to say that I won't be at home this Christmas.'

He then went on to explain where he would be and was anxious to ensure that Santa would find him.

Santa duly said that he would and so made a little boy very happy.

I thought of the lovely story of Santa and the universal joy and happiness he brings.

Noah was reassured that Santa would find him wherever he was.

I hope that as he grows, Noah and all our youngsters will know that God too will find them wherever they are.

In the wonder of God's love and the mystery of God's grace, we will all be at home this Christmas.

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Beautiful arrangements at floral art demonstration

CAMPBELTOWN Flower Club hosted an open floral art demonstration by Elizabeth Paterson from Carluke, a Scottish Association of Floral Art Societies demonstrator.

She did a number of beautiful arrangements on the theme of 'Gifts of Winter'. Some very happy people won an arrangement in the raffle. Elizabeth judged member's arrangements entitled 'Fireworks' as follows: 1 Pauline Simson, 2 Margaret McKendrick, 3 Barbara Rubin.

A light supper was then enjoyed. The following morning Elizabeth led a workshop where members made a linked arrangement using two containers. Elizabeth was thanked for giving everyone such an inspiring demonstration and workshop, and it was hoped she could return to Campbeltown next year.

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Festive fun at Glenbarr Abbey

THERE was plenty of festive cheer at the beautiful Glenbarr Abbey when it opened its doors to the public for the first of two Christmas open days.

The 18th-century building, managed by the Clan Macalister Charitable Trust since 1986, is rich in history and tales stretching far beyond Kintyre, with rooms adorned with many different attractions ranging from military uniforms to a vast collection of teddy bears.

More visitors this weekend can look forward to a coal fire, a barbershop choir as well as teas, coffees and home baking courtesy of the Mairi Semple Fund.

Santa will be there too, bringing with him gifts for the children.

Jean Macalister, Glenbarr Abbey trustee, said: 'This is a magnificent building steeped in history but was recently placed on the Buildings at Risk Register, such are the improvements needed to it.'

'The open days are

part of our commitment to raising funds for its redevelopment. We had a strong turnout last weekend and hope for great support again from the Kintyre community and beyond.'

The second of the two Christmas open days takes place this Sunday, (December 14), from 12.30pm - 4pm.

The Fynesiders Barbershop Choir will be performing festive songs - even singing Silent Night in German. 20_c50abbey03



The Friendship Club enjoyed a Christmas lunch in the new Lorne and Lowland Church hall last Friday. 20_c50lunch01

Church entertains senior citizens for Christmas

SENIOR citizens gathered at the new Lorne and Lowland Church hall last Friday to celebrate Christmas with the Friendship Club.

Small donation
Organised by the church, the

club hosts a lunch each Friday at midday and serves lunch in return for a small donation.

Helen McTaggart, church convenor, said: 'Anyone is welcome to come along - we serve soup and sandwiches every Friday and

have more than 30 helpers volunteering throughout the year.'

Tasty
Several of those members helped serve a tasty Christmas lunch provided by Argyll Bakeries.

Festive fair goes down a treat

GIGHA primary school pupils held a mini Christmas fair, raising an astonishing £457.17 for school funds.

The children made decorations and cards to sell at an after school club, along with calendars they had designed. Tea, coffee and mulled apple juice was served along with warm mince pies and shortbread, followed by a raffle.



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Sunday 14th December 2014
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Stonefield Farm
An Tarbert
Saturday 13th December 12 noon - 3pm
Santa's Grotto
followed by Children's Christmas Workshop £2 per child.

Co-Operative Lochgilphead
CHRISTMAS MARKET
Saturday 13th December 2014 10am - 3pm
At the rear of the Co-Op Car Park To Coincide with the Farmers Market Refreshments and Cake Stall, Crafts and Car Boots, Bookstall.
Enquiries - Sharon Brooker 01546 603778 / 07765541934

Dalriada Accordion & Fiddle Club
Tuesday 16th December
LOCAL PLAYERS
Argyll Inn Lochgilphead 7.30pm
Admission £4.00 All Welcome

TARBERT GUN CLUB
XMAS SHOOT
at Barmore on Sunday 14th December at 11am.
Bring a Prize

Mid Argyll Musical Society
Invite you to celebrate *The Spirit of Christmas*
in an evening of music and refreshments on Sunday, 14th December, 2014 at Ardrishaig Public Hall, at 7.30pm
Tickets £2.00 and £3.00 at the door!! All welcome.

Skipness Village Hall
Festive Family Dance
with Gunna Sound Ceilidh band on Saturday 27th December at 8.30pm
Adults - £6, under 18 - £3, under 12 - free
Teas & Raffle. Come & join us!

The Royal British Legion Scotland
Campbeltown Branch
MONTHLY MEETING
141 Recreational Club Friday 12th December @ 1930hrs

Glenbarr Abbey Charitable Trust
CHRISTMAS OPEN DAYS
Sundays 7th & 14th December 2014 12.30pm to 4.00pm
Soup and teas provided by Mairi Semple Fund
Live music in the dining room Mrs Jeanne Macalister 01583 421247 Scottish Registered Charity SCO14084

Carradale Drama Club
Present the pantomime **DICK WHITTINGTON**
by Bob Heather in Carradale Village Hall on Friday 12th December at 7.30pm and Saturday 13th December at 2.00pm & 7.30pm
Adults £5, Children £3

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Stuart Herd at his art gallery in Tarbert, alongside the welcoming window display. 08_c49herd01

Charcoal drawings are plain sailing for Stuart

ARTIST Stuart Herd launched his new art style recently at his fourth Christmas exhibition and fair.

Sketching

For the opening of the exhibition, on November 29, Stuart introduced the Yacht Series - the sketching of yachts up to more than a century old.

He said: 'The idea is that yachtsmen and fisherman can come and commission me to create artwork for them.'

'It's the first time that I've sketched with charcoal, it's very straightforward and nice to do. I love sketching.'

Stuart's Christmas fair has become a festive tradition,

where he exhibits his range of Argyll-inspired artwork along with stocking fillers and advent ornaments.

Far and wide

People travelled from far and wide to explore Stuart's gallery, The Art Studio in Tarbert.

Michael Soutar, from Edinburgh, sailed in to Tarbert Har-

bour for the event. He said: 'I came here especially for this exhibition. Stuart paints interesting places and I've bought some of his work before. I really like the idea of using old maps alongside sketches of the yachts.'

The exhibition is open until the end of December.

Home music gigs get under way

THE first in a series of 'HomeSong Gigs' has been held at West Witchburn, Witchburn Road, the Campbeltown home of David and Ineke Fee.

Erin Todd made a welcome return to Campbeltown on November 22, after her successful appearance at the Kintyre Songwriters Festival.

Erin said the invitation from the Fees to play this intimate, unplugged session in their home was the perfect excuse to come back to Campbeltown.

The Fees are hoping to make HomeSong a regular event in the

new year with both visiting performers and local songwriters.

Musician David Fee said: 'I'd been planning to facilitate this more intimate kind of gig for some time to complement other events in the town supporting original music.'

'A HomeSong gig is a not-for-profit venture where the money raised via donations on the night all go to the performing artist.'

'Please contact me at hiker@mypostoffice.co.uk if you are interested in being on a mailing list to hear about future events.'

Plenty food for the soul on seniors' Muneroy visit

LAUGHTER was in the air when the Happy Bus of South Kintyre Seniors Forum made a long-awaited visit to Muneroy Tearoom in Southend last week.

Passengers enjoyed a brilliant afternoon and ate two courses of chef Frances Hill's award-winning cooking.

Lesley Mitchell, treasurer of South Kintyre Seniors Forum, said: 'The Happy Bus has been a great success. It is a great way to meet up with old friends while making new ones.'

If you would like to join the seniors forum, be kept up-to-date with future Happy Bus trips or just want further in-

formation, give Ian a call on 01586 554744 or visit Argyll Voluntary Action's office in Longrow South, Campbeltown.



Members of South Kintyre Seniors Forum during their meal at Muneroy last week.

Ready, get set - go online

GET on your starting blocks for MOKRUN.

It is getting close to that time of year again when only the swiftest will be ensured a place in arguably the UK's most popular races outside of the London Marathon.

Last year 900 entries for the MOK half marathon and 10k in Campbeltown were snapped up within 24 hours.

For the 2015 races on Sunday, May 24 the total entries have been increased to 1,000, but they are again expected to be taken up within hours.

'It never ceases to amaze us how the popularity of the event seems to have grown year on year,' said Elaine McGeachy, one of the MOKRUN organisers.

One chance

There will also be no reserve list, so there will be one chance only to secure a place.

Entries will open online at www.entrycentral.com at noon on January 2.

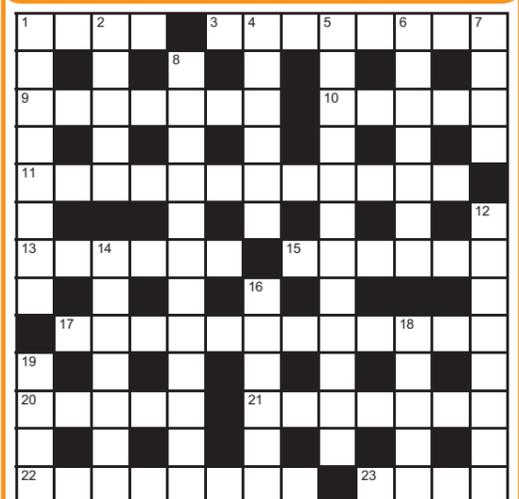
More details can be found at www.mokrun.com

Junior race entries will also be online.



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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Desiring of another's (4)
- 3 Contagious skin disorder (8)
- 9 An elaborate ending to a piece (7)
- 10 Listlessness (5)
- 11 Laid for one to sit at (5,7)
- 13 Seed oil (6)
- 15 Japanese island (6)
- 17 Showing the way (7,5)
- 20 Below in text (5)
- 21 Gap (7)
- 22 Remote (8)
- 23 Blender sound (4)

Down

- 1 The ability to get away from it all (8)
- 2 Clear drink (5)
- 4 Surrounded by water (6)
- 5 Coat with silver maybe (12)
- 6 Turn to bat (7)
- 7 Final notice (4)
- 8 Go-between (12)
- 12 Shopper (8)
- 14 Die (5,2)
- 16 Banner (6)
- 18 Circumference (5)
- 19 Pen name (4)

Last week's solution



SOUTHEND

Beauty tips in Southend

PRESIDENT Jen Ronald opened the latest Southend SWRI meeting, drawing attention to the Garden Scotland competition for all SWRI members, before introducing Amy Gray, from Look Good, Feel Good, Beauty Salon in Campbeltown.

Amy talked about her shop and back to basics for everything the skin needs, starting with facial care and exfoliating skin daily and dermologica cleanser, and then applying makeup.

The salon also does reflexology, massage and facials for special occasions and what is best for a person's colouring. Her shop is open to anyone wishing to try her many testers and advice is on hand.

Vice-president Kathleen Martin gave the vote of thanks to Amy Gray for a wonderful evening. Tea and cake

were available and gift envelopes were filled.

Competitions: beetroot chutney - Marion Warnock, gold; Inez Ronald, silver; Margaret McLean, red; Margaret McDowell, blue; Elizabeth Semple, gold; Jen Ronald, red; Fiona Rowland red.

Six peppermint creams - Jen Ronald, gold; Kathleen Martin, red; Elizabeth Semple, blue; Fiona Rowland, silver; Inez Ronald, red.

Three treacle oven scones - Jen Ronald, gold; Elizabeth Semple, silver; Margaret Penman, red; Margaret McDowell, blue; Margaret Batemen, blue; Inez Ronald, silver; Fiona Rowland, red; Margaret McLean, blue.

Quintest salt and pepper - Elizabeth Semple, gold; Margaret McDowell, silver; Christine Jardine, red; Margaret Bakes, red; Margaret Bateman, gold; Karen Twyham, silver; Margaret Penman, red; Margaret McIsaac, red; Patricia Jones, silver.

CLACHAN

SWRI given first aid talk by Red Cross trainer

MURDINA Clark, the training organiser from the Lochgilhead branch of the Red Cross, came to Clachan SWRI meeting to talk about basic first aid.

She brought a number of dummies for members to practise resuscitation on, and answered many questions about how to respond to accidents and emergencies.

The members were very glad to have up-to-date information as some of the treatment methods have changed significantly.

Murdina was thanked for her help, and judged the competitions as follows: Scariest mask - 1 Louise Stanesby, 2 Pat Dean, 3 Zoe Weir. Treacle toffee - 1 Jenny Sinclair, 2 Zoe Weir, 3 Pat Dean. Tea was provided by Margaret Mundell and Zoe Weir.

DUNAVERTY



Santa and one of his elves, David McCallum, dropped in to give presents to these Southend youngsters.

A fayre amount raised for Dunaverty Hall fund

DUNAVERTY Hall Committee raised a superb £906.20 at its annual Christmas Fayre, of which £800 will go to committee funds.

Susan Paterson, committee chairwoman, said: 'This amazing total takes us over the £5,000 mark of our latest funding appeal.

'A special 'thank you' to everyone who helped

on the day, made gifts and baking, to Santa who dropped in on his travels, and to everyone who came along.'

The group is now running a photo competition for the best image of Southend, with all entries to be in by January 31.

The cost is £4 per picture for adults and £2 for children.

Susan added: 'Entry forms can be found at the post office or you can submit your form online to dunavertyphotos@outlook.com and follow the steps in the confirmation email to pay your entry fee.

'However, you can also help by donating online at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/DunavertyVillageHall>'

SADDELL

Full support for Saddell statue

PLANS for a 'thought-provoking' sculpture at Saddell Bay by award-winning sculptor Antony Gormley have been given the full backing of East Kintyre Community Council.

The sculptor, a Turner Prize winner responsible for the Angel of the North in Gateshead, describes LAND, an exhibition featuring five life-size iron sculptures of a human being, as 'thought-provoking'.

Stuart Irvine, East Kintyre Community Council chairman, said: 'For Saddell Bay to be chosen as one of only five locations in the UK for Antony Gormley's LAND exhibition is a great coup for the area, increasing visitor numbers not only to Saddell but to the whole of Kintyre.'

'East Kintyre Community Council unanimously supports it. It promises to be a unique attraction.'

The LAND exhibition, designed by Anthony to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Landmark Trust, will appear on Saddell Beach in May next year.

TARBERT

Boat takes new name from Tarbert tot

A TARBERT man will go to work each day reminded of two very important ladies in his life after his employers, the Scottish Salmon Company (SSC), named their new vessel after his baby girl.

Chris Smyth was invited to name the new landing craft on Loch Fyne after his 15-month-old daughter Erin Julia, as SSC chiefs aimed to recognise his long service with the company.

Erin takes her second name, Julia, from Chris' grandmother.

'Erin was a name both myself and my partner, Emma MacPhail, liked and Julia is after my nana who passed away in 2005,' Chris said.

'Emma and I are both delighted to have a boat named after Erin, especially one I will skipper. 'I've worked on many

boats over the years but it's a special feeling when it's named after your daughter. When Erin's old enough to understand I'm sure she'll enjoy telling all her friends she has a boat named after her.'

Erin Julia, Chris and

Emma were on board the new boat when it made its maiden voyage from Bute, where it had been built by Ard-maleish Boatbuilding Company.

Chris, who started working for SSC in 1998, had been directly

involved in the designs for the boat and helped with the layout of the vessel, ranging from the wheelhouse, deck, workshop/store and hydraulic set-up.

Erin Julia will service SSC sites in Loch Fyne, Arran and Striven.



Chris Smyth, Erin Julia Smyth with her mother, Chris' partner Emma MacPhail, and Iain MacIntyre, production manager of the Scottish Salmon Company.

Scottish Field JANUARY ISSUE OUT NOW

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Land reform consultation exercise welcomed



ALASDAIR ALLAN:
Consultation will lead to a simplification of the community buy-out process

REFORM: the consultation process has begun on the Scottish government's proposals for land reform

LANDLORDS 'who actively and positively manage and engage with their crofting tenants and people on the ground' should have nothing to fear from the Scottish government's recently announced proposed land reforms.

The Crofting Commission has welcomed the formation of a Land Reform Commission, new powers for ministers to intervene where ownership is a barrier to sustainable development and the removal of business rate exemptions from sporting estates.

Crofting Commissioner David Campbell, who represents the interests of landlords of crofts on the board of the Crofting Commission, said: 'These important proposals should not hold fear for those landlords who actively and positively manage and engage with their crofting tenants and people on the ground.'

'It is hoped that these proposals would encourage greater collective participation between crofting landlords and

tenants, particularly in developing benefit from underused common grazing areas across the crofting counties.'

The introduction of business rates for shooting and deer-stalking estates would also more than treble the Scottish Land Fund from £3 million this year to £10 million a year from 2016, said the crofting commission.

'The increased Scottish Land Fund will allow for those communities currently actively progressing buy outs to aid their ambitions to the benefit of crofting,' said Mr Campbell.

'The Crofting Commission looks forward to the forthcoming consultations and the opportunities they may create in helping to secure the future of crofting.'

Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MSP, Alasdair Allan, has also welcomed the launch of the consultation.

He said: 'This consultation will hopefully lead to a simplification of the process for a community seeking to make a

buyout of its land.

'A community land buyout can be a long and complicated process for any community and anything that can be done to make the task more manageable for small communities has to be a good thing.'

'The trebling in size of the Scottish Land Fund is also something which is important in allowing other communities across Scotland to benefit from funding to allow them to progress their own buyouts.'

'Fragile communities need to be able to develop and to take charge of their own destiny, like has successfully happened in a number of communities in the Western Isles.'

'With other land buyouts being considered at present in other areas of the islands this sign of commitment from the Scottish government can only be good news.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'In launching the document Aileen McLeod, the minister responsible for land reform, was ab-

solutely right to draw attention to the need for land to deliver greater public benefits, through a democratically accountable and transparent system of rights that promotes fairness and social justice, environmental sustainability and economic prosperity.'

'That is the task we now have to undertake as a nation and it will be all the better if it is informed by a strong public debate about land and the public interest and about how we make land work for the benefit of everyone.'

'No one has anything to fear from that debate and in fact rural and island Scotland (including Argyll and Bute) has much to gain from land reform.'

The 'Future of Land Reform in Scotland' consultation seeks views and input on the draft Land Rights and Responsibilities Policy and proposals for a Land Reform Bill.

To find out more visit <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/land-reform-and-tenancy-unit/land-reform-scotland>

It's a first in Texas for creamery

FIRST Milk has secured a deal with a Texan fine foods retailer for the export of Mull of Kintyre cheddar which is produced at Campbeltown Creamery.

The order means that the premium Scottish cheddar is available for the key holiday season in the US.

Fraser Brown of First Milk said: 'Developing added value export sales is a key part of our business strategy, as we remain focused on driving more stable returns for our farmer owners.'

'Despite the depressed market situation around the world, US markets are performing stronger, with quality cheddar selling for premium

prices, and demand increasing year on year.

'We have also developed a US-specific pre-packed variant of Mull of Kintyre, in response to the growing appetite among Americans for our premium Scottish cheddar.'

New customers

'Throughout this year, First Milk's export team has secured new customers around the world.'

While faced with unprecedented market volatility, these new sales will have a limited impact on milk price in the short-term, but their growth demonstrates the opportunities which exist to add greater value to its members' milk over the longer-term.



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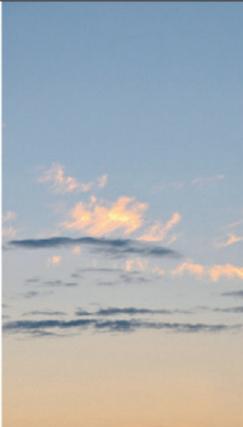
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A glad heart makes Christmas shopping easier

CHRISTMAS gift buying can fill a person with either dread or delight.

The response it causes in people can almost be divided into three camps.

1. Those who love the whole process and seem to spend not just December but the whole calendar year coming up with wonderful and diverse presents for every relation, friend and neighbour on their Christmas list.

Indeed they are so good at it and having so much fun, that they will happily become buyers and idea providers for anyone who cares to ask.

2. Those who are also quite organised and will dutifully set time aside and trudge around the shops or, these days, scour the internet for appropriate, thoughtful gifts.

3. Others - the vast majority of who are male. These are people who grudge the whole process and for whom it has the uncanny knack of completely emptying the mind. Suddenly, they haven't a clue about what to get, about colour and about size. About anything. Postponing the shop-

ping until last minute on December 24 doesn't help. They just want it to be December 26 and all over.

So what is the answer? First don't wait until December 24. Get out there and get started. Browse the shops, talk to the assistants and others, pick their brains. Start building up a list of possible ideas.

Next, go about it with a glad heart. Rather than seeing it as an unavoidable chore, think about how much pleasure the right, thoughtful present can bring. There really is nothing like seeing a person's face light up when they receive a special gift.

It may be a bit of a cliché, but at Christmas the thought really does count by putting a little extra effort into a present for someone and giving them something they will truly enjoy.

While it may sound daunting, especially when there are so many other things to do at this time of year, it is amazing how easy it is to find a unique gift, even in the Argyll area.

Presents can be anything these days, whether it is a special photograph framed or a painting, a voucher for a local salon or beautician to give someone a well-deserved pampering or some driving lessons for those desperate to learn or needing to brush up on their skills.

There really is a wealth of choice out there when it comes to Christmas presents. Shopping around or doing an internet search can bring up all sorts of ideas and suggestions that may not have been thought of.

Here is one particular thought: hotels and guest houses do a lot of great deals in the winter months. Why not consider a couple of days' break somewhere nice as a gift? Somewhere where someone else can do the cooking and clearing up.

And there's nothing like a good book to curl up with in front of the fire, with a wee dram of whisky to warm the insides, on a cold winter's night.

Giving not only makes the recipient feel good, but the person doing the giving feels great when they know someone has been given a unique present they will use again and again.

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Ordination takes place at Lowland Parish Church

A SPECIAL service took place at Lorne and Lowland Church on Saturday December 6, when the Presbytery of Argyll ordained William Crossan to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. The service, which was attended by a large congregation from all parts of Kintyre, was conducted by the Reverend Jeff McCormick, Moderator of the Presbytery. Mr Crossan has spent the past five years train-

ing for ministry, mostly at Lorne and Lowland Church, but also for a time at Ardrishaig and South Knapdale. He studied theology and divinity by distance learning at Aberdeen University. During the service, Mr Crossan was presented with a bible by the presbytery as a symbol of ministry, and with a home communion set by the Lorne and Lowland guild. In honour of Mr Cross-

san's ordination, the church was decorated with flowers given by a former member of the Highland Parish Church, Nancy Morgans, who now lives in Ivybridge, Devon. Afterwards the flowers were taken to Auchinlee to be enjoyed by the residents there. As an ordained local minister, he will have duties in the West Kintyre parishes and in the Campbeltown parish group of churches.



Taking a stand against climate change

POWER to the People Kintyre brought its vision for a cleaner, greener place to live to Explore Campbeltown's Christmas market. The group's Transition Kintyre stall discussed changing habits with

the public, a concept which started in Devon in 2006 aimed at reducing the impact of rising temperatures and helping communities become more self-sufficient. Ed Tyler, of Power

to the People Kintyre, said: 'Transition projects are unique to each community. In Kintyre it could help us cope with road closures, high energy prices, power cuts and the lack of high quality jobs for our

young people, and create new green jobs in horticulture, food and the environment. As a community we would be playing a part in reducing climate change and our dependency on fossil fuels.'



Ordained: (left to right) Dr Chris Brett, Presbytery Clerk, Rev Willie Crossan, Rev Jeff McCormick, Moderator, and Rev David Carruthers.

Complaints not being recorded, claims councillor

A CAMPBELTOWN councillor told his fellow members that he doesn't believe complaints are being recorded within Argyll and Bute Council. At last week's Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay area committee, Donald Kelly told his colleagues that he knew of many complaints which had been made to the council. Yet, on the official report to the area committee, there were fewer than he had expected. Councillor Kelly said: 'I just don't think these records are accurate. I know of three complaints that are not recorded here.'

Argyll and Bute council officers agreed to look into the matter.

PA postcodes lottery success

PA POSTCODES have come up trumps for lottery winners with 17 millionaires being created and 155 prizes of £50,000 or more being paid out over the last 20 years. Communities across the area have also been winners with 2,493 grants awarded to individuals and organisations across the arts, sports, heritage, health, education, environment,

charity and voluntary sectors, amounting to £93,657,511 in the last two decades. Projects supported include the large, such as the Sustrans cycle paths and the small with 70 per cent of grants across the UK being less than £10,000. Reflecting on The National Lottery's many success stories, a spokesperson said: 'Twenty years is a milestone to

celebrate and thank National Lottery players from Argyll and Bute for their contribution to the many life-changing projects that have been made possible across the length and breadth of the country.'

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Owl centre flying high

THE Scottish Owl Centre which began life in Campbeltown in 2005 has just received a prestigious trophy at its new location in West Lothian.

Rod and Niccy Angus relocated their business to Polkemmet Country Park, Whitburn in 2011 and after three years of successful growth

have been awarded Best Tourism Business in the Business Excellence Awards of the West Lothian Chamber of Commerce.

After their small beginnings in Campbeltown, they now have more than 100 owls, three staff and an impressive brown tourist sign at the new M8

junction 4A. Rod and Niccy said they were grateful for all those who helped to get the business established in Kintyre.

Niccy added: 'This is our first award since moving here three years ago and it is great to have our work and growth acknowledged.'



Rod and Niccy Angus are pictured receiving their award from West Lothian councillor John McGinty, left.

European expert from Argyll delivers key speech in Venice

ARGYLL'S tourism director has been advising European experts on managing competition in the water.

At an event, held in Venice in November VisitScotland's David Adams McGilp, from Mid Argyll, advised international delegates on the planning for space around European waters up to 200 nautical miles from the coastline, to pontoons, ports and harbours- and how they can be well managed.

Throughout the world, the west coast is viewed as a place for extensive tourism development, a strategy enshrined in the action plans of both Argyll and Bute and Highland council.

Speaking after the conference, Mr Adams Mc-

Gilp said he was delighted to share his knowledge about developments in marine planning in Scotland with international delegates.

David was previously involved in developing facilities through the European Union's Marine Waters project that funded more than 20 pontoons and marinas in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

David, a regional director with VisitScotland, said: 'My presentation focussed on managing priorities on the use of marine space.'

'It emphasised that Scotland's marine planning embodies important principles such as a presumption of mixed use facilities, unless it

can be demonstrated that certain combined activities would be dangerous or impossible.

'There is also the right of unencumbered access to the marine environment for tourism, recreation and leisure activity, even in Marine Protected Areas.

Complex zoning
'Scotland's common-sense approach was of particular interest to delegates from other member states, some of which are developing complex zoning for different types of maritime activity, and will rely on legislation and regulation to enforce it.

'In Europe, Scotland is regarded a leader in coastal and maritime tourism development, which includes inland



VisitScotland's David Adams McGilp.

17_t50david1

waterways and freshwater entities.'

David delivered positive news to the international delegates in that in the future, he believed, there will be many more opportunities to deliver joint recommendations between industry and tourism which would encourage sustainable growth in the sector.

Recycling firm's thank you to long-serving employees

FOUR of Kintyre Recycling's longest-serving workers had a day to remember last Friday when they were presented with gift bags to celebrate 15 years' service.

Jacqueline Flaws, Iain MacDougall, Iain Martin and Donald Stewart were congratulated for their hard work since joining the recycling company in 1999 through a partnership with the Woodlands Resource Centre, also in Campbeltown, which provides support for people with special educational or social needs.

Trevor Oxborrow, Kintyre Recycling director, said: 'Kintyre Recycling was set up with two objectives, to provide a recycling facility and to offer employment to people with special educational or social needs.'

'Fifteen years in any workplace is a remarkable achievement. Our



Mary MacMillan of Woodlands Resource Centre, Jacqueline Flaws, Iain MacDougall, Iain Martin, Donald Stewart, long-serving employees at Kintyre Recycling and Amanda Carr, Kintyre Recycling manager.

four employees from Woodlands do as important a role as any and it is a pleasure to be able to make this presentation to them.

'I would also like to thank Kintyre Recycling's business manager Amanda Carr for all

her help.' Mary MacMillan, who oversaw the project from the beginning on behalf of Woodlands, said: 'It has been fantastic to see the four of them grow and develop as people over the years. As members of staff they are paid the

same as those who work with Kintyre Recycling through conventional employment - there is no token wage. It shows what can be done to help those with learning difficulties and special needs if the proper support is in place.'



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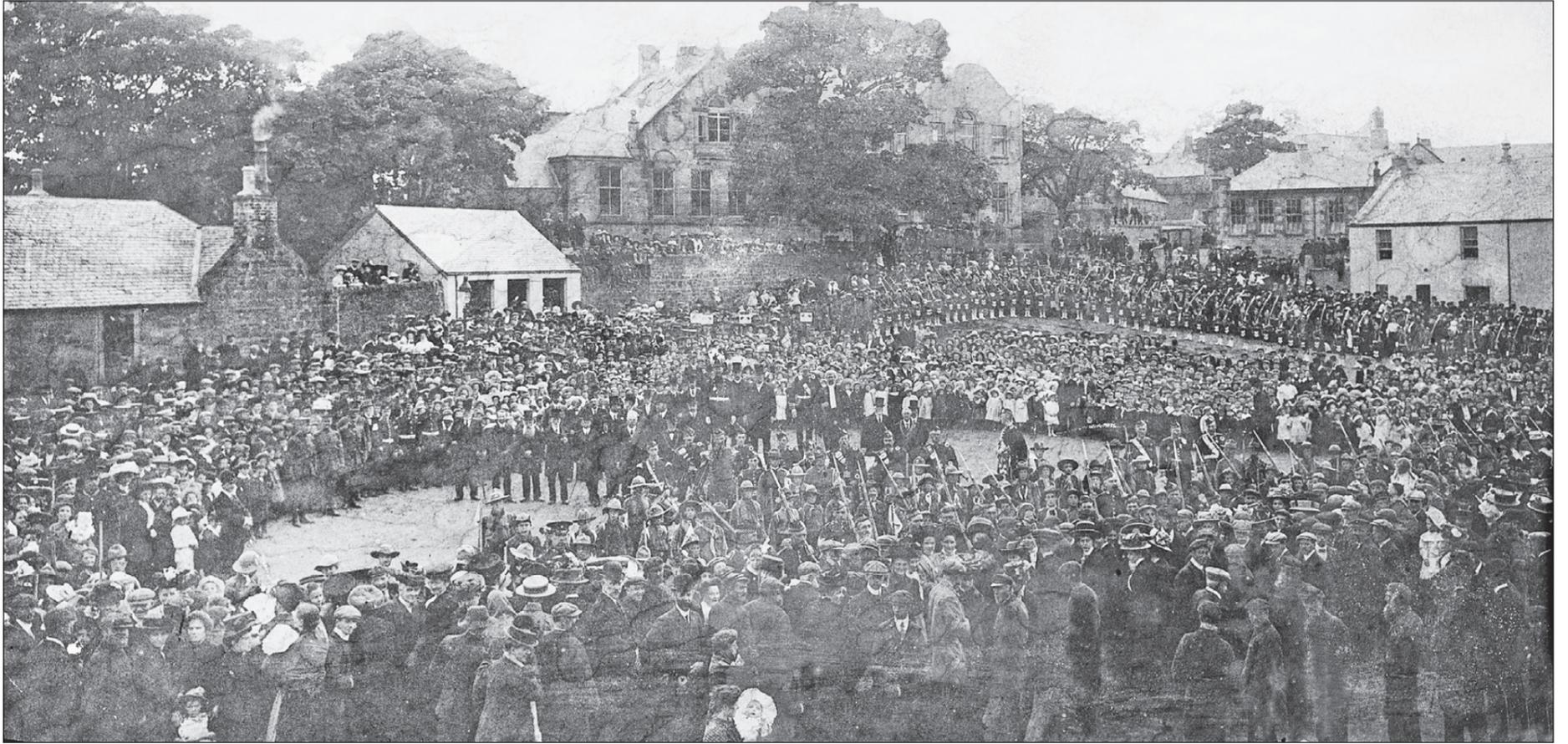


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Incredible scene at Stewart's Green



THIS brilliant photograph was brought in to the Courier by Marlyn Moffat, a volunteer with Campbeltown Heritage Centre, showing a massive gathering of both soldiers, from the Ar-

gyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and civilians of all classes, from boy scouts to the lord provost of Campbeltown, gathered at Stewart's Green in Campbeltown.

Ms Moffat said: 'The photograph belongs to Efric McNeill and was handed into us as part of the World War One exhibition we ran during the summer. 'It was up on the wall in

Martin's Bookshop on Main Street for as long as anyone can remember. We would love to know if any Courier readers have this photograph or knows the story behind it, because the pho-

tographer has clearly been set up to mark the occasion. 'If those are scouts in the foreground then the picture was taken post-1907, the year they were founded. 'It may have been a parade

on either the outbreak of WWI or just before. The civilian clothes are of an Edwardian style and the triumphal look of the photo is in line with the parades seen on the outbreak of the war.'

Council staff average two weeks a year off sick

COUNCIL employees took 36,033 days off sick from work last year.

Figures for 2013/14 show that Argyll and Bute staff on average were missing from work through illness for two working weeks.

They took 10.6 days off in 2013/14, double the 5.3 days recorded in the private sector.

This places the council's absentee rate just above the Scottish national mean figure of just under nine days, but well below the worst affected local authorities.

The figures for staff sickness in Argyll and Bute are actually improving, particularly the number of teachers taking a day off.

Injury, back problems, infections and digestion problems are among the most common reasons

for short-term absence.

Long-term absence - attributed to stress, medical treatment and digestion problems - has more than doubled in five years, with 227 people absent for more than 28 days.

Some council insiders argue that the widespread geography of Argyll makes it very difficult to provide sickness cover, given the reduction in staff numbers following cuts at the council in recent years.

One worker, in a front-line service, said she was at her wit's end having to cover colleagues who were off sick.

She said: 'The truth is I cannot do my job and everyone else's in the time I have. Sometimes it is easier to stay off sick myself rather than face a task I cannot do.'

Dave Watson, of Unison, described the rise as an inevitable consequence of massive job cuts. He said: 'We have carried out surveys and found sickness had gone up in areas where jobs had been cut but there had been no reduction in workloads.

'Those left behind have to plug the gaps, resulting in increased levels of stress.'

A council spokeswoman said it 'mitigated staff absence by supporting staff to return to work'.

She continued: 'We have introduced a trigger system to manage absence and the use of occupational health services to support the process.

'Managers are provided with training on this specific policy.'



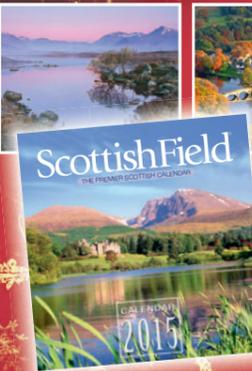
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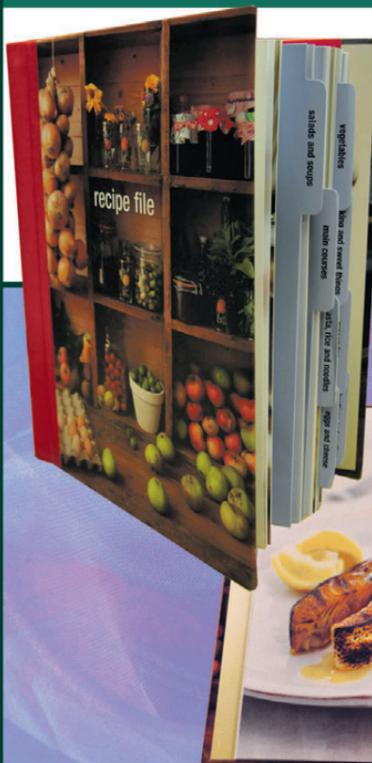
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| 07 FORD TRANSIT 350, LWB, Alloy Dropside P/Up, 13ft Body, Tail Lift, White, | | £5,750 |
| 06 FORD TRANSIT 350, Crew Cab Pickup, 115HP Alloy Body, Removable Cage Sides, White 45K | | £5,950 |
| 04 FORD RANGER, XLT, D/cab Pickup, Manual, Epack, Alloys, Towbar, Met Silver | | £3,750 |
| 09 MERCEDES SPRINTER 318 CDI, MWB, 4x4 Van, Manual, SLD, Rear Fitted Workshop, White, | £14,950 | |
| 06 MERCEDES SPRINTER 318 CDI, MWB, 4x4 Van, Manual, SLD, Rear Fitted Workshop, White, | £8,950 | |
| 01 MERCEDES C200, Compressor, 3 door Coupe, Auto, Full leather, Alloys, Met Silver, | NO VAT | £2,950 |
| 09 VW TRANSPORTER, 11 Seat, Bluebird Minibus, Auto, Wheel Chair Access, Blue, Direct council | £12,950 | |
| 09 VW CRAFTER CR35 MWB, Hightop Van, 6Speed, SLD, Ply Lined, White 35K, Choice | £9,450 | |
| 58 VW CRAFTER CR35 MWB, Hightop van, 6 sp, SLD, Ply Lined, White, Direct Council | £7,950 | |
| 56 VW CRAFTER, CR50, Crew Cab Dropside Tipper, 6speed, Manual, Epack, Alloy Tool Boxes, Blue, 50K, Choice | £8,950 | |
| 06 VW LT35 LWB Crew Cab Dropside P/Up, Alloy Tail Lift, Direct Council, Green, Only 15K | £7,250 | |
| 55 VW LT35 LWB Alloy Dropside Tipper, 13ft Body, Direct Council, White, | £5,950 | |
| 59 VAUXHALL ASTRA van, 1.7 CDTI Manual, E-pack, Ply Lined With Bulkhead, White, | £4,950 | |
| 59 VAUXHALL COMBO CDTI, Crew Van, Twin Side Doors, 5 Seats, White, 70K, | £4,750 | |
| 56 CITROEN BERLINGO, Multi Space, Wheel Chair Access, Manual, Epack, Met Silver | NO VAT | £4,750 |
| 10 KAWASAKI 600 MULE, Drop Side Tipper Body, Mouser cab, Towbar, Red, 1200 HRS, Choice | £4,250 | |
| ROMAQUIP Alloy Ginterbody Roll On/Dit, CW Hatz Diesel Engine, Very Clean, Direct Council | £3,950 | |

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The position requires a proactive approach from concept and strategy through to fulfilment. This includes the need for full liaison with the commercial team in order to maximise revenue from all platforms including online and offline company profiles and commercially led features.

In addition you will need to work closely with the senior management team to develop all products to their full commercial value.

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Closing date for applications is Friday 23 January 2015

Apply by sending your CV, covering letter and present salary by post or e-mail to: Alison Arden Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB. ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

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The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

**SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY –
Be a Lay Judge in the Summary Criminal
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Are you a person of integrity, honesty and understanding who wants to serve their community? Then why not volunteer to become a Justice of the Peace (JP) in the Sheriffdom of North Strathclyde.

JPs are lay judges who sit in the summary criminal Justice of the Peace courts in Scotland along with a legally qualified adviser providing advice on law, practice and procedure. The lay judge decides on the sentence to be imposed and on guilt or innocence following trials. JPs come from a wide range of backgrounds and occupations. They are women and men from all walks of life.

JPs are voluntary, unpaid appointments although they do receive reasonable travel expenses etc. Most employers allow time off with pay or you can claim loss of earnings.

Time Commitment: The minimum requirement is 12 sittings per year although this may fluctuate depending in which court you sit as well as how much court business is anticipated. You must also be able to complete a minimum of 12 hours training per year.

To apply you need to be resident in or live within 15 miles of the Sheriffdom. A programme of induction training will be provided to successful applicants.

Current vacancies in North Strathclyde are as follows:-

| JP Court | Number of JP vacancies |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Paisley | 6 |
| Dumbarton | 2 |
| Kilmarnock | 4 |
| Argyll and Bute | 2 |

For further information and an application pack please go to www.jpScotland.gov.uk or contact Pauline Miller: Pauline.miller@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or on 0131 244 0357.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 9 JANUARY 2015

Scottish Ministers welcome applications from groups currently under-represented within the Scottish Judiciary, such as women, disabled people, ethnic minorities and people aged under 50.

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Sheriffdom of North Strathclyde



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LOCHGILPHEAD MEDICAL CENTRE

A temporary vacancy for a part-time post has arisen at Lochgilphead Medical Centre. This post will last provisionally until 31st March and is based in Furnace Surgery. The hours are 18 hours weekly worked on a Monday and Tuesday and the hourly rate of pay is £9.16. The successful candidate should have word processing skills and previous reception skills would be an advantage. The closing date for applications is 28th December 2014. For further information or to apply please contact:

Muriel Miller, Practice Manager On 01546 462002

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Applicant must possess relevant SVQ level 3 qualification in Childhood Practice as minimum and be willing to undertake further training to fulfil requirements of Scottish Social Services Council. Successful applicant/s will be required to comply with PVG Scheme in Scotland and register with the Scottish Social Services Council.

Closing date Wednesday 31st December 2014

For application pack contact Sheila Campbell,

Tarbert After School Care
scampbell0301@btinternet.com 01880 820247

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Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group is seeking to recruit 3 candidates to fulfil the roles outlined below. These positions will be based at our seawater cage farms on Loch Etive, near Taynuilt.

Fish Farm Technician – Loch Etive

The role of Fish Farm Technician is interesting and varied. Working outdoors as part of a small team, it is focused upon all aspects of successful trout production including feeding, grading, harvesting, net changing and other general farm maintenance tasks, including boat handling.

Previous aquaculture experience is desirable but not essential as full training and support will be provided. A full driving licence is essential.

Fish Farm Yardman/Technician - Loch Etive

The role of Fish Farm Yardman/Technician is interesting and varied. Working outdoors as part of a small team, it is focused upon all aspects of successful trout production including feeding, grading, harvesting, net changing and other general farm maintenance tasks, including boat handling.

As well as carrying out various duties of a Farm Technician, the ideal candidate will also be carrying out the role of Farm Yardman. Such responsibilities include maintaining the yard area and storage facilities in a safe and orderly fashion. Also carrying out daily safety checks on the forklifts and carry out routine maintenance on forklifts and other engines. There will be offshore work when required.

Previous aquaculture experience is desirable but not essential as full training and support will be provided. A full driving licence is essential. Experience of operating tele-handlers is a necessity and experience of routine maintenance is not necessary but advantageous. The successful candidate will have the ability to work autonomously and as part of a team.

Farming Administrator – Loch Etive

You will support the work of the farm staff in providing friendly and office based services, including being the first point of contact of the farm for all visitors and callers. You should have excellent office administration skills along with expertise in Microsoft Office.

Key accountabilities of the role include:-

- Input data on to Meractus software programme giving farming control, monitoring and planning;
- Maintain a rolling 6 month staff rota showing holidays, absence, etc;
- Keep employee records up to date and monitor and track absence;
- Learn and maintain knowledge of Codes of Good Practice on finfish farming, Freedom Food, quality Trout UK & Global Gap standards;
- Maintain visitor site PPE clothing is fit for purpose & ready for use;
- Support and assist the Farm Manager with administrative tasks in preparation for meetings.

All positions above are full time, working a 40 hour week. Beyond the nature of the roles of Farm Technician and Technician/Yardman, the post holder(s) would be expected to undertake additional hours as required in order to accommodate the needs of the business, this will include weekend cover on a rota basis.

If you are interested in applying for any of the positions above, please send your CV to hr@dawnfresh.co.uk

Scottish autism

West of Scotland Area Services – Oban Saturday Club

Casual Support Workers (SA/90) £7.65 per hour

Autism Practitioner (SA/91) 6 hours per week £16,510 - £18,687 (pro rata for part time)

Scottish autism seeks to promote and provide care, education, support and opportunities for individuals with autism of all ages throughout Scotland.

We are currently looking for enthusiastic and committed Casual Support Workers and an Autism Practitioner with an interest in developing a career working with people on the Autism Spectrum within West of Scotland services.

For more information on the above jobs, please visit our website: www.scottishautism.org

Closing Date: 22nd December 2014

Registered charity number is SC009068

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ORMSARY FARMERS EXPERIENCED SHEPHERD

An experienced shepherd is required to be responsible for the management of Hill and Lowground flocks at Ormsary Estate in Argyll.

The successful candidate should be an enthusiast with initiative and the ability to work as part of a team on this busy estate.

Good dogs are required together with knowledge of relevant record keeping.

An attractive employment package including a modern family house and pension is offered for this position.

Ormsary is a diversified estate with excellent local community and schooling facilities.

Apply with CV and references to: Archie McArthur, General Manager, Ormsary Farmers, Ormsary Estate Office, Lochgilphead Argyll, PA31 8PE
Email: archie@ormsary.co.uk

Abacus Services Payroll Bureau Services

Payroll Assistant

Abacus Services (part of R A Clement Associates) are looking for a payroll assistant to join the busy payroll office in Oban. Candidates must have a "can do" attitude and experience in processing payrolls is essential. Salary commensurate with experience.

Please apply in writing, enclosing your C.V. to Helen Clark, Office Manager at R A Clement Associates, 5 Argyll Square, OBAN, PA34 4AZ or by email to hc@raclement.co.uk

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Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



PLANNING

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

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

| Ref | Proposal | Site Address | Location of Plans |
|-------------|--|---|---------------------------|
| 14/02780/PP | Formation of 100 metre section of shared-use active travel link with associated works. | Road Linking Bridgend and Kilmichael Glassary By Lochgilphead Argyll and Bute | Mid Argyll Area Office |
| 14/02795/PP | Erection of a 80 metre anemometer mast for a period of 3 years. | Land at Glen Shira Forest, 9km North East of Inveraray, Argyll and Bute | Sub Post Office Inveraray |
| 14/02812/PP | Installation of new penstock and intake weir | Braevallich East Lochaweside Argyll and Bute | Mid Argyll Area Office |

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

| Ref | Proposal | Site Address | Location of Plans |
|--------------|---|--|--|
| 14/02856/PPP | Renewal of planning permission in principle 11/01235/PPP - Site for the erection of class 4 (business) office | Templar Hall Millknowe Campbeltown Argyll and Bute | Burnet Building St John St Campbeltown |

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

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

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

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

Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

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Land and Buildings Transaction Tax



New rates will see 49,000 buyers pay less tax on new homes.

Proposed new tax rates are set to benefit first-time buyers and those at the lower end of the housing market, it was confirmed today.

The rates for the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT) – which will replace UK Stamp Duty Land Tax from April 2015 – were announced as part of the Scottish Government's draft budget 2015/16.

The tax will be the first to be introduced by the Scottish Parliament in 300 years and will change the way people pay tax on property purchases.

The new rates will only be payable on the portion of the total value which falls within each band. This contrasts with the 'slab' structure of stamp duty under which the higher tax rate is payable on the whole purchase price when a threshold is crossed.

The rates will also:

- Take 5,000 additional house purchases out of tax by ensuring that nobody will pay tax on the first £135,000 of their house purchase

- £10,000 higher than the current stamp duty threshold;

- Ensure that no tax will be payable on 45 per cent of transactions;

- Reduce the tax charge relative to stamp duty for a further 44,000 house purchases up to £325,000 and

- Ensure that 90 per cent of homebuyers will either pay less or the same amount as they would under current arrangements.

The two devolved taxes will be collected by Revenue Scotland and are expected to bring in an estimated £558 million in 2015-16. Scotland's block grant will be adjusted to recognise that these tax receipts will flow directly to Holyrood and not to the Treasury in London.

Finance Secretary John Swinney said:

'At the heart of our budget is a strong determination to make Scotland a prosperous and fairer country and the new tax powers give us the opportunity to underpin these values.'

'The Land and Buildings Transaction tax is the first tax created by the Scottish Parliament in 300 years. We now have the chance to apply the principles set out by Adam Smith – that there must be certainty, convenience for the taxpayer and efficiency of tax collection and, most relevant to the proposals which I announced today, that taxes should be proportionate to the ability to pay.'

'The old stamp duty was outdated - causing unfair tax hikes at set property prices. This led to the market being distorted and led people to try to avoid tax.'

'Our proposed residential transaction rates will be more proportionate to the house price, and means that the tax is fairer as it is based more closely on the buyer's ability to pay.'

'The increase in the level before paying tax will also benefit around 5,000 homebuyers a year – helping first time buyers and improving the affordability of starter homes. This new approach will benefit the majority of Scots, 90 per cent of homebuyers will either pay less or the

same amount as they would under current arrangements.

'For example, a couple buying their first home for £140,000 will pay £100 under the new system, £1,300 less than the stamp duty charge which applies now. A family buying a new home for £260,000 will pay £3,300 under the new transaction tax – that's a saving of £4,500 compared to stamp duty.'

'New taxation and borrowing powers are a step forward but I believe that the Scottish Parliament should be responsible for the full range of taxes levied in Scotland. This way we can continue to drive forward prosperity and fairness in Scotland for all of our citizens.'

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to all my relatives & friends from Senga. Woofs & licks from Ben.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives and friends from Richard & Helen Kelly, & David & Darren, Alexandria.

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

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives, friends & neighbours from Margaret Armour, Heath Cottage.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to my neighbours and friends from Catherine Reppke.

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

SANDY WATSON SOUTHEND
wishes all relatives, friends & neighbours a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives and friends from Agnes Graham, Braemore, High Askomil.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
Ina MacDonald wishes her family & friends a Happy Christmas & a Peaceful New Year.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my family, friends & neighbours from Jean, 11 Meadows Avenue.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all my friends from Margaret at 27 Meadowpark.

Arthur & Marjorie
wish their family & friends a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
to all my relatives & friends from Mary McMillan, Castlehill.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives & friends from Ella McKinven, Tigh Grianach.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
to all friends & family from Isabel McConachie, Garavoirne.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all relatives & friends from Ron Mead, Ralston Road, Campbeltown.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives and friends from Cathy McIntyre, Davaar Avenue.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
Wishing all my friends in Ardrishaig & Lochgilphead a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year. Best wishes, Jean Berrie.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all our relatives and friends from Jimmy & Alice Russell.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
to all my relatives & friends from Reg McManus.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all friends & neighbours from Patsy Johnston, Ardrishaig. Donation to Cancer Research in lieu of cards.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
to all our family, friends & neighbours from Hilda & Iain McSparran. All the best for 2015.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
to all our relatives, friends & neighbours from Roy, David & Donnie Mitchell, 10 Muasdale Cottages, Muasdale.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my friends & neighbours from Catherine Lavery.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
Wishing all our friends & neighbours a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Archie & Nan McMillan, Meadowpark.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all our friends from Alison & George Allan.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all our relatives and friends from Donald & Jenny Sinclair, Tarbert.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
to all our relatives & friends from John & Fiona, Southend.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my relatives and friends from Davina Sandler, Smith Drive.

HAMISH JACKSON
wishes relatives, friends & neighbours Merry Christmas & a Guid New Year.

George & Isabel Stewart
16 Meadowpark would like to wish all family & friends a very Happy Christmas & New Year.

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

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all my friends & neighbours from Catherine Cameron. Best wishes to all!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to our friends & neighbours from Elizabeth & Sharon, 67 Roading.

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PERSONAL NOTICES

THANK YOU

Festive Greetings and thanks from Anne Duff to family and friends for support post surgery earlier this year and to all staff involved in care pre and post op based at Mid Argyll Community Hospital, Coronary Care at Western Infirmary, Coronary Care and Intensive Care at Jubilee Hospital. Supported Arthritis Care in Scotland and B.H.F.

THANK YOU

Alex and Catherine Irvine would like to thank family and friends who joined us at Bellochantuy Hotel to celebrate our Golden Wedding. Thank you for gifts, flowers and cards received. £600 has been donated to the Mairi Semple Fund.

Thank you all.

Happy 21st Birthday Matthew



Lots of love
 Mum, Jimmy,
 Keira, Gran and
 Noodles.
 xxx

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Advertise your unwanted items in either The Campbeltown Courier, Argyllshire Advertiser or The Oban Times and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk. Simply use the coupons on this page or visit the website and input your details there

AUDIO EQUIPMENT

SONY 3-WAY SPEAKERS quality pair of speakers, 235 x 470 x 265mm, 6 ohm. 2 x 15cm units & 1x 2.8cm tweeter. Dark wood. Approx 7.5kg each. Great Sound! £25 Telephone 07544 541313.

BICYCLES

CHILD'S BIKE Ridgeback MX Mountain 20. Suitable for 4 - 10 years, can deliver locally. £35. Telephone 07747 157838(Oban)

LARGE BOYS SCOOTER green/black boys scooter with brakes. Suit 8+ years. Excellent condition. Great Christmas present. £40 Telephone 01397 702067.

RALEIGH GENTS BIKE 3 speed gears, rack. Traditional style. £40 Telephone 01852 200256.

RIDGEBACK MX 16 CHILDS BIKE good quality, silver, 16" bike, aluminium frame, suitable for approx 5-7 year old depending on height, we paid £150 new, £60 Telephone 01546 810262.

TODDLER TRIKE with parent handle. Suit boy or girl, excellent condition. Great Christmas present. £15 Telephone 01397 702067.

BOOKS

4 x **CHILDRENS BOOKS** by Gerald Durrell, brand new books from the "Puppy Tales" series, retail price £2.99 each, selling all four for £5. Great for Christmas Stocking. £5 Telephone 07881 464991.

BRIC-A-BRAC

PORCELAIN 14 PIECE DINNER SET Black with gold trim. Some pieces excellent and others unused. (Greenock), £40 incl postage Telephone 01475 726360.

BUILDING / DIY

2 **KITCHEN WORKTOPS** granite effect, one is 1 metre wide breakfast bar length 3 metres. The other is 60cm wide length 3 metres. May split, £60 for two. Telephone 01631 566697 or 07810 834460.

SHOWER TRAY new, unused white 1200 x 900 left hand offset quadrant low profile resin shower tray. Waste, riser feet and trim panel included. £40 Telephone 01631 720713.

CAR ACCESSORIES

ROOF RACK used roof rack bars, for vehicles with fitted roof rails. £10 Telephone 01631 720713.

ROOF RACK used SAAB 95 roof rack, fits SAAB mounting points. £15 Telephone 01631 720713.

CARS AND CAR PARTS UNDER £250

WINTER TYRES Nokian WR A3 205/55 R16 H 94XL on steel rims 16"x6J5 stud PCD 112 ET50mm. Good tread. Fit 2011 Skoda Octavia VRS, set of four, £150 Telephone 01631 564954.

CHRISTMAS

SOFT TOY WRAPPED IN BASKET brand new limited edition soft toy in basket with chocolate bar. Perfect for stocking or secret Santa gift. 4 choices, £5 each Telephone 07881 464991.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

6 PAIRS QUALITY LEATHER SHOES 3 - 3 1/2 heels assorted sizes and colour. Would separate. £90 Telephone 01499 302791.

6 PRS BOYS SHOES SIZE 4 once worn, Mckenzie black school, Adidas Predito football boots, Cabrini trainers, Vans black canvas, white trainers + boots, good condition, £10 Telephone 07868 481242.

BARBOUR QUILTED JACKET ladies, black, as new condition, £45 Telephone 07809 678443 (Oban)².

BLACK EVENING DRESS Joseph Ribkoff, size 16/18, silver trim, short sleeves, worn twice, £30 Telephone 01499 302791.

BLACK PADDED COAT ladies down and feather coat, knee length, Berghaus, ladies 8-10, as new, £70 Telephone 07809 678443 (Oban)².

BLANKET WITH SLEEVES fleece leopard print blanket that can be worn round shoulders also due to 2 sleeves incorporated into it, £4 Telephone 07881 464991.

DOLCE & GABBANA SKIRT excellent condition. Modern, Short, Brown Tweed, dropped waist with pleats. Size 10-12, £15 Telephone 01852 300478.

ITALIAN SUIT in pure new wool in perfect condition. Jacket 36" Trousers 30" including belt. Navy blue with pin stripes. Professionally dry cleaned. (Greenock), £55 incl postage Telephone 01475 726360.

JOHN ROCHA CAPE COAT grey black red check, size(L)16, £15 Telephone 01499 302791.

LADIES 3/4 CREAM MAC with stud trim, size 16, £15 Telephone 01499 302791.

LADIES BLACK LEATHER BOOTS size 7, never worn, cost £100 selling for, £40 Telephone 07765 357138 Campbeltown.

LADIES BLACK MILAN leather Italian jacket, size 20, £60 Telephone 07765 357138 Campbeltown.

LADIES BOOTS all good quality, size 6. Brown leather 3" heel cuff trim with 3" chain trim on cuff, zip up. Brown/suede/fur boots, zip up with fur and suede cord trim, flat. Black leather, 3" heels, zip up. Grey leather boots with grey suede trim, pull on 3 1/2" heel, size 40, brand new, still boxed. Would separate. £95 Telephone 01499 302791.

LADIES CAPE STYLE 3/4 COAT belted, black and white check. John Rocha size 16(L), £15 Telephone 01499 302791.

LADIES FULL LENGTH CASHMERE Coat, navy, size 14/16, length from nape to hem 42ins(107cm). Tailor made from designer pattern. Full pleated back with half belt, double breasted, lined in mauve shaded poly/silk. £50ono Telephone 01499 302791.

LADIES SUIT in Chinese silk brocade made up in Vogue original pattern. Jacket size 14/16, skirt 30" waist, 42" hip. Pencil style with back vent width around hem 36". Fabric colour is coffee with mauve/gold/black design, £50 Telephone 01499 302791.

MENS CARDIGAN JACKET Marks & Spencer thick soft ribbed outer material with fleece lining, 2 pockets in black. Size XXL can be washed at 30 degrees, £5 Telephone 07881 464991.

MERCEDES T-SHIRT in black with Petronas and AMG logo on chest and MB logo on sleeve. Men's small. Brand new. (Greenock), £10.00 incl. P & P Telephone 01475 726360.

NEW GIRLS JACKET New Look Aviator style jacket. Brown with fur lining. BNWT. Age 9-10yrs, £7 Telephone 01397 702067.

NEW GIRLS JACKET Hooch black leather look fitted jacket. Age 9-10years, £7 Telephone 01397 702067.

NEW GIRLS JACKET New Look hooded girls jacket with black/white check lining in hood. Age 9-10 years, £7 Telephone 01397 702067.

OLIVE GREEN SWIMSUIT with gold stud trim, size 38DD. Generous fitting, brand new, £10 Telephone 01499 302791.

PACHAMAMA LADIES HOODY dark blue, 100% wool, fleece lined, brand new, £30 Telephone 07809 678443 (Oban)².

SIZE 6 LADIES KNEE HIGH BOOTS black boots, high zip, faux leather look, slightly pointed with 1" wedge at front, thin high heel 4.5 inches, £5 Telephone 07881 464991.

PARTY/PROM/BRIDESMAID DRESS new and tagged, burgundy red satin, modern bodice & A line, fully lined. A bargain for Christmas, £25. Telephone 01852 300478.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

PLAYSTATION MOVE starter pack, move controller and camera, £7 Telephone 07868 481242.

SONY PSP SonyPSP + hard and soft cases and 18 games, eg. Little Big Planet and Assassins Creed, £40 Telephone 07868 481242.

XBOX 360 GAMES Assassins Creed 3, Assassins Creed Brotherhood, Assassins Creed Revelations, £10 Telephone 07868 481242.

XBOX 360 GAMES Halo 3, Halo ODS, Halo 4, Halo Reach and Halo Wars and Halo Combat Evolved Anniversary, £25 Telephone 07868 481242.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

50CM UNDER-COUNTER FRIDGE with instruction manual. Hardly used, £45 Telephone 01546 886355.

BOSCH DISHWASHER excellent condition, £50 Telephone 07810 207742 Tarbert.

BOSCH FRIDGE FREEZER in very good working order, fridge light needs replacing. Full size fridge with half size freezer, height 49", £90 Telephone 01855 831669.

DIMPLEX CONVECTER HEATER As new. Dimplex DXE 30TI. Timer + Thermostat. Max. 3000w, £20 Telephone 01852 300478.

GEORGE HENRY CARPET WASHER Vacuum Cleaner, in excellent condition and excellent working order, £75 Telephone 01852 314021.

OVEN, HOB, COOKERHOOD electric oven has brushed steel exterior, electric black hob, cooker hood size 60cm. All in good working order, £140 Telephone 01855 831669.

FURNITURE

3 SEATER & 2 SEATER cream leather sofas, £90 Telephone 01631 566697 or 07810 834460.

CHAISE LOUNGUES Ikea Ektorp chaise lounge. Needs a new cover available from Ikea, £50 Telephone 07828 730964.

CHEST OF DRAWERS pine, good condition. Reason for sale, downsizing. Buyer collects, £30 Telephone 01631 566952.

CHILD'S CHAIR Ikea Poang style with removable washed covers. Immaculate condition, light wood with cream covers, £7 Telephone 01631 720674.

CONSOLE/DINING TABLE dining table which folds to a console. Dark wood, very nice, £40 Telephone 07828 730964.

DISPLAY CABINET solid, light wood with three shelves and two glass doors, two drawers. Excellent condition, height 182cm, width 80cm, £95 Telephone 01631 720674.

DOUBLE DIVAN BED double divan bed, can be collected on 16th Dec, £99 Telephone 07828 730964.

KING SIZE BED mattress and headboard, in good condition. Reason for sale, downsizing. Buyer collects, £40 Telephone 01631 566952.

MEDIA UNIT solid light wood with two glass drawers and two drawers on right side. Slate inlays. Good condition, length 130cm depth 55cm, £55 Telephone 01631 720674.

SINGLE BED with mattress, little used, £30 Telephone 01866 833264.

SINGLE BED & HEADBOARD single bed in vgc with side storage drawer and pine headboard, £70 Telephone 01855 831669.

SMALL WHITE WOOD painted pedestal dining table, £20 Telephone 01866 833264.

SOLID PINE CABIN BED comes with set of drawers, bookcase and desktop, £30 Telephone 07810 207742 Tarbert.

SOLID PINE HI-SLEEPER double bed with ladder, £15 Telephone 07810 207742 Tarbert.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

FOUR STATION PROFESSIONAL MULTI GYM



Can be seen at Old Police Station, Castlehill. Best offer by 6pm on Wednesday 17th December secures.

Telephone 01586 830111 or 07785 542811 to arrange viewing.

NON MOTORISED TREADMILL as new, £25 Telephone 01838 200475².

VIBRO GYM Vibration plate series 200, excellent condition, £99 Telephone 01546 870601.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

SONY STEREO RECORDER Sony Reel to Reel TC-630 Solid State with pre recorded tapes. Motor needs attention or ideal for spares. Spean Bridge area, £60 Telephone 01397 712009.

TV TABLE AND STORAGE UNIT good condition from Argos, £40 Telephone 07828 730964.

HOME FURNISHINGS

2 X BRAND NEW OXFORD Pillow Cases, still in wrapper, white with small bluebell pattern, 50% cotton, 50% polyester, £4 Telephone 07881 464991.

BLANKET/THROW brand new, gorgeously soft blanket or could be used as a throw, cream with coloured circles, £5 Telephone 07881 464991.

DOUBLE FLEECE FITTED SHEET keep cosy this winter with a fleece fitted sheet to sit under your normal bed sheet, fits double bed, £5 Telephone 07881 464991.

LIGHTING BAR 2 metres long with 6 lights, £20 Telephone 01583 431683.

RED CARPET / SHREIBER WARDROBE nearly new carpet plus hall carpet red in colour £85. Shreiber bedroom wardrobe system in good condition free to good home. Telephone 01866 822251.

JEWELLERY AND WATCHES

LADIES ROTARY WATCH with gold and silver bracelet. Mint condition, unwanted gift. Boxed with a sweep second hand, £38 Telephone 01631 710663.

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Places include: Ft. William, Glencoe, Aberdeen, Isle of Skye, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Loch Lomond, Kelso, Aviemore, Forfar, Rum and Eigg, Shetland. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Places include: Inveraray, Appin, Oban, Seil, Isle of Mull, Campbeltown, Tarbert, Machrihanish, Fort William. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

MISCELLANEOUS

DIGITAL PHOTO FRAME with New Windows that displays JPEG. Boxed and unused. (Greenock), £15 inc. postage Telephone 01475 726360.

DOMAIN NAME FOR SALE thetartanhotel.co.uk and thetartanhotel.uk Offers in the region of £30,000. Telephone 07733 080339.

OLIVETTI ECR7100 TILL 6 months old, extra till rolls, £40 Telephone 01583 431683.

PRICE LABELLER Danno price labeller with reels of small sticky labels, £15 Telephone 01583 431683.

MOBILITY

STAIR LIFT electric, practically new, used occasionally for 3 months. Buyer collects, £400 Telephone 07833 604038².

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

"BRAIDWOOD" UPRIGHT PIANO cosmetic damage but plays well. Regularly tuned. Must be uplifted from Tarbert. Free. Telephone 07810 207742.

WESTFIELD ELECTRIC GUITAR solid body type complete with guitar stand, suit novice. Spean Bridge area, £60 Telephone 01397 712009.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

CHILDRENS GOLF CLUBS INCL BAG set of childrens' golf clubs including bag, hardly used. Tarbert area, £20 Telephone 07788 748554.

ICE AXE Austrian Stubai-Blue Star, hardly used, £25 Telephone 01852 200256.

KIDS SKIS 130cm Dynastar Team kids carver skis, black and yellow. Good condition, £45 Telephone 01866 822591.

KIDS SKIS 120cm Elan XR Series kids carver skis, red, good condition. Bases waxed, £45 Telephone 01866 822591.

KIDS SKIS 120cm Dynastar Legend kids carver skis. Ex-rental so bindings easily adjusted. Tops scratched but bases good, £40 Telephone 01866 822591.

SALAMON SKI BAG a double ski bag, hardly used, in good condition. Spean Bridge, £20 Telephone 01397 712009.

PET ACCESSORIES

CAT PLAY STATION brand new play station, approx 24" wide & 48" high. Would suit a small to medium sized cat, £20 Telephone 01855 831669.

HAMSTER CAGE AND ACCESSORIES Rotastak cage and coloured connecting tubes plus various other hamster accessories. Can deliver 10 miles from Oban/Taynuilt, £25 Telephone 01866 822760.

PHOTOGRAPHY

D50 CAMERA BODY plus YXTM battery pack and magic lantern guide. Boxed and in excellent condition, £60 Telephone 01397 702067.

NIKON 35MM CAMERA Nikon Zoom 310 AF QD 35mm camera with camera case. Boxed and in excellent condition, £25 Telephone 01397 702067.

NIKON BATTERY PACK -Multi power battery pack MB-D200. Boxed and in excellent condition, £50 Telephone 01397 702067.

NIKON TELECONVERTER TC-201 2x 436530. Unboxed but excellent condition, £50 Telephone 01397 702067.

SILVER NIKKOR LENS -70-300mm zoom lens f/4-f/5.6G. Boxed and in excellent condition, £50 Telephone 01397 702067.

ZEISS IKON CONTINA 35mm camera in brown leather case. Collectors camera in excellent condition, £40 Telephone 01397 702067.

SHOP FITTINGS

TWO COUNTER CASES each one metre long, glass tops and storage. One front entry, one rear, £50 each Telephone 01583 431683.

TOYS AND GAMES

AIR HOCKEY TABLE perfect Christmas gift, collection Connel, £30 Telephone 07501 471315.

DOLL'S PRAM Lilac Blue Check, excellent condition. Age 3+, £15 Telephone 01546 603472.

DOLLS PRAM Wicker dolls pram with pink gingham trim hood and cover. Suit age 3+. Excellent condition, £10 Telephone 07715 105816.

DUPLO BOX OF BRICKS AND TRAIN 2 boxes Duplo bricks and train set. Willing to sell separately, £10 Telephone 07715 105816.

PINK PIANO & PINK GUITAR Excellent Condition, age 3+, £15 Telephone 01546 603472.

POOL TABLE unwanted pool table, no space left, collection Connel, perfect gift for Christmas, £50 Telephone 07501 471315.

SELECTION OF NEW TEDDYS brand new small teddies, including Shawn the sheep, Lady from Lady & The Tramp and Andrex Puppy, £2 each Telephone 07881 464991.

WOODEN DOLLS HOUSE little used unpainted dolls house with wooden furniture and characters. In very good condition, £20 Telephone 01631 566197.

WANTED

ALL TYPES OF SCRAP METAL we uplift scrap cars, copper, brass, lead etc. Smaller quantities considered. Telephone 07435 589701.

OLD BRITISH MOTORCYCLES BSA, Aerial or Velocette, barn or shed finds, any condition accepted, retired local enthusiast. Telephone 01528 544307 after 6pm².

TUTOR REQUIRED OBAN AREA for 2nd year pupil to cover Maths and English. Please reply to PO Box 4, Oban Times Ltd, Oban, PA34 4HB²

Have a clearout
UNDER £100 FREE!
 and make some extra cash too

Towel Rail Acoustic Guitar for sale £££

To place your ad in the Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser classified section call 01586 554646/01546 603077 or visit www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

Make the most of the festive season

WITH the festive season underway, advisers with Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway are on hand to help local entrepreneurs make the most of the marketing opportunity it presents.

One of the most important aspects of running a successful business is understanding and maintaining a loyal customer base. Businesses can tap into the potential of their current customer base by finding ways to boost customer loyalty including initiatives such as reward schemes, discounts or seasonal promotions.

'Running a promotion during the festive season could be a fantastic way to highlight a particular product and encourage sales,' explains Business Gateway adviser Donald Melville.

'Incentives such as bonus points, vouchers, money-off coupons, competitions and prize draws are all popular during and after Christmas and can be given a push through point-of-sale materials, free samples and social media.'



Shaping up into a very good business

With demand growing, Leone is now looking at ways to meet the needs of her existing and prospective customers

A PILATES teacher based on Gigha is now running 11 classes a week attracting more than 100 people on the island and the mainland, including Tarbert and Campbeltown.

With support from Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway, Leone Shaw Tulloch set up LST Pilates earlier this year after practising Pilates since the 1990s.

Access

When she moved to Gigha with her husband in 2012, she missed having access to a class so began her own group with two friends.

After a couple of sessions, Leone realised she would love to run her own classes and began training to be a qualified body control instructor, spending months away from home travelling to Glasgow, Edinburgh and London to learn and sit exams.

Now, in only six months, Leone has been

overwhelmed by the response which has seen her increase her classes to 11 a week as well as private consultations.

Leone said: 'I knew the benefits of Pilates for my own body, particularly in support of running, cycling and walking, and when we moved to Gigha I missed having easy access to a class.'

'My friends and I started our own little group and due to my experience I tended to lead and that's when the idea came about that I could start my own business.'

'My friends were so supportive and over the months they helped me hone my skills. The training was extremely challenging; I was 54 years old and was amazed but delighted when I passed all my exams.'

'It was definitely worth it as I love teaching Pilates, getting to meet people and helping



Leone Shaw Tulloch has put shape to her Pilates classes with the help of Business Gateway.

them to improve their own body awareness and core strength.

Revelation

'Even something as simple as standing correctly is a revelation to most, many of us tend to form faulty postural habits and Pilates aims to teach our bodies to realign and rebalance, enabling us to quite literally walk taller.'

With demand growing,

Leone is now looking at ways to meet the needs of her existing and prospective customers.

She added: 'The response has been unbelievable and I'm so grateful to everyone who has helped me get to this point.'

'I had support from Business Gateway in the past when I was running my own web design business in East Lothi-

an, so I knew I would receive great advice from Business Gateway in Argyll and Bute.

Fantastic

'I discussed my plans with an adviser, accessed fantastic advice from the website's online guides and I'm now in talks about finding potential funding sources that will help me to grow further next year.'

Donald Melville, busi-

ness adviser, Business Gateway said: 'Leone's success in such a short time is wonderful and shows that you can start a business at any stage in life.'

'We have been supporting Leone and are now helping her to identify potential sources of funding that will help her to deliver the next stage of her business plan.'

Self-assessment online submission deadline looms

ANYONE in self-employment is being reminded by Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway that the deadline for self-assessment online submissions is midnight on January 31.

Tax return

Normally anyone registered as self employed with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will need to com-

plete a tax return to tell HMRC about their income and capital gains or to claim tax allowances or reliefs.

To help those filing returns, HMRC has produced a set of free online seminars - 'webinars' - both live and pre-recorded, to help customers to understand tax systems and learn what obligations they need to meet.

The webinars include topics such as 'Business expenses for the self-employed', 'Capital allowances for the self-employed' and 'How to complete your first online tax return'.

Register

Live webinars are available on set dates at set times but people must register in advance. The session is then

recorded and made available to view after the event.

Live webinars are interactive, giving the opportunity to ask questions and get answers from an HMRC webinar host.

Alternatively pre-recorded webinars are available. It is not necessary to register for a pre-recorded webinar, people simply choose the top-

ic they are interested in then follow the link to start viewing the webinar. To find out more about HMRC's range of webinars visit www.hmrc.gov.uk/webinars/index.htm

Free workshops

As well as signposting support with self assessment, Business Gateway offer free workshops on bookkeeping, which explain how

good bookkeeping, and understanding what documents and records you must legally have, can help you establish a successful and profitable company.

There are also free online guides taking you through the essential steps which can be accessed at www.bgateway.com and through the MyBusiness App.

Get the best from your business with help from Business Gateway.

Free, practical advice and support to help grow your business. Call your local office on **01546 605 459** or visit www.bgateway.com/argyllandbute

 **business gateway**
slighe gnothachais

TEXT FOR THE WEEK

'Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name ...' (Isaiah 12:4).

ENGAGEMENTS

TOMPKINS - SCORGIE - On December 8, 2014, the engagement of Catherine, daughter of Aud(rey) and late Paul Tompkins, to John, son of Linda and Raymond, Peterborough. Everyone delighted.

DEATHS

GRAHAM - Peacefully at home, Fairwinds, Peninver, on Saturday December 6, 2014, Archibald Graham (Archie), in his 91st year, dearly beloved husband of Margaret Buchanan, much loved father of Cameron and Duncan, father-in-law of Elizabeth and Lynn and loving grandfather of Andrew, Jack and Austin. Service in the Lorne and Lowland Parish Church, Campbeltown on Saturday December 13 at 1.00pm. Funeral thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. Family flowers only please. A retreat collection will be held in aid of the Seaman's Mission.

LIVINGSTONE - A memorial service, to celebrate the life of Brian Dougal Livingstone, of Karatha, Western Australia and formerly of Davanelm, Ardrishaig, will be held at Ardrishaig Parish Church on Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 12.00 noon. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

MACNEILL - Avril Brown, peacefully, on November 29, 2014, aged 85 years, the beloved sister of Dugald, Anne, the late Jock, Mary and Gordon and much loved aunt to her seventeen nieces and nephews. Service of thanksgiving to take place at St Mary's Church, Adderbury, Oxfordshire, on Monday, December 15 at 11.00am. Donations gratefully received for Alzheimer's Research and flowers welcome. C/o Edd Frost & Daughters, Family Funeral Directors, 20 Horton View, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9HR, telephone 01295 404004.

RONALD - Peacefully at the Campbeltown Hospital, on Monday December 8, 2014, Helen Lightbody Ronald (Nellie), in her 94th year, formerly of Mariefield Cottage, Southend, a dearly loved sister-in-law, aunt, great aunt and great great aunt. Funeral Private at her own request.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - The family of the late Colin Cameron would like to thank everyone for the many cards and expressions of sympathy received following their sad loss. Our sincere thanks to Linda Anderson and the staff of Glenaray Ward for their excellent care. Thanks to Rev Cliff Acklam for his comforting service, John Holt for his lovely choice of music, Kilmartin Hotel and Lochgoilhead Hotel for excellent catering, and to Morna for the beautiful floral tribute. Thanks also to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their professional and caring service, Iain Campbell for playing the pipes and the representatives of the Argyll Branch of the Retired Police Officers Association. Finally, thanks to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside, especially those who travelled a great distance, this was much appreciated. The collection for Glenaray Ward raised £400.

MACLACHLAN - John (Ian), Ella and Libby would like to thank the Rev Carruthers and Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors. Also the Grey Gull Inn, Morna for flowers and those who attended church and graveside. Rest in peace.

MACLELLAN - Campbell, Lindsay and Robert would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for the many kind expressions of sympathy received following the recent sad loss of Mary. Special thanks to doctors and nursing staff of Glenaray Ward for their kindness, care and compassion to Mary and our family. Our thanks also to Rev Hilda Smith for a most appropriate and comforting service and to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for efficient and caring arrangements. Finally, our thanks to all who attended at church and graveside to pay their respects. Your support and kindness was greatly appreciated.

IN MEMORIAM

BROWN - Jamie, died December 13, 2009. Words and time we can not share, But in our heart you are always there.

Forever in our hearts. Fiona and Alasdair. Granda, Five years have gone and you are still missed. George, Alistair, Kyle and Jaimee.

FLETCHER - In loving memory of Archie, our dear dad and grandpa, who died December 13, 2003, and Margaret Robertson, beloved mother, who died November 5, 1977.

Loved and remembered always. - Inserted by son Gill, Teresa, Jennifer, Hugh, Emma and Callum.

JACKSON - In memory of my beloved husband Alex, who slipped away December 12, 2013.

You never said I'm leaving You never said goodbye You were gone before we knew it And only God knows why A million times I needed you A million times I've cried If love alone could have saved you

You never would have died In life I loved you dearly In death I love you still In my heart you left a place That no one will ever fill It broke my heart to lose you But you didn't go alone For part of me went with you The day God took you home. - Love always, Marleen.

JACKSON - In loving memory of our Dad, Alex Jackson, who slipped away December 12, 2013.

We do not need a special day to bring you to our minds, The days we do not think of you are very hard to find. Each morning when we awake we know that you are gone, And no one knows the heartache as we try to carry on.

Our hearts still ache with sadness and secret tears still flow, What it meant to lose you no one will ever know. Our thoughts are always with you, your place no one can fill, In life we loved you dearly; and now that you're gone we love you still.

There will always be a heartache, and often a silent tear, But always a precious memory of the days when you were here.

If tears would make a staircase, and heartaches make a lane, We'd walk the path to heaven and bring you home again. We hold you close within our hearts; and there you will remain,

To walk with us throughout our lives until we meet again. Our family chain is broken now, and nothing seems the same, But as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again. - Always in our hearts, with all our love always, Iain, Mhairi, Sandi and families xxx.

MACCALLUM - In loving memory of Tommy, a dear husband, father and father-in-law, died December 11, 2002.

The years have passed but memories stay, Loved and remembered every day.

- Mary, Janette and David. **MACKAY** - In loving memory of Bobby, died December 15, 2013, beloved partner of Isa and a very special person in the lives of all the family.

You left us quietly, your thought unknown You left us memories we are proud to own. - Isa and family.

MCALPINE - In loving memory of Duncan, passed away December 15, 2011.

- From Donnie, Fiona and Ross. **YOUNG** - Treasured memories of Norman, died on December 11, 2002.

Time passes but memories stay. - Margaret and Yvonne xx.

Highland Parish Church



SCO02493

Sunday 14th December Third Sunday in Advent The service will be in the church led by Rev Anne McIvor

Badminton Club The club will close for the Christmas break after Tuesday 16th December

It will restart on Tuesday 6th January

Thursday 11th, Friday 12th and Saturday 13th December

Christmas Lunches Come along and share in festive food

12 - 2pm in Kirk Street Hall. Everyone very welcome

LORNE AND LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity Number SCO11686

Sunday 14th December Morning Service 11.15am Next Generation, Triple C, Creech Rev P Wallace

Tuesday 16th December Mothers and Toddlers 9.45am New Hall Boy's Brigade Anchor Boys 6 - 7pm Junior Section 7.15 - 8.30pm Church Hall

Thursday 18th December Choir Practice

CHURCH NOTICES



CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH Sunday Service 11.00 am

with Sunday school Refreshments after the service

Baby & Toddler Group 10.00 - 11.45 am Every Thursday (term-time only)

We meet at the Guide Hall, Kinloch Road

www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk



Campbeltown Community Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Scotland

SC043322

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES

"It is good to sing praises to our God" Services in Ardrishaig at 11.00am and Achahoish at 12.30pm

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH

75 Longrow, Campbeltown

Sunday 14th December 2014 Jesus, He's the Reason for the Season!

11.00am Family Service and Communion with crèche God's Gifts Part 2 God's Gift of Forgiveness

Pastor Ross Ferguson

7.00pm MOVIE NIGHT Campbeltown's Premiere of God's Not Dead

Door open 6.30pm Film start 7pm **Wednesday 17th December**

Jellytots - Toddler Group Christmas Party 10.00am Bible Study and Prayer at 7.30pm

For details and other enquiries contact Pastor Ross Ferguson 01586 551200 www.springbankchurch.co.uk

SCO14646



George Street, Campbeltown

Sunday 14th December 11.15am Worship Service Rev Finlay MacKenzie

11.15am Sunday School **Wednesday 17th December**

12.30pm Bible Study and Prayer 2.30pm - 4.30pm Water of Life Cafe

All Welcome

www.campbeltownfreechurch.com Scottish Charity Number: SCO09980

Scottish Episcopal Churches

Everyone Welcome

Christ Church Bishopton Road, Lochgilphead (SC013787)

Sundays 11.00 am Eucharist service 4th Sunday of the month 10am Mattins & 11am Eucharist Service Coffee & Cake follows the service

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

1st Sunday of the month 9am Eucharist service 3rd Sunday of the month 3.30pm Evensong

Scottish Prayer Book **All Saints, Inveraray** (SC025646)

Saturdays 5.30pm Eucharist Service Father Simon Mackenzie

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

ST MARGARET'S R.C. CHURCH

LOCHGILPHEAD Holy Mass Sunday 10am **ALL SAINTS, INVERARAY** Holy Mass Sunday 12.30pm

ST KIRAN'S CAMPBELTOWN Saturday 5pm

Fr. David Connor 01546 602380 All Welcome (SCO002876)

WEST LOCHFYNESIDE

Services 14th December 2014 - all welcome!

Cumlodden Lochfyneside and Lochgair Charity No. SC016097

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

Glenaray and Inveraray Charity No. SC016665

Morning Service in Inveraray Church at 11.30 am

Seirbheis Ghaidhlig (Monthly Gaelic Service) Service of Gaelic Readings and Carols

in Lochgair Church at 3 pm

LIVING STONES CHRISTIAN CENTRE KILMARTIN

Sunday 14 December 2014 11.00am

Worship Service for all ages followed by light lunch Speaker: Graham McLean "A Voice in the wilderness"

Thursday 18 December 2014 7.30pm Praise, prayer & sharing

All Welcome

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN US FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP ON SUNDAY AT:

Tarbert 10.00am, located on School Road.

Lochgilphead 11.30am, located on Lochnell Street/Manse Brae Mr. M. Ramsay

Prayer Time (fortnightly) Mondays 1.15 - 1.45pm Ladies Bible Study 2pm Soup Lunch Monthly (last Thursday)

All welcome.

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

Charity Number SC001002 **Sunday 14 December**

Tayvallich Church Morning Worship 11.30 am Rev. C. Acklam

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

TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 14th December 2014 3rd Sunday in Advent Tarbert Service 11.30am Kilberry Service 2pm Rev. Tommy Bryson

Friday 19th December Rededication and Carol Service Tarbert Church 7pm

Teas and Coffee to follow. For all church enquiries and pastoral care

Telephone 01880 821012 Everyone very welcome

SC002622

lochgilphead baptist church

All Welcome

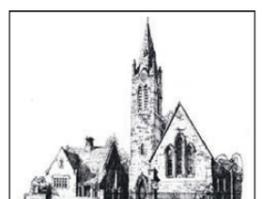
Pastor Rev Derek Gibson **Sunday 14th December 2014** 11.00am

Monday 15th December 2.30pm Ladies Meeting Christmas Tea

Tuesday at 10am mainly music

Wednesday 17th Messy Church 5pm Messy Christmas

Friday from 10am Jumpstart Scottish Charity SC015187



LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 14th December 11.00am - Worship Service Rev. Hilda Smith

Every Tuesday 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Bumps, Babies and Toddlers

Every Wednesday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Drop-In Cafe All Welcome

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

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GLASSARY KILMARTIN and FORD PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 14th December Sunday Worship Ford 10am

Rev. C. Acklam Please note tonight's Carol Concert cancelled.

Thursday 18th December Christingle Service Ford 7pm

Followed by refreshments in Ford Village Hall

A new loop hearing system has been installed.

All welcome SC0 02121

COURIER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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'Dale make their point with five-goal display against Point Media

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Point Media | 2 |
| Carradale | 5 |
| West of Scotland AFL | |

CARRADALE travelled to the south side of Glasgow on league duty to take on Point Media, looking to add some more gloss to a strong first half of the season. It was a day when perseverance was rewarded, 'Dale going behind



Ryan McConnachie scored the first and last of Carradale's goals in their 5-2 win over Point Media.
08_c50carrfoot01

twice before four goals in 10 minutes brought the points back to East Kintyre. The Kilbrannan-sponsored side enjoyed a bright start to the game and almost took the lead through Adam Graham but he hit his shot straight at the keeper.

On the half-hour mark Carradale went behind, the home side's left-winger cutting inside to fire a terrific curling shot into the top right-hand corner.

Carradale made a tactical change, Ryan McConnachie moving up front, and it was not long before he made an impact.

David Johnstone picked out McConnachie who advanced towards goal, and despite being eased out wide by the Media defence he sent a great shot in

off the opposite post to equalise.

Into the second half, Carradale could have taken the lead when Declan McAulay saw his fine shot saved.

The next action saw Carradale pegged back again, when a powerful shot was unleashed by a Point Media attacker to give Carradale custodian Neil McMillan no chance.

On 79 minutes Carradale were awarded a penalty after Cammy Maguire was upended on the line of the box, to the complaints of the home side, but the referee showed no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot.

Maguire sent the keeper the wrong way to make it 2-2.

The decisive goal that put Carradale in front for the first time arrived soon after, as Maguire sealed his brace with a rasping shot into the top corner.

The crucial fourth goal arrived when man of the



Dialysis appeal scores £500

Campbeltown Ranger's Supporters Club had their annual Christmas night with special guest this year Mark Hateley. The former footballer who was capped 32 times for England helped the night raise £500 for the Campbeltown Kidney Dialysis Appeal. Mark Hateley handed over the cheque to Ronnie McNally from the appeal committee on our behalf.

match Ewan Mellroy scored at the second attempt after his initial attempt from a free-kick was blocked.

In the dying seconds 'Dale made it 5-2,

when Graham intercepted a slack pass from the home keeper and just as it looked like he would go for goal, he unselfishly squared the ball for McConnachie to score

his second goal of the match and make it five for the Pupils.

Carradale manager Nonnie Macalister said: 'I was pleased with the win and the manner in

which we did it - we never gave up.'

This weekend Carradale have no fixture but next Saturday, December 20 they entertain Corkerhill at home.

Dookers win again in tough conditions

TARBERT welcomed Whitehill to Cil Andreis on league duty last Saturday - and eventually overcame their opponents on a park that looked almost unplayable.

Manager James Prentice made one change to the starting line up with Jamie Stuart included in a three-strong forward line.

Tarbert broke the deadlock after 10 minutes when a speculative effort from Johnstone caught the keeper off-guard and sailed into the bottom corner. To their credit the away side were soon level when Talbot fouled in the penalty area and Whitehill's number seven hit a confident penalty into the top corner.

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Tarbert | 8 |
| Whitehill FP | 3 |
| SAFL Divisin 1B | |

Moments later Whitehill turned the match on its head when the Dookers failed to clear a corner properly and the same player hooked a fine finish past the keeper to make it 2-1 to the visitors.

Battle hard

Tarbert continued to battle hard to stay in the match and were back level within 35 minutes when Stuart grabbed his second goal in two games, calmly finishing from a Prentice cross.

Stuart soon gave Tarbert the lead again just before the half-time whistle with another fine finish to seal a brace.

Manager Prentice's team talk warned against the complacency that has cost them in several matches this season.

What followed was wave upon wave of Tarbert attack as the away side's fitness deteriorated, and the Dookers scored five - but in truth they should have scored more.

Nikki MacDougall added a fourth with a close finish before Johnstone latched onto a Prentice through ball to add number five.

MacDougall scored again to continue his impressive scoring tally for the season.

Tarbert's midfielder MacIver almost added a stunning goal however his 30-yard effort crashed off the post and went out for a goal kick.

Prentice then added number seven with a fine left-foot shot after Whitehill had scored a consolation goal, their number seven scoring his second penalty of the day to complete his hat trick.

Tarbert's top scorer Prentice then completed the scoring with number eight.

This was Tarbert's last home game of the year, seeing them lose just once at Cil Andreis in 2014.

The Dookers are scheduled to play away to Milton on Saturday, December 13.

Darts competition raises £649 for kidney dialysis fund

THE Andy Rennie Memorial Cup was held in the Kilbrannan on Friday, December 5. This was a mixed triples competition held in memory of a popular Campbeltown man killed in a tragic accident.

Fifteen triples took part and the final was between Andy's daughter Rosemary Todd, Robert Todd and Gavin McLachlan against Charles Robertson, Richard Tavendale and Sammy-Jo Shields.

After being all-square after the first two legs it was down to Charlie and Gavin to play the best of three for the cup.

Charlie was too strong in the end and won the cup for his team.

A total of £649 was raised on the evening which the family are donating to the kidney dialysis fund.

Darts results

Fiddlers 6 Southend 4; Kilbrannan B 3 Burnside 7; Ailsa 3 Kilbrannan A 7; Commercial 9 Fiddlers B 1; Kilbrannan C - bye.

The Walter Tavendale mixed doubles has been postponed with a new date yet to be announced.



Winners: (left to right) Richard Tavendale, Sammy-Jo Shields and Charles Robertson.
winners c50ardarts1

Watson is a deserved winner of the Heidbangers Cup

DUNAVERTY'S Heidbangers held their end-of-season round in excellent conditions to determine the winner of the Heidbangers Cup.

The competition is held over 12 months and is played every Wednesday. The winner on the day is awarded three points and the runner-up two points. Another point is awarded for each time they play up to a maximum of 26 and the desire to win this cup is quite intense.

By the end of April, Alastair O'May had established a one-shot lead over Sandy Watson who was one ahead of Robin Finlay with Alan Duncan and John Dickenson two shots adrift of Robin.

September began with Alastair and Jim Cooper tied in the lead, one clear of Alan and two ahead of Sandy and Gary Kidd.

On the final day 16 players vied for the honours and at this juncture

Sandy was leading on 44 from Jim on 43, Alan (42), Gary (41) and Alastair Brown (40). These positions remained unchanged thanks to sterling performances by the day's winner, John McDowall who amassed 44 points and Terry Smith in second place with 42.

Sandy, the lowest club handicapper in the group, proved that it is not always high handicappers who win this cup and he well de-

served his second win.

The day was rounded off with a meal in the Muneroy Tearoom. By way of thanks for their work throughout the year, greenkeepers David Scullion, Willy MacMillan and club steward Jim Cooper were guests.

Results on the day: 1 John McDowall 44, 2 Terry Smith 42, 3 Alastair Brown 39, 4 Mark Eagers 38, 5 Bill Brannigan(bih) 36, 6 John Dickenson 36. Heidbangers Cup: 1 Sandy Watson 44, 2 Jim Cooper 43, 3 Alan Duncan 42, 4 Gary Kidd 41, 5 Alastair Brown 40, 6 John Dickenson 39. These scores reflect how close the competition was.



The Dunaverty Heidbangers outside their clubhouse.



Little to moan about in a busy year

TARBERT Jog Scotland held its Christmas awards evening last Friday and celebrated the group's achievements of the last year - including the best complainer.

2014 was a busy year

for the sports club with many taking part in the Tarbert 10k and five kilometre races - but not without complaint by some of its members.

Anne Moore picked up the moaners' prize

Jog Scotland winners, back row from left: Kathleen Munro, Janice Campbell, Carole-Anne Burnett, Angie Brown, Anne Moore, Kellie McConnell. Front: Lisa Mansell, Lynsay Carmichael, Natasha MacNaughton, and Helen Carey.

- not for the first time - but was cheered by the awards ceremony for her tenacity.

The group heard that it was a record year for the club with new members boosting the number of folk joining in on its activities.

Runners also competed in the Great North Run, Belfast Marathon, Aviemore half marathon, Kyles 10 miles,

Mull of Kintyre races and the Great Scottish Run in Glasgow.

Tarbert jog leaders Lorraine MacDonald and Jessica Little are busy behind the scenes organising the third Tarbert 5 and 10 kilometre races for 2015.

The date is now fixed for August 15 with on-line entries opening in the New Year.

The club are hoping

for even more members in February when it begins again after a winter break.

The awards included: Completing level one: Kathleen Munro, Carole-Anne Burnett, Angie Brown. Joint newcomer of the year: Lisa Mansell and Natasha MacNaughton. Charity fundraiser award: Jennifer Coyle, Lorraine Macdonald, Kellie McConnell and Helen Carey. Progress award: Janice Campbell and Lynsay Carmichael. Superhuman effort award: Alexis Prentice. Best moaner in the Tarbert Jog Scotland group 2014: Anne Moore.

SPOT THE BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2500

LAST WEEK'S BALL WAS HERE...



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

J McGeachy
Ralston Road
Campbeltown

H Wardrop
Smith Drive
Campbeltown

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 £2500 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.



Please tape your £1 coin here (if posting)

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Address

.....

..... Tel No.

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

spot the
ball jackpot
now at
£2500!

Pupils slip-slide out of Scottish Cup

Mud, mud glorious mud!

| | |
|---|----------|
| Craigshill Thistle | 5 |
| Campbeltown Pupils | 0 |
| Scottish Amateur Cup - 4th Round | |

CAMPBELTOWN Pupils' Scottish Cup hopes were ended at the fourth round last Saturday at the hands of Craigshill Thistle from Livingston. The visitors did hold their own for 45 minutes - before a second-half blitz from the Lothian side saw them dumped out of the competition.

Unbeknown to the Pupils the match had been in doubt before their ar-

rival, with the referee informing the team shortly before the game that the pitch was verging on unplayable.

With the match eventually going ahead, the Pupils started in a 5-4-1 formation that had served them so well against Thorn Athletic two weeks before.

Pupils had to contend with Craigshill pressure from the outset, some

vital interventions from Liam Renton, Keith Mitchell and on three occasions Reid Anderson in the Pupils' goal keeping their hosts at bay.

The Pupils' counter-attacking style almost paid dividends when Renton, playing at sweeper, picked out lone striker Martin McCallum with a long, lofted pass, the latter driving a shot across goal which the keeper could only parry for a corner.

It proved to be the best chance the Pupils created all match and into the second half their hard work was soon undone.

On 56 minutes Craigshill took the lead, the hosts' left winger beating the offside trap to score on the rebound despite a fine block from Reid Anderson.

Craigshill's second followed soon after, a fine finish into the roof of the net from well outside the box giving Anderson no chance.

By this point the Pupils had little to show for their efforts going forward and the few times they managed to stretch the Craigshill defence the important final ball did not materialise.

A defensive mix-up allowed a Craigshill attacker to steal in and slot the ball home from close range and make it 3-0, before a wonderful point blank save from Anderson prevented a fourth.

Unfortunately for the Pupils' new signing the fourth did arrive to make it a miserable day for the Pupils.

The fifth goal sealed



Reid Anderson had to pull off some vital saves but it was not enough to keep the Pupils in the cup. 08_c50reid01

the win and a flattering margin of victory for a match that had been in the balance for most of it, albeit delivered by a sharp-passing side who looked at home on the boggy conditions, and may well reach the latter stages of the competition.

For the Pupils, who advanced to the sixth round last season, it represents another learning curve for the young

squad against a polished outfit.

The McFadyens-sponsored Pupils are on league duty tomorrow (Saturday) against Busby who are one point above them in the SAFL Premier table. A tough match is expected against an unpredictable opponent.

Kick off is 2pm at Kinloch's all-weather pitch. Campbeltown Pupils' squad v Craigshill

Thistle: Reid Anderson, Keith Mitchell (capt), Shaun Grumoli, Jamie Burns, Liam Renton, Lorne Robertson, Lewis McFadyen, John McCallum, Gary Grumoli, Gregor McFadyen, Martin McCallum. Subs (all used) Fraser Wylie, Ellis Robertson, Calum Houston and William Mackinnon.

Promising runner picked for West region

CAMERON Campbell from Glenbarr smashed his own top-10 target at the West of Scotland cross country championships at Linwood - earning him a spot in the west region's team at the Scottish nationals.

The 12 year old, who trains and competes for Campbeltown Running Club, finished fourth in the under-13s category from of a field of more than 80 young athletes over a very muddy two-mile course. The result saw Cameron selected to race for the West region in the inter-counties race in Edinburgh next month.

In the seniors' race Kenny Campbell, also of Campbeltown Running Club, finished an excellent 25th over 10K from a field of 229 runners.



Cameron Campbell from Glenbarr showed his promise with a fourth-place finish at the West of Scotland cross-country championships in Linwood on Sunday. 08_c50running01



The pitch became churned up by half-time - the reality of cup football in December and a far cry from Kinloch's all-weather surface.

No winner at Dunaverty

There were no winners in Dunaverty Golf Club's three number lottery on Sunday December 7. The winning numbers were 3, 9 and 18.

The next draw will take place on Sunday December 21 with a jackpot of £200.

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