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Nativity photos**



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**The Argyllshire  
Advertiser  
review of the  
year**



MacLeod's Apprentice of the Year Ryan Sharp receives his award from director Kenny MacLeod

## Apprentice Ryan proves he's sharp

MACLEOD Construction has announced the winner of its Apprentice of the Year award for 2005.

Ryan Sharp of Campbeltown received the award and a £50 cheque last week from Kenny MacLeod, director of the Lochgilphead-based firm.

Ryan, who is in the second year of his bricklaying apprenticeship with MacLeod Construction, is currently attending Clydebank College. He has received excellent reports from the college and has also proven himself on site.

His college report states that: 'Ryan is possibly the most skilful apprentice in the class.'

After receiving the award, Ryan said: 'I

was very proud to receive the award. I enjoy college and putting in the work, and I'm very grateful to MacLeod Construction for giving me the opportunity to gain the necessary qualifications to become a full-time tradesman.'

Lochgilphead's Robbie MacTavish and Andrew Gatner have recently completed their four-year apprenticeships, as has Wayne Clark of Oban. All are now in full-time employment with MacLeod Construction.

The company employs 20 apprentices and trainees throughout Argyll. MacLeod Construction hires apprentices in roughcasting, plumbing, joinery, bricklaying and administration.

## Councillor joins SEPA board

A MID ARGYLL councillor was this week appointed to the board of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

Councillor Alison Hay, who represents the Craignish-Glenaray ward in Argyll and Bute Council, is one of four new members who will join the board at its first meeting of 2006.

Mrs Hay previously served as a member of SEPA's north board, a position she will give up to move onto the national board. Besides her work with Argyll and Bute Council and SEPA, Councillor Hay is also a member of the Auchendrain Museum Trust, the Care and Repair Agency and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA). She is the COSLA spokeswoman for the environment, sustainability and community safety. She also sits on the board of the University of the Highlands and Islands. Other local interests include chairing the Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute and acting as convener of the Kilmartin Glen Steering Group.

Speaking to *The Argyllshire Advertiser*, Councillor Hay said: 'I'm very pleased indeed to have been appointed to the board.'

'I saw the position advertised, and SEPA has been kind enough to grant me a place on its board. I hope I'll be of great help to

Environmental protection role for Alison Hay



SEPA. As I have a local authority background, I hope that in my new role I can use my experience from COSLA and Argyll and Bute Council to help SEPA work closely with local authorities.'

Although Councillor Hay was unsure of exactly what her new role would involve, she predicted that it would be 'much more strategic' than her work with SEPA's north board.

She also assured her constituents that her work with SEPA would not effect her duties as a councillor: 'As I was already on the north board, and will be moving onto the national board, I see the time that I used to give to the north board as being transferred. I don't see it affecting my council work.'

A member of the Liberal Democrat party, Councillor Hay was leader of Argyll

and Bute Council from 1999 until 2001. She currently sits on the council's strategic policy committee and the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay area committee.

SEPA chairman Ken Collins welcomed the appointments of new members to the board. He said: 'The members of the SEPA board should provide the organisation with a pool of knowledge and expertise from which it can draw upon when needed.'

'Our four new members bring a wide variety of experience with them, all relevant to the work SEPA carries out on a daily basis. I fully anticipate that their experience will be invaluable in helping us consider the many, complex issues which arise in relation to Scotland's environment and the challenges SEPA faces as it moves into its 10th anniversary year.'

SEPA is responsible for the protection of the environment in Scotland. Charged with protecting the land, air and water, SEPA works in partnership with local authorities, private business and its fellow government agencies and statutory bodies to ensure that Scotland's environment is protected, whilst also encouraging industry, commerce and leisure.

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# Tarbert skipper's death was avoidable

THE DEATH of a young prawn trawler skipper in the Western Isles may have been avoided if he had been wearing a life jacket when his vessel hit rocks, according to the sheriff in charge of the fatal accident inquiry.

Craig Duffy, aged 26, who was originally from Tarbert, died when the *MFV Audacious* sank outside Stornoway Harbour on Sunday December 19 2004.

His crew mates John Campbell and Alexander Martin last saw their skipper going to make a May-day signal after the trawler went off course and hit rocks south of Arnish Point. Mr Duffy was steering the vessel before and during the collision which happened in calm weather conditions with no wind. Coastguards received the May-day at 6.25am and Mr Duffy was found near the shore but attempts at resuscitation failed.

All three crew members had been drinking on the Saturday night and Mr Duffy was more than twice the legal alcohol limit for driving at the time of the collision. He was found to have an alcohol reading of 167 milligrams in 100 millilitres of blood when the legal limit for driving is 80 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood.

Sheriff Colin Scott Mackenzie said the skipper's judgement would have been impaired but his death could have been avoided if he had been wearing a lifejacket. The *Audacious* did have life jackets onboard but the crew struggled to put them on when the vessel ran into difficulties.

Life jackets that can be worn at all times on vessels are currently being tested in Britain. Sheriff Mackenzie said it was 'an utter disgrace' that Britain had been left lagging behind smaller countries like the Republic of Ireland, where it is compulsory for life jackets to be worn on vessels with open decks.

He said: 'If nothing is in fact done or if heels continue to be dragged, more avoidable tragedies will occur every year and more families devastated and lives ruined.'

'If a suitable device for constant wear is to be developed, if indeed that has not already been done, it

seems to me that all crew members, including the skipper, should be obliged to wear one whenever on duty or on deck, at least on craft where all members of the crew can be expected to have to appear on deck at a moment's notice.'

## Police Files Water warning

POLICE have warned those fishing in Mid Argyll's waters to be especially careful during the winter months, after a man fell into Loch Fyne whilst fishing from Furnace Pier at around 6pm on Thursday December 29. The man slipped and fell into the water, where he remained for around 15 minutes.

## Window broken

A WINDOW on Cossack Street, Lochgilhead, was broken overnight between Thursday December 29 and Friday December 30. Anyone with information should contact Lochgilhead Police Station.

## Drink driving

A 35-year-old woman has been reported to the procurator fiscal for alleged drink driving offences in Tarbert on Sunday January 1.

## Number seeking work rises

THE NUMBER of unemployed people in Mid Argyll has increased, a new report has shown.

A total of 91 people were registered as unemployed in the Lochgilhead 'travel to work area' (TTWA) in October, the most recent month for which figures are available.

In September, 86 people in the Lochgilhead TTWA were registered as unemployed. The five person increase represents a 5.5 per cent rise in the Mid Argyll unemployment level. Of the 91 people seeking work in October, 65 were men and 26 women. Despite the recent increase, unemployment in Mid Argyll is still lower than at the same time the previous year, when 109 people were registered as unemployed in the Lochgilhead TTWA.

# Argyll capital fund increase

A REVIEW of Argyll and Bute Council's capital plan has seen members agree to increase the amounts for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 by £10.25 million each.

But the council has decided not to give additional money to particular projects but to allocate block amounts to each service.

Within those services, directors will need to submit a business case to be approved by the council each time they wish to draw funding from the block amount.

The services which are to receive the highest amounts are schools and roads, with

29 per cent each of the extra capital over the two years; followed by infrastructure and transport with 20 per cent; 10 per cent for town centre or waterfront refurbishment; and five per cent or less going to facility services, information technology and other community services.

The considerably lower level being allocated to other community services reflects the large amount of capital being spent at the moment on refurbishing elderly residential care homes to bring them up to Care Commission standards.

The amounts have been arrived at by assessing the investment needs of existing assets, including the schools estate, roads, leisure and office accommodation and playing fields.

It has also taken into account the amount of money which will be needed to service the loans to provide the capital funding and in some areas, like roads, assumes that a certain amount of funding will be sought from Europe and the Scottish Executive for major projects.

The council has a constant capital rolling programme which deals with upgrading

schools, roads, residential homes, airports, harbours, piers, offices, buildings and information technology equipment.

The programme is examined each year before the annual budget to look at which projects have increased or decreased in cost and adjust the amounts across the plan.

Councillor Allan Macaskill, leader, said: 'It is normal practice for the council to review and update the capital plan annually. This decision will remove any uncertainty surrounding the financing of future projects.'

# Youngsters begin Blarbuie Woodland Project planting



Members of Lochgilhead High School's XL Club have begun planting bulbs at Blarbuie Woodland Project as part of an effort to tidy up the woods and open them up to the public. a51ex101

# Argyll and Bute MP fights to secure rural post offices

THE FIGHT to save rural post offices is continuing at Westminster with Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid calling for the government to commit to the network beyond 2008.

'Often the post office is part of the only shop in a village and without the post office income and extra footfall generated, many of these village shops would not survive,' he said.

'I am already aware of circumstances in which some postmasters or mistresses wish to retire but when Royal

Mail explains to applicants wanting to take over that social network payments will continue only to 2008, many of them have, understandably, pulled out.'

'The Government has already caused a great deal of damage to rural post offices by transferring many pension and benefit payments to the banks.'

He said the Government should be trying to give more business to smaller post offices by, for example, allowing more of them to issue vehicle licences.

He has also expressed concern about the future of Royal Mail's universal services obligation (USO) when postal delivery services are opened up to private companies year. With private companies concentrating on urban areas, he said it was vital to have a proper definition of the USO to ensure postal services continued in rural areas.

'I cannot envisage any private mail company wanting to deliver mail to houses up a long track on a distant island,' said Mr Reid.

'We must have a proper

definition of the services included [in the USO] and it should embrace first and second-class letter mail, a standard parcel service up to about 20kg, a registered mail service, redirection, international mail and a bulk mail product.'

The Select Committee on Trade and Industry has recently published a report on how vague the definition is and has raised the matter of a compensation scheme that would see private mail operators contributing towards the costs of providing a universal service.

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## New courses for the new year

Come along to Argyll College in the new year and find out about the range of new full time and short courses on offer. Lochgilhead Learning Centre will be running the following short courses starting January/February 2006.

### Lochgilhead

Introduction to Psychology  
Creative Computing  
Modern Day Christianity  
Counselling Skills  
REHIS (Food Hygiene)  
Wine Tasting  
Flower Arranging  
Spanish (also available in Tarbert)  
Ceramics

Beginners Computing (available in Tarbert only)  
Introduction to Counselling (available in Inveraray only)

To enrol or to find out more  
phone Fiona or Michelle on 01546 600070



## Drink driver disqualified

AN ARDRISHAIG boat-builder has been disqualified from driving for one year and fined £400 after being found guilty of drink driving.

Jack Kay of The Boatyard, Ardrishaig, appeared at the Lochgilphead Annex of Dunoon Sheriff Court last week.

The 66-year-old was on trial for driving in Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, on April 26 this year with 48 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath, when the legal limit is 35 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath.

Kay pled not guilty to the drink driving charge. He claimed that while the two police officers who processed him told him that he could choose to give a blood specimen as an alternative to his breath sample, they implied that it would be of no benefit to him.

Giving evidence in court, both police officers denied this. Sheriff Carol Kelly accepted the evidence of the police.

The officers were in Ardrishaig acting on an anonymous tip off through Crimestoppers that Kay was drinking in the Argyll Arms Ardrishaig and intended to drive a red Mercedes.

## Craignish Hall to host open day

HAVING recently been awarded a blue plaque from the National Lottery in recognition of its positive impact on the community, Craignish Hall is set to host an open day next week.

The hall's committee will hold the open day on Sunday January 15 between 11am and 2.30pm, allowing the public to have a look around the building, which was completed in November.

Made possible through great support from the Ardfern community, the hall was designed by architect Tom McCardel and built by L and A Mackay. Funding for the project was helped by donations from the Community Fund (now the Big Lottery Fund), the European Regional Development Fund, the Scottish Arts Council, Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll and the Islands Enterprise, the Scottish Executive and ALIenergy. Numerous individuals, private trusts and foundations also contributed to the cost of providing a state-of-the-art hall in Craignish.

The building has under-floor heating powered by a ground source heat pump, superb stage sound and lighting systems and a fully-equipped computer room.

All groups which use the hall on a regular basis have been invited to participate in the open day and to show the public what their group or organisation does. As *The Argyllshire Advertiser* went to press, representatives from Argyll College, Craignish Parents and Toddlers, local drama group the Iascene Players and members of the local Tai Chi and yoga classes will all be on hand to answer questions.

Craignish Village Hall itself will have a stand where people can learn how the funding for the project was achieved and how the building was constructed. There will also be details of arts and other events taking place in the hall throughout the coming year.

Soup and sandwiches will be available to all those attending the open day.

## That's entertainment at Lochgilphead nativity



Pictured shortly before taking the stage at Lochgilphead Primary School's Nativity play, held in the school hall on Wednesday December 7, are the young pupils who starred as the clowns, strongmen and conjurers. a49nat08

**Do you have a story? Call *The Argyllshire Advertiser* reporters on 01546 602345**

# NEW VENUE NEW NIGHT NEW YOU!

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Slimming world classes in Tarbert and Campbeltown have made some changes –  
Lesley hopes that all her existing and new members can come along on the new nights (details shown below)

### CAMPBELTOWN

Now on a Tuesday night in the Masonic Recreation Hall,  
St John Street at 6pm – 8pm. New members and weigh in 6pm

### TARBERT

Now on a Monday night in the Templars Hall, Tarbert  
at 7pm – 8.30pm. New members and weigh in 7-7.30pm

*Be inspired by Mr & Mrs Slimming World 2005*



Clayton and Christine Smith from Worcester have turned their lives around with the help of Slimming World. Combined they have lost 15st 6lbs. They have no problems keeping up with their young daughter Abbie and both look and feel years younger!

**For further details call Lesley on 01880 820 604 or 07900 026 512 or log onto [www.slimming-world.com](http://www.slimming-world.com)**

# Ashfield pupils believe in Father Christmas!



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The pupils of Ashfield Primary during their pantomime *Do You Believe In Father Christmas?* performed to parents and friends on Tuesday December 20. The pupils also took part in a Christmas Christingle carol service on Thursday December 22, taking along their own home-made orange Christingles.

## MSP's call to speed up warm up

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor is looking to his Holyrood colleagues to speed up the delivery of the Scottish Executive's heating programme 'Warm Deal and central heating'.

Mr McGrigor wants more local contractors involved in installation work and believes the Scottish Executive is failing pensioners and people on low incomes. He has tabled a motion to have more local companies involved in a bid to speed up the process.

He has collected nearly 100 cases throughout the Highlands and Islands of people having to wait months for heating to be repaired. Mr McGrigor said: 'The Scottish Executive must look at the possibility of local companies playing a larger role in installations and it is essential that these problems are rectified.'

# Executive cash for Loch Fyne

EAST Loch Fyne is to receive £100,000 from the Scottish Executive to improve services in the area.

Rural Development Minister Ross Finnie announced the funding last week as part of the executive's £2.2 million allocation to priority areas across Scotland. Funds have been given to 22 Rural Service Priority Areas (RSPAs).

Amongst services that could be improved with the funds are adult learning, community transport and recycling projects.

The funds will be allocated to the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership (CPP) to help improve access to and quality of services.

The CPP will identify the services that it most wants

to improve in the area and how best to use the £100,000 grant.

Andrew Campbell, chairman of the Argyll and Bute community planning partnership management committee, said: 'We are delighted to be receiving this money from the Scottish Executive and are determined that it should be used to make a difference in those areas most in need of the benefits it will bring.'

'Research has already been undertaken into which activities are most likely to result in lasting benefits and we will wait for the results of that research before we put forward any proposals.'

The initial proposals for use of the funds are due to be submitted to the Scottish Executive by the end of this

month. Announcing the allocation of funds, Mr Finnie said: 'The executive is committed to tackling disadvantage and improving services in rural areas. Improving access to services is vital in maintaining vibrant and viable rural communities.'

'Through working closely with CPPs we will deliver visible improvements to each priority area, which will deliver real benefits for rural Scotland.'

'By encouraging networking and sharing of best practice between rural services priority areas and CPPs, we are also helping to ensure successful delivery now and across rural Scotland.'

Also receiving funds through the scheme will be Jura, Colonsay and Islay.

## Mid Argyll urged to recycle festive cards

WITH another Christmas finished, people in Mid Argyll are being urged to recycle their festive cards.

The Woodland Trust, in partnership with the Scottish Waste Awareness Group and retailers WH Smith and Tesco, is urging locals to recycle the millions of cards that have been handed out over the festive period.

The Christmas Card Recycling Scheme, which is now in its fifth year, collected more than 50 million cards last year in the UK. Recycling bins will be located in participating

WH Smith and Tesco stores until the end of January.

In Argyll and Bute alone, more than 152,109 cards were recycled in last year's scheme, with officials hoping to increase on that number this year.

Colin Kerr, Campaigns Officer at Scottish Waste Awareness Group, said: 'The scheme has one very simple aim - to encourage people to recycle their old Christmas cards by taking them to the special recycling bins which can be found in selected WH Smith high street stores

and Tesco stores across Scotland.

'Hopefully, this year's scheme will engage many more Scots who don't traditionally recycle any of their waste and make it part of their daily lives all year round.'

Andrew Fairbairn, development manager for the Woodland Trust, also stated the need for people to recycle during the festive period. He said: 'Christmas is a time when a huge amount of waste is generated. By simply recycling cards, everyone can help address this problem.'

## Port Askaig redevelopment project praised at awards

THE REDEVELOPED mustering and parking areas at Port Askaig on Islay have won the pier a rare engineering award.

The recently completed redevelopment was one of two projects in Scotland to win a commendation for civil engineering at the Saltire Society Awards 2005.

The commendation is awarded 'in recognition of the skill and ingenuity shown in both the design and construction of the

works with resulting benefits to the local community and the wider public'.

Phase one of the work involved the removal of nearly 300,000 tonnes of rock as well as the construction of two new houses and a petrol station. The second phase of the Port Askaig redevelopment will include a major upgrade of marine resources, starting later this year, and the upgrade of the pier building, which will begin next year.

## A816 road closures

MOTORISTS using the A816 Lochgilphead to Oban road over the next month have been advised to allow extra time for their journeys due to roadworks taking place near the Ardfern junction.

Essential bridge strengthening work taking place one kilometre south of the junction may result in road closures of up to 20 minutes. The closures are for safety reasons and will be on an intermittent basis.

## Trustees looking out for Tarbert

Sir,  
Your correspondents of December 30 (re Tarbert Harbour) appear to be under some misapprehensions. The harbour trustees are required by the government's 'guidance' to prepare a strategy plan with the objective of maintaining and improving the harbour facilities for the benefits of all its 'stakeholders'.

The trustees have drafted a consultation document which outlines various proposals to be considered for inclusion in the final strategy plan. Comments and suggestions have been invited from as broad a range of interested parties as possible.

In the light of responses, an amended draft will be

produced. Discussion papers are available from the harbour office and when completed should be returned direct to the harbour office, not through self-appointed and unauthorised third parties.

Mrs Smith's assertion that partnership funding could involve 'loss of ownership of the harbour' is disingenuous scaremongering. Mr Johnson's comments appear to be based on incomplete information and a lack of awareness of the process which is underway.

John McAlpine as local councillor has been invited to meet with trustees to discuss the detail of the strategy plan and other related harbour matters.

It is relevant to note that the local plan currently being prepared by Argyll and Bute Council has identified the whole of Tarbert Harbour as an 'area for action'.

This will not preclude any sizeable development from

## Letters to the Editor

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being subject to public scrutiny, and where appropriate the approval of the harbour trustees.

Tarbert is a unique village with an attractive and safe natural harbour.

It is principally a fishing port and has the largest fishing fleet in the Clyde area. Tarbert is also a popular destination for the leisure sailor during the sailing season. Commercial vessels (fish farm, ferry and others) are regular users of the harbour.

The village hotels, shops and other businesses benefit from, and in some cases depend on, the trade generated by this activity. The trustees are committed to the continuing operation of an efficient harbour to the

benefit of its users and the community at large.

**Ian Y Macintyre, Chairman of Tarbert Harbour Trustees, Harbour Office, Harbour Street, Tarbert.**

## Stag plan isn't the solution

Sir,  
All praise to Mr Wakeham for his dissertation on the Stag development farce (letters, December 16).

In the present case, the fact that the voting registered a five-all tie was reason enough for the whole matter to be reconsidered and dramatically reviewed

in the community's best interests. Therein lies the problem, however - just how many of our representatives know or appreciate the local needs. I doubt for one moment that anyone has invited the views of those currently using the present store.

The people of Lochgilphead are crying out for a decent large supermarket, which would give them fresh produce and a wide variety of groceries at reasonable prices, without having to travel 30 miles to Tesco in Oban for this pleasure.

Such a store would need to be appointed at a large and accessible site with adequate parking facilities. In a word, it is perhaps the new

store that should be sited on the industrial estate and the garage left where it is! Another pokey mini-store, for that is all the new development will provide, would in no way alleviate the present situation.

The provision of 'affordable accommodation' argument is simply a sop. It will not for one moment help those in need of this guarantee.

**VW Larkins, Bowsprit Cottage, by Achnamara**

## A dog is for life, not just Christmas

Sir,  
Despite all the festive warnings, there may be some families which received puppies or dogs as gifts this Christmas. Dogs Trust, the UK's largest dog welfare charity, asks that all new dog owners take time to think about our famous slo-

gan: 'A dog is for life, not just for Christmas', and that they remember it all year round.

The early part of the year is often a hard time for dog welfare charities as they are under pressure to care for the thousands of unwanted dogs given as presents at Christmas and discarded when they become a nuisance as the novelty wears off.

We would also ask that owners make a New Year's resolution to ensure their new pet has the best start in life, and think about booking training classes.

Organisations such as Dogs Trust are the ones that have to pick up the pieces when last year's Christmas present becomes this year's obligation.

So please take that time to train your new dog and make sure he stays with you for life.

**Clarissa Baldwin, chief executive officer, Dogs Trust**

## press policy

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

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

*The Argyllshire Advertiser* adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct.

The views expressed in *The Argyllshire Advertiser* are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

# Down Memory Lane



This photograph of Tarbert Church and nearby cottages has no date on it. Can you shed some light on its origins?

*The Argyllshire Advertiser* is always keen to publish photographs from days gone by. If you have a photograph of Mid Argyll's past, whether of people, places or events, that you would like to share with our readers, bring them into *The Argyllshire Advertiser* office at 44 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead. All photographs are scanned and returned to their owners. Alternatively, you can scan the photographs yourself and bring them into the office on disk, or email them to editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk.

## Thought for the week

HAPPY New Year to you! I hope that 2006 will be a year in which you know peace in your mind, peace in your home, and the deep sweet peace of Jesus in your heart. I can wish you nothing more profound than that.

Over the centuries, Christmas has become wrapped in

sentiment. The manger scene looks so cosy; but a stable was an awful place to give birth. The shepherds look great on cards, while shepherds then wore working clothes as they do today. In reality, Jesus was born into poverty in an occupied land. And you and I live in the real world. We don't keep the decorations up all year, nor do we send cards and gifts every month or sing Christmas carols all the

time. So I want to give you a New Year's message that speaks to stark realities. Jesus said: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.'

Yes, in all that life throws at us, there can still be peace - the deep sweet peace of Jesus in our hearts. (see John 14:27)

Irene Howat

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

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

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# Argyll could be first marine national park

ARGYLL and the islands enters 2006 as one of the front-runners in the contenders for Scotland's first coastal and marine national park.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) unveiled its list just before Christmas; it features Argyll and the islands, Lochaber and Skye, the north-west Highland coast, the Western Isles, Shetland, and the Solway, Clyde and Moray Firths.

Argyll and the islands is believed to be well out in front. Hugh Raven, chairman of the national steering group, is also a board member of SNH. In welcoming the announcement of the list, he urged all local people in the areas concerned to get involved.

Mark Carter, the chairman of the Hebridean National Park Partnership, concurred, and called on everyone in Argyll to make sure their voice was heard.

Mr Raven said: 'SNH has made an important first step in looking at the merits of different areas for a coastal and marine park.'

'In these early stages we need feedback and comments as to whether the assessment is fair and reasonable and whether some of these areas would work better than others as a park.'

Mr Hunter said the group he chairs 'is a group of local people who believe something needs to be done to protect resources for future generations.'

He said that he cannot stress strongly enough that all local people should make sure their voice is heard; whether they are for the idea of a park or not. He also said that concept of a park would be a success if it represented the views of all people.

'It has the potential to be the best thing for the area since the area began,' he said.

#### Disastrous

But he added that unless any park was properly managed and fully representative, 'it has the potential to be quite disastrous'.

The group thinks that the present situation is weighted too much in favour of fishing and aquaculture.

'We are not against fishermen or fishing, rather we believe we have to have a balance,' he said. At present it is 100 per cent in favour of aquaculture and fishing and you have to remember what a major part tourism plays in our economy.'

He added: 'We need to have some restriction on some fishing methods in some areas. Done properly, I can't

see any fisherman could lose their job; it just needs to be managed properly.' Mr Raven also stressed: 'People should please get in touch with SNH via its website or writing, so we can make sure your views are heard at the beginning of this very exciting process.'

'The locations were identified using a number of factors, such as the area's importance for wildlife, landscape and the historic environment, the range of opportunities it provides for people to get access to the area and enjoy its natural and cultural heritage and its potential for management as a national park.'

Andrew Bachell, the director of strategy and operations at SNH, said that the organisation had been asked by the Scottish Executive to provide a list of potential areas which could work as a coast and marine park.

'In these initial stages we have assessed each area against a number of criteria and themes.'

SNH has a three-stage process to select possible areas for a national park; outstanding natural heritage, the collective identity of the area and its special management needs. The Scottish Executive has asked SNH to advise by the end of March the legal and policy framework of such a park.

## CalMac faces David and Goliath

CALMAC is facing both David and Goliath in the bidding to take over the Clyde and Hebridean routes it serves.

It is up against one of the smallest and one of the world's largest in the fight.

Caledonian MacBrayne, the state-owned operator which provides the lifeline services to the Inner and Outer Hebrides and remote rural peninsulas saw its 26 routes go out to tender under an EU ruling along with its Clyde routes.

The tendering process was announced in October and by the end of the first phase there were and saw 17 'expressions of interest' lodged with the Executive.

At that stage the identity of the bidders was said to be commercially confidential, but numbers have been whittled down and now there appears to be only three left in the ring: CalMac, Western Ferries and V Ships.

Western competes with Calmac on the Gourock - Dunoon route which is going out to tender on its own part and does not have a subsidy; anyone taking it on would have to operate it commercially.

Western was formed in 1973 and has a fleet of four.

The rest of the Hebridean routes have to be bid for as a whole and those tendering must provide at least the same level of service as at present.

Here CalMac is up against V Ships, which styles itself as 'the world's largest provider of independent shipping management and marine related service'.

It has 44 offices in 26 countries with 1,100 office staff and 22,500 crew and 600 vessels.

It was formed in Monaco in 1984 but has since made a move to the Isle of Man.

CalMac restructured its operations to make it more competitive.

At the start of in autumn all staff received letters from managing director Lawrie Sinclair explaining how the firm would transfer all seagoing employees to a wholly-owned subsidiary to be located outwith the UK with land-base operations transferred to a wholly owned subsidiary based in the UK.

CalMac currently receives a government subsidy of £30 million to operate its 31 vessels on 26 routes.

## Cameron and Sophie are Argyll's favourite baby names

CAMERON and Sophie were the most popular boys' and girls' names for babies in Argyll last year.

Both names also feature high on the list of the most popular names across Scotland, published last week by the Registrar General.

Thirteen boys born in Argyll last year were named Cameron. Lewis found favour with 12 parents, though it proved the most popular boys' name across Scotland. Also making the top 10 in Argyll were James, chosen by 10 families; Ryan (nine); Andrew and Matthew (eight each); Alexander, Connor and Thomas (seven); Callum, Finlay and Jack (six).

As well as being picked by eight families in Argyll, Sophie was also the most popular girls' name in Scotland. Locally, it was followed by Erin, chosen by seven families; Amy and Olivia (six each); Chloe, Eilidh, Ella, Eva, Holly, Niamh and Rachel (five).

Duncan Macniven, Registrar General for Scotland, said: 'As always, the list of Scotland's favourite baby names is very interesting. Around 26,400 boys' and 24,700 girls' names have been registered. More than 5,800 different first names were chosen this year and around 1,500 boys and 2,200 girls were given unique names.'

'This year we have seen some change in the top 50 names for boys, with a return to more traditional names. Daniel and Matthew both moved up two places to make

the top 10, replacing Liam, which was down four places to 11th, and Ben, down four places to 12th. Calum, Ewan and Jake have leapt into the top 50, while Noah, Lennon and Harvey have joined the top 100 for the first time. For girls, the name game was fairly static. The only new entrant to the top 10 is Rebecca, which is up two places to ninth, replacing Hannah, which is down one place to 11th. The biggest climber is Ruby, which has climbed 70 places to reach 43rd.'



**Kim MacKay**

GRADUATED from Glasgow Metropolitan College with an HNC in Planning. A former pupil of Tarbert Academy, Kim is currently working as a trainee planning officer with Argyll and Bute Council while continuing her studies towards a postgraduate diploma in Urban and Regional Planning at Edinburgh Heriot-Watt University. She is the daughter of Marion and Iain MacKay, Lilybank, Tarbert.

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# The Argyllshire Advertiser

AS ALWAYS, it's been a busy year in Mid Argyll. Work on Lochgilhead's new joint school campus got under way, the Dalriada Project was successful in its bid for £2 million of funds and Inveraray Shinty Club reached their second national final in the space of a year.

## Rallying round

The year started with Mid Argyll's residents rallying round to help raise thousands of pounds to help victims of the Asian tsunami, which struck on Boxing Day 2004. Fundraisers were back in action later in the year to help those affected by the earthquake that struck in Pakistan.

Closer to home, 2005 began with violent storms hitting Mid Argyll's coastal communities. Ardrishaig took a battering from the waves, whilst fallen trees caused blackouts in Minard. The New Year did bring some joy to Mid Argyll though, with Kilmichael Glassary's Sheelagh Richards awarded an OBE for services to healthcare in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

The residents of Tarbert



Kilmory Shinty Club's players were presented with the South of Scotland Division One Trophy for 2004 in February, the culmination of a successful season for the Lochgilhead club. a09kil01

named their Senior Citizen of the Year in January, Millie Malia receiving the award at the Senior Citizens' Dinner.

January also saw celebrations for the residents of Lochgair, Argyll and Bute Council rejecting Scottish Water's proposals for a new

septic tank on the village foreshore.

The council proved less popular at the start of February, when it raised council tax by 3.9 per cent, whilst Scottish Water continued to come under fire, this time for work in Tayvallich bay. Work to up-



Eilidh Elkin of Minard Primary School was the Mid Argyll Music Festival opening day's big winner, receiving the Argyll Drama Festival Cup from adjudicator Brian Marjoribanks. a11mus07

the South of Scotland Division One trophy.

March saw the beginnings of Scottish Natural Heritage's plans to reintroduce the beaver to Mid Argyll's woods, with proposals for a trial scheme in Knapdale.

## Good Citizens

Lochgilhead Primary School honoured some of the town's most deserving residents at a ceremony in March, when it presented certificates to seven good citizens. Caroline Anderson, Donella Crawford, Billy MacIver, Ishy MacDonald, Bill MacCallum, Mary Ann Curtis and Donnie MacMillan all attended a reception in their honour in the school's hall.

Descriptions of further problems with Mid Argyll's water supply were heard by Argyll and Bute Council in March, when Minard resi-

Mid Argyll Music Festival celebrated its silver jubilee in 2005, with entrants from Mid Argyll and beyond competing over several days for trophies in drama, dance, music and song.

A grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund saved a Clyde Puffer which featured in the BBC's most recent *Para Handy* TV series. The VIC-32, the world's last coal-fired Clyde puffer still in operation, which has its home on the Crinan Canal, is to be preserved as a working tourist attraction.

## Good causes

Red Nose Day saw all of Mid Argyll's cheekiest and funniest fundraisers out in force to help good causes, whilst the Co-op in Lochgilhead continued to support local charities throughout the year, with regular donations to worthy causes including the Dochas Fund



Lochgilhead Primary School's primary seven pupils honoured the town's good citizens in March. Pictured from left are Caroline Anderson, Donella Crawford, Billy MacIver, Ishy MacDonald, Bill MacCallum, Mary Ann Curtis and Donnie MacMillan. a09cit01

grade the village's sewage works were criticised at the time by resident Donald Carmichael, who said: 'This particular area is a scenic view point which is enjoyed by residents and visitors alike and should not be permitted to be lost forever.'

Scottish Water did receive some praise from Mid Argyll though, when it responded quickly to Tarbert's water supply running dry. Douglas Robertson was quick to express his thanks: 'I'm very impressed with the speed with which Scottish Water responded to the emergency. The coverage of water supplies was very good indeed.'

'I think Scottish Water needs a pat on the back for this. In this instance it has done an excellent job in an emergency situation.'

A meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay area committee in February gave the first indication that motorists in Lochgilhead could be subject to on-street parking charges from next year.

The proposal was met with resentment by Lochgilhead Community Council, John McFadden calling on his fellow members to oppose it, saying: 'I believe we do not need to charge for parking in Lochgilhead at this time.'

Two of Mid Argyll's longest-serving workers celebrated 50 years in their posts in February, Lochgilhead's Ian MacDonald commemorating five decades as an elder at Kilcalmonell Church in Clachan, and Inveraray pharmacist Jinty Smith retiring after 50 years behind the counter.

## Coastal management

The first steps towards formation of an integrated coastal management zone were taken in the same month, with meetings held throughout Mid Argyll to discuss how best to manage the area's coastline and waters.

In sport, Kilmory Camanachd Club celebrated a successful season when they were presented with

and Mid Argyll ARMS Centre.

Argyll and Bute Council was criticised for sanctioning a 50 per cent fee hike at Ardfenaig residential home, but said that the rise was unavoidable.

Mid Argyll Natural and History and Antiquarian Society celebrated its golden jubilee with a dinner at Stonefield Castle Hotel on March 7, where members were enthralled by a talk from Graham Ritchie of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments.

The beginning of April saw Lunga couple Simon and Namaste Bevan face a two-day public inquiry to decide whether they had to demolish their home. Argyll and Bute Council had ordered the Bevans to demolish the house, on Lunga Estate, as it had been constructed without planning permission. After hearing both sides of the case, the Scottish Executive gave the couple until May 2008 to demolish the building.

Work on the new Achahois Primary School building got underway in March, with pupils on hand to see builders cutting the first turf.

Lochgilhead High School's pupils raised funds for the refurbishment of their library with a fun day, which saw sponge-throwing and sponsored hair-shaving bring in the cash.

The town's young shinty players were celebrating when they returned home from Fort William as runners-up from the First Shinty National Finals, whilst Robert Silver struck gold to win Lochgilhead Golf Club's winter league.

# reviews Mid Argyll's year

APRIL also saw the beginning of *The Argyllshire Advertiser's* 'Enough is Enough' campaign, which sought to put pressure on Argyll and Bute Council and BEAR Scotland to take action over the dreadful condition of Mid Argyll's roads. We were inundated with phone calls and letters from people across Mid Argyll whose cars had been damaged by potholes on the A83 and the A816.

### Wildlife park

The future looked bleak for Argyll Wildlife Park in Inveraray in April, with owners Andrew and Hugh Cameron announcing that the popular tourist attraction would remain closed throughout the year, after the park's zoo licence was withdrawn by Argyll and Bute Council.

Crarae Garden near Minard was under new management from April, Nigel Price moving from Arran's Brodick Garden.

Following the theft of a boat from Loch Awe in Mid April, a neighbourhood watch-style boat watch was mooted for the Loch.

Scottish Water announced in April that the projected cost of upgrading Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig's waste water systems would be £9 million, more than three times the original estimate of £2.8 million.

The Iascene Theatre Group from Ardfern began

fundraising in April to help produce its *Fourplay* show at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Church congregations from the parishes of North Knapdale and Glassary, Kilmartin and Ford were celebrating in April, when Reverend Richard West was inducted as minister, filling a post that had been vacant for three years. Speaking to *The Argyllshire Advertiser* at the time, Reverend West said: 'I would like to enhance the focus of each church in its own community and help the congregation in each church to encourage good links and develop those that already exist.'

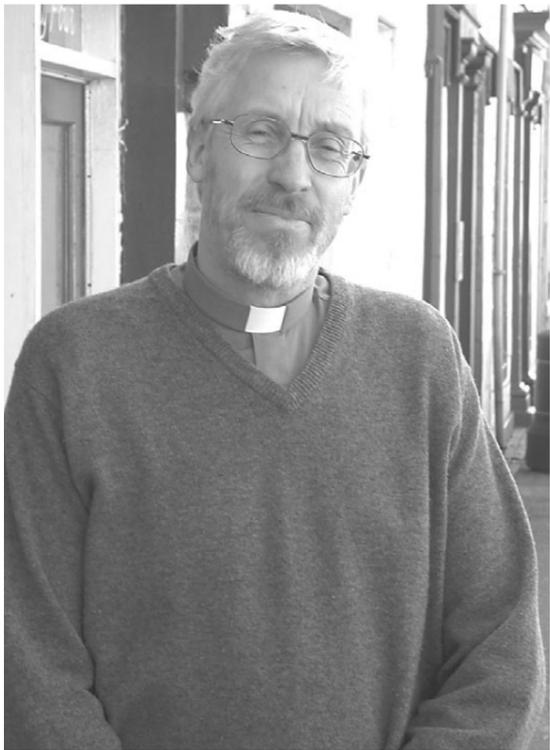
Mobile cinema the Screen Machine launched its new service in Lochgilphead in April, whilst Mid Argyll midwife Jaki Lambert travelled to Malawi to help train midwives in the poverty-stricken African country.

### Princess Royal

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal paid a visit to Argyll in April, when she was guest of honour at The Royal Naval Club Argyll's Trafalgar Dinner.

The Inveraray and District Piping Association Annual Junior Competition was held in April for the first time in many years, local youngsters picking up many of the available trophies.

It was announced in April that Tarbert Village Hall was in dire straits and in need of either a rebuild or refurbish-



Reverend Richard West joined the parishes of North Knapdale and Glassary, Kilmartin and Ford. The announcement began a furious period of fundraising, which will lead to the hall being rebuilt.

The Argyll Seafood Trail was launched at the Loch Fyne Oyster Bar in Cairndow. The trail brings together the area's leading seafood businesses, helping to raise awareness of the quality and variety of seafood available throughout Argyll.

Lochgilphead Drama Club took the top prize at the Argyll Drama Festival, held in Ardfern in April. The

club performed Charles Mander's *Shop For Charity* on the second day of the festival, for which it won the Dunoon Town Council Trophy. The club also received the highest mark for dramatic production.

The first indication that NHS Argyll and Clyde could be disbanded was given by Health Minister Andy Kerr in April, a month that also saw Lochgilphead Red Star record an amazing 9-0 win over Centre One.

Argyll's voters turned out to re-elect Liberal Demo-

crat MP Alan Reid, increasing his majority by almost 4,000.

Stan Stanisland of the Crinan Hotel was honoured at the Scottish Chef Awards, the culinary equivalent of the Oscars, returning home with a highly commended certificate. Lochgilphead Rotary Club honoured its citizens of the year, Dee and Alec Carrick taking the title for their work running a cat sanctuary and helping at the Scottish International Relief shop.

Young Lochgilphead footballer Cammy MacDonald travelled to Spain with St Peter's Boy's Club to compete in the Loret Del Mar tournament, returning to Mid Argyll with a winner's

medal. Cammy signed for Premier League club Livingston later in the year.

Mid Argyll's driving fanatics were delighted when Mid Argyll Car Club opened its new track at Kilmichael.

### Johanna mourned

Lochgilphead mourned the death of Johanna MacVicar in May, the young woman losing her 10-year battle with leukaemia. Johanna was a tireless fundraiser for the Anthony Nolan Trust, and a weekend of fundraising activities was held in her memory.

Tarbert welcomed hundreds of sailors and spectators for the Bell Lawrie Scottish Series in May, with Argyll's sailors amongst the

prizewinners. Although heavy rain threatened to put a dampner on the event's opening days, glorious sunshine on the Sunday saw the village and harbour at their best.

Plans for a new quarry near Kilmichael were put forward in June, meeting with fierce opposition from residents of the village.

Lochfyneside Junior Choir from Furnace were prizewinners at the Oban Mod in June, winning the primary schools Unison and Action songs competitions.

See next week's edition of *The Argyllshire Advertiser* for the conclusion of our review of 2005



Despite the pouring Tarbert rain at the Bell Lawrie Scottish Series in May, four-year-old Nell MacFarlane, her six-year-old cousin Molly McLean and Frances MacFarlane enjoyed Campbeltown Brass Band after a visit to face painter Fabbi Doo. a22ser06



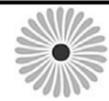
From left: Graeme McMillan of Inveraray won the Inveraray Cup for stick and pads, Struan Thorpe of Lochgilphead won the William McCallum Memorial Trophy for the march and William Quinn of Dunoon won the WD Challenge Trophy in the drumming, hornpipe and jig at the Inveraray and District Piping Association Annual Junior Competition.



Loch Fyneside Junior Gaelic Choir from Furnace were successful at the Oban Mod, winning the primary schools Unison and Action songs competitions.

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# AUTOCAR AND RAC FOUNDATION URGE DRIVERS TO MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO SAVE LIVES IN 2006

Forget about joining the gym or giving up smoking - the new year's resolution guaranteed to increase your life expectancy is to improve your driving. Autocar magazine, in conjunction with the RAC Foundation, is calling for changes in thinking from the government and from Britain's 32 million driving licence holders to raise driving standards.

"Rather than over concentrating on speed cameras, better driving can also play a key part in reducing the death toll on Britain's roads. Most drivers pass their test at 17 and then drive for the rest of their lives without even thinking about re-training," said Autocar editor Rob Aherne. "Approximately 10 people are killed on our roads every day.

Many drivers take pride in their cars, but if they took the same pride in their driving skills then the UK's roads would be safer for everyone. Poor driving affects more than just the individual."

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents states that in 95% of accidents human error is a factor and drivers with experience of advanced driver training are 20% less likely to be involved in a crash.

The Institute of Advanced Motorists goes further by claiming that drivers will be 66% less likely to cause an accident if they pass their advanced driving test.

Edmund King, executive director of the RAC Foundation, said: "We all need to resolve to take more pride in

our driving. That can be achieved as easily as giving ourselves an extra 10 minutes for each journey to alleviate the frustration and road rage caused by congestion.

"Equally, an advanced driver-training course could open many drivers' eyes to the hazards that they have been missing and to the tactics they can adopt to make our roads much safer. Lives would be saved if every driver had a new year's resolution to improve their driving."

### Top 5 Tips for Safer Driving

- Take advanced driving tuition
- Leave 10-minutes early for each journey
- Plan route
- Drive according to weather conditions
- Ensure car is road-worthy

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### Farm Technicians

The successful applicants will be required to carry out a variety of duties including feeding, net changing and other general farm tasks and be willing to work flexibly to meet the demands of the job. Full training will be provided.

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If you are interested in applying for either of these vacancies, please apply in writing no later than Friday 20th January 2006 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Advisor, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT.



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Please telephone Mr E. McCreath on  
**01546 850 223**

E-mail: [eddy@ellary.com](mailto:eddy@ellary.com)

## Education, Culture & Sport School Technician

Ardnamurchan High School, £15,699 – £17,436 (unqualified), £17,877 – £20,169 (qualified), (requires HNC, SVQ Level 3 or equivalent qualification in appropriate subject), 35 hrs per wk

You will be a well-motivated person with good experience and qualifications in the areas of Science and Technology. You will be flexible and able to turn your hand to a variety of tasks, you will also have good communication skills in order to work well with a wide range of staff and young people. Most of all, you will have a genuine enthusiasm for working within a school environment and committed to high standards in carrying out your duties.

You are paid on the basis of 52 weeks per year including payment for annual leave which should be taken during school holidays.

Informal enquiries to Miss C MacDonald, tel (01397) 700105, email Catherine.macdonald2@highland.gov.uk  
Ref: L/159/05 (Closing date: 20 January 2006)

## Transport, Environmental & Community Recycling Operative

Fort William, £218.81 per wk, plus bonus, 37 hrs per wk

You will maximise and promote recycling within the area and advise users on waste segregation, site use and facilities. You will be a motivated, flexible individual with interest in recycling issues and an awareness of health and safety, you will also be able to work on your own initiative within set guidance.

Hours of work are Monday to Thursday 9.30am-5.30pm and Friday 9.15am-5.15pm with occasional weekend working on a rota basis, for which appropriate allowances will be paid.

Interviews to be held on Friday 20 January 2006.

Informal enquiries to Andy Tuckwood, tel (01397) 709016 or Ian Cameron, tel (01397) 709027. Ref: L/160/05 (Closing date: 13 January 2006)

Application packs are available from our website or by telephoning, quoting relevant reference:

Ref: L/159/05 – Staffing Unit, tel (01349) 868640 (voicemail 24 hours)

Ref: L/160/05 – Transport, Environmental & Community, tel (01397) 709000 (during office hours), email: [lochaber.tecsadmin@highland.gov.uk](mailto:lochaber.tecsadmin@highland.gov.uk)

[www.highland.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.highland.gov.uk/jobs)

*“No one’s ever ordered three kilos of herring before.*

*Did the seal book a table in advance?”*



It's easy to remember that otters enjoy the odd mouse with their whiting while customers prefer chips with their fish. But when you join us we'll ask you to do something even more important; have a good time. When people see you enjoying yourself, so will they. Naturally, you'll be part of a friendly team dedicated to keeping a great centre running smoothly and we'll expect you to be as polite and helpful to school children as you are to our favourite seal, Gigha.

## Catering Supervisor

£13,890 plus bonus

Your job will be to keep all our catering outlets clean, well stocked and functioning efficiently. You'll also keep track of health and safety concerns as well as organise schedules and oversee training. Quality is always top of mind and accuracy is absolutely essential. Commercially astute, you're a natural leader ready to maximise the potential of this part of our business.

## Aquarist

£11,450 plus bonus

Our seals need a lot of attention not to mention three kilos of herring a day, so you'll stay hugely busy caring for adults and pups as well as a range of native fish. Rehabilitating marine mammals is one of our most important goals, so we'll expect you to make a real contribution to our programmes. A relevant qualification would be an asset, but more important is solid experience in fish husbandry and handling, an eye for detail and computer skills. A driving licence and plenty of physical stamina are also required.

*If you're ready for jobs that are fun and you like to feel the sea breeze in your hair, please contact Diarmid MacLean, Attraction Manager, Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary, Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll PA37 1SE or [recruitment@merlinentertainments.biz](mailto:recruitment@merlinentertainments.biz) Alternatively, please telephone 01631 720 386.*



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## APPRENTICE REFRIGERATION TECHNICIAN

Following continued expansion a Full-Time salaried position has become available. Applicants must be able to demonstrate the following-

Keeness to learn, Quality conscious, Presentable, Hardworking and Work as part of a Team, Reliable, Numerate, Customer Aware.

**-Immediate Start Available-**

for further details and an application form please contact Billy Forteith on 01631 569100

## DRIVER (LGV)/STORE PERSON

Required for Multi-Drop delivery vehicle. This position has been created as a result of continued expansion and is a Full-Time position for the right candidate.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate the following- Clean Driving license to level 'C', be Presentable, Reliable, Hardworking and Conscientious.

**-Immediate Start Available-**

for further details and an application form please contact Ernie McInnes on 01631 569100

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**PS/06/03 – Electrical Fitter ( two posts)**

Salary: Dependent on skills and experience

We are currently recruiting electrical fitters to form a small team, undertaking duties within the Programmes team. Although based in Fort William, travel throughout Highland, Argyll, Cowal and the Islands will be required, which may include some overnight stays.

The main duties of the post are substation maintenance, inspection, fault repairs and construction up to 33kV.

As an important member of the multi-skilled team responsible for the operation and maintenance of the distribution network, it is essential that the successful applicants have completed apprenticeships in electrical or mechanical engineering, hold a current driving licence and have good communication skills.

There will be a requirement to take part in the local out of hours standby rota.

Please send your CV quoting reference number PS/06/03 to Annjanet Gardiner, Human Resources, Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ. Closing date for applications is Friday 20 January 2006.

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Applicants should hold a minimum of 5 Standard Grades (or equivalent), including Maths and English. The successful candidate will have experience of bookkeeping and using Microsoft Word and Excel. A mature and flexible attitude together with good communication and organisational skills are essential.

The salary will be in the region of £13,362 - £15,719 pro rata per annum.

This post will be subject to a Disclosure Scotland check.

Application packs are available from Human Resources, Scottish Agricultural College, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JG. Tel: (0131) 535 4343 (answering machine), Fax: (0131) 535 4322, HumanResources@sac.co.uk or our website <http://www.sac.ac.uk> Closing date: 20th January 2006. Please quote the reference.



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**Mrs Colman, Operations Manager,  
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Telephone Mr Hodge on 01546 600300 for viewing

**PERSONALS**

**CHRISTINE JOHNSTON  
BEINN BHAN**

Words cannot describe the fantastic and overwhelming reception I received when my dear niece Lesley took me out for a "quiet bar meal" to celebrate my 60th birthday. The Argyll Arms was packed with all my family and very dear friends, whom I would like to thank, along with everyone else, who bestowed beautiful cards, flowers, gifts and messages of congratulations upon me. Thank you to all who contributed towards the delicious buffet, to Neil, Moira and Paul who chauffeured before, during and after the evening, to Caroline and Lorna for "Christine at 60" in verse, to all my little singers and also Murdo who delighted us with a rare solo performance - Moran Taing, the very talented John Summers who played every tune that was requested, special thanks to Josie for the beautifully decorated birthday cake. The biggest surprise of the night was the appearance of the Essex boy who had been held hostage for 24 hours! The greatest gift of all is the love and devotion of my boys Barrie and Craig and my lovely daughter-in-law Vivienne. God bless and a Happy and Prosperous New Year to you all.



*There was a tulip from Rotterdam*

*Who fell for a toyboy from Nottingham*

*Well 5 children later*

*Her petals aren't fading*

*And at 50 looks better than the lot of 'em*

*Love from All the Boys*

**Happy 18th  
Birthday  
GRAHAM**



You won't be here for your special day  
You'll be back in the army or on your way  
But here's a few words I wanted to say  
On this the occasion of your eighteenth birthday.

You came into my world, a bouncing boy  
And brought me from then, so much joy  
You were always to me a special child  
Unlike Megan, you were oh! so mild.

You broke my heart when you went away  
But I knew in Campbeltown you could not stay  
Graham, my boy, you've made me so proud  
And to me you'll always stand out in a crowd.

I think you know I love you to bits  
So at your party I'll let you get blitzed.  
**Lots of love from Mum XXX**

**HAPPY 40TH  
on the 4th Jan  
SHIRLEY**

**HAPPY 16th  
RONALD  
on the 15th Jan**



*From R. L. C. S. S.  
Ha Ha!*



**On the 8th  
of January  
Have a Smashing  
18th Birthday  
Graham  
from Gran & Paps.**

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



**SURGERIES**

Councillor Donald Kelly (E.W.1 South Kintyre) will not be holding a surgery this month.

Councillor Alistair McKinlay (E.W. 2 Campbeltown Central) will not be holding a surgery this month.

Councillor Rory Colville (E.W.3 East Central Kintyre) will not be holding a surgery this month but his constituents can contact him at home on Tel: 01586 820 209.

Councillor John McAlpine (E.W. 4 North & West Kintyre) will not be holding a surgery this month but his constituents can contact him on Tel: 01880 820 196 or through the Members Services Unit at Argyll and Bute Council on tel: 01546 604261.

Councillor Alison Hay (E.W. 7 Craignish-Glenarary) will not be holding a surgery this month but her constituents can contact her at home on Tel: 01546 886 213 or through the Members Services Unit on Tel: 01546 604 261

**CONDITIONS OF  
ACCEPTANCE FOR  
ADVERTISEMENTS**

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

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

1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

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

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**SOME THINGS ARE BEST LEFT TO THE EXPERTS . . .**



Make sure everyone knows exactly who the experts are!  
 Book your discounted package deal now – telephone  
**01546 60 2345**

**TEXT FOR THE WEEK**

Jesus said: 'You are my friends if you do what I command' (John 15:14)

**BIRTHS**

**BINNIE** – Alex and Isla are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Erin Beth on December 21, 2005; a wee sister for Shannon. Thanks to Southern General and Campbeltown hospitals.

**ENGAGEMENTS**

**AITKEN-STEVENSON** – Both families are pleased to announce the engagement of Mhairi, daughter of Malcolm and Helen Aitken, Inveraray, to Jim, elder son of Jim and Cathie Stevenson of Dunfermline.

**ROBINSON – COUSIN** – It is with pleasure that the engagement is announced between Mr Alasdair Nicholson Robinson, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Sandy Robinson, of Mugdock Road, Milngavie, and Dr Rhona MacLeod Cousin, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alastair Cousin, of Southpark, Campbeltown.

**DEATHS**

**MacKAY** – Peacefully, at the Campbeltown Hospital, on January 1, 2006, Dolina Morrison McBean (Lena), in her 78th year, dearly beloved wife of the late Jock MacKay, loving mother of Ronnie and Mairi-Christeen, daughter of Mary Hall and a much loved granny of Ashley, Gregor and Gareth.

**McKINLAY** – Peacefully, after a short illness at Eltham, London, on December 23, 2005, John McKinlay in his 85th year, much loved husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend. Funeral service at 3 p.m. on January 11, 2006, at Eltham Crematorium. No flowers please, donations in lieu to the Red Cross. Sadly missed by friends and relatives in Campbeltown.

**McPHEE** – Peacefully, in the Kintyre Care Centre, Campbeltown, on December 31, 2005, Jean Gilchrist, in her 92nd year, Killellan Lodge, Campbeltown, dearly beloved wife of the late James R. McPhee, formerly of Pennygown Farm, Campbeltown, dearly loved mother of Duncan and Margaret, a much loved and loving grand-mother, great-grandmother and sister.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**CRAWFORD** – Duncan, Robert and Margaret-Jane would like to thank all family and friends for their support, expressions of sympathy and cards received following their recent very sad loss. Special thanks to staff at Mid Argyll and Western Infirmary Hospitals, as well as the ambulance service, for their care of Margaret over the years. Rev. Walter Ritchie is thanked for a comforting service, as well as Donald MacDonald, funeral directors, and the Stag Hotel for providing dignified services. Thank you to everyone who paid their last respects at church and graveside. The collection raised £320 for the Renal Unit, Western Infirmary.

**GATNER** – Thank you to all of our family, friends, neighbours and colleagues for the kind support and sympathy received in our recent loss of Andy. Special thanks to doctors, hospital staff and ambulance crews for their care and kindness; to Rev. Roy Flatt for a comforting service and support; to Donald MacDonald, funeral directors, for a most efficient and professional service; to Alan MacDonald for his comforting words at the service; to Randolph Scott for piping; to the Stag Hotel for an excellent purvey; and to all who paid their respects at the Crematorium and Church, where £900 was received in donations for Cancer Research. –Sarah, Rita, Andrew and Sean.

**HOLMES** – The family of the late Joyce Holmes, would like to thank Billy Johnstone, of the Society of Friends, most sincerely, for his involvement with their mother, and for his part in her funeral service at Christ Church, Lochgilphead, on December 22, 2005.

**McKECHNIE** – Neil and family wish to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for letters, cards and many telephone calls received in their recent sad loss. Special thanks to family, doctors, district nurses, doctors and nurses at Falkirk Infirmary, Strathcarron Hospice and also Macmillan Nurses for all their support and loving care. Thanks also to Rev. S. Coats and to all who paid their last respects in church and at graveside. Thanks also to all who donated £480 to Strathcarron Hospice and Macmillan Nurses.

**PRENTICE** – The family of the late Catherine and Jimmy Prentice would like to thank everyone for kind support and expressions of sympathy, and for cards, telephone calls and floral tributes received in the recent sad loss of both of their parents. Special thanks to doctors and staff at Tarbert Surgery, Lorne and Islands District General Hospital Oban, and Kintyre Nursing Home, Campbeltown, for the kind care and attention received, thanks also to Rev. Bill Gray, who officiated at the services, and for his kind words of comfort; to Stan Lupton, funeral directors, for professional services; Henderson Haring for kind provision of transport; Tarbert Hotel for catering; and to all who paid their last respects at church and graveside.

**THOMSON** – The family of the late James Thomson wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the phone calls, cards and flowers received following their recent sad loss. Sincere thanks to all the staff and ambulance crews at Inveraray and Lochgilphead and also the staff, at both the Southern General Hospital and the Beatson Oncology Centre, Glasgow. Thanks also to Rev. Brian Wilkinson and Dr Roddy MacLeod for their very kind words of comfort at this sad time, to Stan Lupton, funeral directors, for their excellent service and professional guidance and to the Quarry View for their fine catering. A final thank you to all who paid their last respects and donated the sum of £140 to Cancer Research.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**ANGUS/PATERSON** – For our dear friends Judi and Emma.

You are our two angels watching over us You'll always be special And shine in our lives Our two bright stars shining down You'll always be a part of our lives And we'll have you in our hearts 'til the end. We miss you more and more each day. – Love forever, The Girls X X X

**GILLIES** – Remembering with love my husband, Ian, passed away January 5, 1996; and my parents, Archie and Margaret Bruce, passed away December 19, 1976 and January 1, 1999, sadly missed father and grandparents of Lorne, Ailsa, Shian and Shuna. Those we love don't go away, But walk beside us every day, Unseen, unheard, but always near, Still loved and missed and very dear. – Iona and family, Kilmartin and away.

**KILPATRICK** – In loving memory of a dearly missed wife, mother and grandmother, Fiona Kilpatrick (née McPherson), who we sadly lost on January 6, 2002. – Love, Angus, sen., Angus, jun., Sandra and Eric, Aimee, Laura and Lewis.

**McCALLUM** – Archie (Caddy), died January 6, 1993. Always remembered. –Tessa and family.

**McGLYNN** – In loving memory of my dear husband, John Charles, who passed away January 12, 2004. Two years since that sad day when God called you home Now at peace, your suffering gone Forever in our thoughts. – From Margaret and all the family.

**McKINLAY** – In loving memory of my dear wife, Babs, who died January 4, 2004.

May the winds of heaven blow gently And whisper for you to hear That I still love and miss you Always wishing you were here Every day I think of you I miss you more and more Just wishing I could see you Come walking through the door Time has not healed my heartache Or stopped my falling tears I cherish still the memories Of the one I loved so dear. – From your loving husband, Willie.

**McMILLAN** – In loving memory of my dear husband William (Bill), who died January 5, 2000. God saw you getting tired When a cure was not to be He closed His arms around you And whispered come to me So keep your arms around him, Lord And give him special care Make up for all he suffered And all that seemed unfair – From his wife Mary, sons Robert and Laurence and all the family at home and away.

**ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES**

**SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH**



**75 Longrow, Campbeltown Services, Sunday 8 January** Breaking of Bread Service 10 a.m. Coffee 10.45 a.m. 11.15 a.m. ... Family Service with Sunday School and Creche

7.30 p.m. Prayer Meeting All welcome For other enquiries contact The Church Office 01586 551200 www.springbankchurch.co.uk Pastor: Chris Holden For Furniture Recycling Project call 551547

**CHRIST CHURCH LOCHGILPHEAD**

**Sunday 8 January 2006** 9 a.m. .... Eucharist 11 a.m. Eucharist with Hymns

**NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH**

**Sunday 8 January 2006** Bellanoch ..... 11.30 a.m. Preacher: Margaret Sinclair Enquiries: 01546 606926 www.argyllcommunities.org/KNKAPDALECOFS

**GLASSARY, KILMARTIN and FORD PARISH CHURCH**

**Sunday 8 January 2006** Kilmartin ..... 10 a.m. Preacher: Margaret Sinclair All most welcome

**TARBERT LINKED KILBERRY**

**Sunday 8 January 2006** 11.30 a.m. .... Tarbert Church 'No God – No Peace Know God – Know Peace' Mr James MacLellan (Ardrihaig)

**LIVING STONES CHRISTIAN CENTRE KILMARTIN**

**Sunday 8 January 2006** 11 a.m. Worship Service for All Ages followed by light lunch Speaker: Graham McLean **Thursday 12 January 2006** 7.30 p.m. Praise, worship and sharing All welcome 'Come and see'

**LORNE AND LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH CAMPBELTOWN**

**Saturday 7 January 2006** Walking Group meet in Car Park at 10.30 a.m. **Sunday 8 January 2006** Morning Worship at 11.15 a.m. Creche, Sunday School, Bible Class Evening Worship at 6.30 p.m. **Monday 9 January** The Guild at 7.30 p.m. **Tuesday 10 January** Mothers and Toddlers at 9.45 a.m. **Friday 13 January** Lunch Club at 12.15 p.m.

**LOCHGILPHEAD BAPTIST CHURCH**

All Welcome **Sunday 8 January 2006** Pastor: Andrew Miles 11 a.m. .... Morning Service with Communion Evening Service Bible Study Discipleship Course Restarts **Monday 9 January 2006** 10.30 a.m. Ladies' Meeting Restarts **Monday 9 January 2006** with David and Helen Herron (Peru) **Wednesday 11 January 2006** Prayer Meeting ..... 7 p.m. **Friday 13 January 2006** Jumpstart Group Restarts 10 a.m.

**LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH**

**Sunday 8 January 2006** Service ..... 11 a.m. Rev. Hilda Smith All welcome **Tuesday 10 January 2006** The guild meets at 7.30 p.m. Yorkhill Children's Foundation

**SALVATION ARMY**

Burnside Street, Campbeltown **Sunday Services** 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. **Tuesday** 12.30 p.m. Pensioners' Lunch Club 1.45 p.m. Home League (Ladies' Meeting) **Thursday** 11.30 a.m. Meet 'n' Eat Cafe New-to-You Stall Bible Study ..... 7 p.m. A warm welcome to all

**ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES**

Come and worship the Lord **Sunday 8 January 2006** Ardrishaig at 11 a.m. Achahoish at 12.30 p.m.

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*Highland Parish Church*



**Sunday 8 January 2006** 11.15 a.m. Morning Worship Creche in Church (0-3 years) Junior Sunday School in Kirk Street Hall Senior Sunday School at Church 6.30 p.m. .... Evening Service Kirk Street Hall **Monday 9 January 2006** 8 p.m. Young Women's Group Kirk Street Hall **Tuesday 10 January 2006** Badminton Club resumes Kirk Street Hall 6.30 p.m.-7.45 p.m., P1s-P5s 7.45 p.m. - 9 p.m. P6 upwards Cost £1 (includes tuck) Rev. Michael J. Lind Everyone very welcome

**CAMPBELTOWN FULL GOSPEL CHURCH**



**Sunday 8 January 2006** The Town Hall, Campbeltown 11 a.m. Praise and Worship Speaker: Rev. Stuart McLean



Argyll Street, Campbeltown (A Province of the Anglican Communion) **Sunday 8 January 2006 1st Sunday after Epiphany** 8.30 a.m. .... Holy Communion 10.45 a.m. Family Communion Details of services are on the Church door Enquiries to Rev. A. J. Williamson Telephone 01586 551478

**THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND CUMLODDEN LOCHFYNESIDE AND LOCHGAIR**

**Sunday 8 January 2006** Returning By Another Route (Matthew 2:12) CUMLODDEN (Furnace) 10.30 a.m. LOCHFYNESIDE (Minard) 12 noon Seirbheis Ghaidhlig Monthly Gaelic Service LOCHGAIR ..... 3 p.m. Rev. Roderick MacLeod All welcome

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## Daltote Christmas party



### Riding

Riders from Daltote Riding School held their Christmas party recently, combining the event with a competition day and prizegiving. For a full report and results, see next week's edition of *The Argyllshire Advertiser*. Pictured are members of the club performing Jingle Bells to introduce Santa Claus

## Donald delivers in golf winter league

### Golf

AFTER a spell out of the headlines, Donald Carmichael put together the finest round of golf at Lochgilthead Golf Club last week, in conditions best described as soggy and more accurately as awful.

Starting at the ninth tee, which is difficult even after warming up, he shot a par three. Five two-pointers followed and when Donald birdied the eighth for four points, he was four strokes under for his outward nine.

Such an impressive start could have been hard to follow, but Donald produced a steady homeward performance to clinch a win and a welcome confidence boost for the rest of the winter league season.

Always a good each way bet for the finals, David Sinclair entered the round fresh from his 'Battle of the Giants' singles match with Alex MacAulay. David won on the day, and later confessed it had taken 25 years to accomplish the feat, such is Alex's domination in the club's competitions. Ten pars and a two at the tricky

third yielded a level par net score and second place ahead of Ross Sinclair, courtesy of a countback. Ross had eight threes and six fours on his way to eight championship points, his birdies coming at the eighth and fourth holes.

Davy Wilson was also in fine form, scoring level par and only falling foul of countback. Davy was pleased to be out in a fabulous 20 points, with a two at the fifth for four points. He was back in two over par, bettering son Robbie's score by a point.

Allan Weir birdied the last hole for four points and played well, whilst Robbie Wilson birdied the eighth in some style and showed a touch of class throughout.

Eleven pars amounted to an off day for Alex MacAulay, so high are his

standards. Martin Barber cruised to three points and steady play from Tom Campbell saw him hit four threes. Robert Baxter Junior took the final point, hitting a birdie at the fourth in the process.

Outwith the top 10, John Downie drove and putted as well as he ever has, his second to the tiny first green beautifully executed and converted for a birdie. Alex MacAulay was 58 inches from the hole at the seventh, claiming the 'nearest the pin' prize. With the new year stretching before the winter league players, the organisers wish all those taking part good luck for the second half of the competition.

### Inveraray shinty club lottery draw

#### Lottery

THE WINNING numbers drawn in Inveraray Shinty Club's lottery draw on Monday January 2 were 7, 9 and 12. There were no winners.

### Kilmory lottery draw numbers

#### Lottery

THE NUMBERS drawn in Kilmory Camanachd Club's lottery draw on Tuesday January 3 were 4, 7 and 8. There were no winners. The jackpot for the draw on Monday January 9 will be £400.

### Red Star host St Pat's FP 'B'

#### Football

LOCHGILPHEAD Red Star welcome St Pat's FP 'B' to Ropework Park tomorrow (Saturday January 7) in the Scottish Amateur Football League Division One. The match kicks off at 2pm.

### Tarbert take on Port Glasgow

#### Football

TARBERT AFC are at home tomorrow (Saturday January 7), when they face Port Glasgow in Division Two of the Scottish Amateur Football League.

Kick-off for the match, which takes place at Cil Andreis, is at 2pm, weather permitting.



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THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT  
**WIN £2300**

## 'Spot the Ball'

### 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.



### Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 (note not coin) 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 1pm on Wednesday 4th January.

You may hand it into The Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

### Competition Rules

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This week's two near misses who each receive £25 are: Mrs Jenny Goodman, Stronvaar, Kilkerranan Road, Campbeltown and Agnes Conley, 45 Castle Acres, Campbeltown

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