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 Supplement

Campaign launched as dog attacks continue

by Colin Cameron
 ccameron@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

A new campaign to educate dog owners kicked off just as news broke of yet another sheep attack in Argyll.

As lambing season approaches, Mid Argyll police officers have begun an Argyll-wide effort to inform dog walkers about keeping their pets under close control around livestock.

But while posters were being printed and handouts prepared, news came that a blackface ewe in Lochgoilhead suffered serious facial and neck injuries in a dog attack and had to be put down.

Police tracked down the owner, who was charged in relation to contravention of the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 and reported to the procurator fiscal.

The owner and dog will also be subject of a Dog Control Notice issued in conjunction with Argyll and Bute Council.

Co-ordinating the campaign is Lochgilphead-based PC Ben Rusden, who said: 'Dog owners have a responsibility to

keep their dogs under control at all times and dogs should be kept on a close lead when anywhere near livestock.

'It is a criminal offence for dogs to be allowed to attack or chase livestock. It is also an offence for dogs to be at large - ie not on a lead or otherwise under close control - in a field in which there are sheep. Dog owners can be prosecuted and fined up to £1,000.

Liabli

'Dog owners can also be held financially liable for damages done by a dog. Please enjoy the beautiful countryside of Argyll and Bute responsibly.'

For livestock managers, weatherproof signs advising dog walkers of their responsibilities are available to erect on farmland. These can be obtained from PC Rusden, Lochgilphead via 101 or email him at Benjamin.Rusden@scotland.pnn.police.uk

One man who knows all about the damage dogs can do is Inveraray farmer Brian Walker.

He lost 11 sheep in the spring of last year following a dog attack, and has experienced sim-



PC Ben Rusden's dog Jake - a four-year-old Jack Russell Pomeranian cross - behaved perfectly as he helped launch the campaign at Brian Walker's Carloonan Farm. a04DogAttack-Campaign02

ilar attacks in previous years. Mr Walker said: 'This is about raising awareness about dog attacks, but the one key thing I would like to do is encourage farmers to start reporting

these crimes. We can only get the law on dog attacks changed if the evidence is there.'

MSP Emma Harper is currently pursuing a Private

Members Bill through the Scottish Parliament to have legislation brought up to date and bring sanctions more in line with the seriousness of the crime.

Interim Nancy Glen report published

An interim report has been published on the sinking of the Tarbert fishing boat Nancy Glen, in which two men died.

Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) officials issued the one-year interim report pending the release of a full report on the investigation next month.

The boat went down on January 18 last year with the loss of skipper Duncan MacDougall and crewman Przemek Krawczyk.

The interim report states: 'At about 1750 on January 18, 2018, the prawn trawler Nancy Glen capsized and later foundered in lower Loch Fyne, Scotland.'

'Nancy Glen's crew was trawling for prawns when the vessel heeled excessively to starboard then capsized rapidly; only one of the three crewmen survived.'

'The MAIB's investigation has considered all aspects of the accident including analysis of underwater surveys and an inspection of the vessel after it was raised from the seabed by the Scottish Government. The MAIB's investigation has considered: why Nancy Glen capsized, why only one crewman survived, and the actions necessary to prevent recurrence.'



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POLICE FILES

Drink Driving

About midnight on Thursday January 17, a 37-year old man was stopped while driving on the A83 in Inveraray. After a roadside breath test he was arrested for drink driving. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Drugs

On Saturday January 19 about 8pm, a 62-year-old man was searched by the police in Rowan Park, Lochgilphead and found to be in possession of a small amount of cannabis. The man was charged and given a recorded police warning.

Careless Driving

Police officers observed a man, aged 29, driving in a careless or inconsiderate manner in Argyll Street, Lochgilphead on Saturday January 19 at about 9pm. He was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

If any member of the public has information in relation to the above, or to any incident, they can contact their local police station on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Dangerous driver avoids prison sentence

A Tarbert woman was warned by a Campbeltown sheriff that she was very lucky to have not been jailed for a dangerous driving offence that destroyed a shop front.

In November, sentence was deferred on Isla MacDonald, 35, of 1 Glenfield, Tarbert, who pleaded guilty at Campbeltown Sheriff Court to driving with 177 milligrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood, 3.54 times above the 50 milligramme limit, in Harbour Street, Tarbert, on September 2.

She also pleaded guilty to driving dangerously and at excessive speed, losing control of the vehicle in a built-up residential and commercial area and colliding with the parked vehicles.

On Thursday of last week, Sheriff Patrick Hughes fined MacDonald £600, disqualified her from driving for two years on both charges, or-

dered her to take an extended driving test before getting behind the wheel again and gave her 200 hours' unpaid work.

He said the length of the ban could be reduced by 25 per cent if MacDonald took a drink driver's rehabilitation course.

High Court

Summing up, Sheriff Hughes said that if someone had been in front of the window the case would have been at the High Court and MacDonald would be facing a prison sentence.

He added: 'This caused damage, expense and inconvenience.'

Sheriff Hughes warned MacDonald that any breach of the unpaid work requirement would leave no alternative but prison.

Earlier MacDonald's defence solicitor Stephen MacSporran said: 'My client



Isla MacDonald drove through parked cars, damaging the shop front of Ian Y MacIntyre's.

pleaded guilty at the earliest opportunity.

'This incident has caused her severe embarrassment and regret. She is very aware that she was lucky not to have

injured anyone.'

Mr MacSporran added that MacDonald was of limited means from her job as a housekeeper at a local establishment and could only

afford fine repayments of £20 per month.

He said MacDonald had to take out a trust deed for repayment of the outstanding debt on the vehicle.

MSYP petition against council cuts

Scottish Youth Parliament member Rosie Sumsion has started a petition protesting proposed council cuts to adult and youth services in Argyll.

Argyll and Bute Council, in an attempt to save money, proposes to cut £330,000 from Youth and Adult Learning Services, with the loss of 17 FTE jobs.

The petition on Change.org says: 'As you can imagine, this will have a huge impact on what the youth services deliver and the opportunities they are able to offer young people.'

'Opportunities such as Youth Forums, Scottish Youth Parliament, Newbies, Young Leaders, holiday programmes, GIVE Volunteering Programme, Involvement Training, wider achievement opportunities like Duke of Edinburgh, DYA, YAA's, Fire Skills and general support and opportunities could all be affected.'

'This not only affects young people but the adults who benefit from such services as well.'

'The Community Learning and Development Adult team works with people to enable

them to identify their own individual and collective goals, to engage in learning, and take action to bring about change for themselves and their communities.'

'Without these services the outcome for our communities can only be damaging and lead to the most vulnerable in society being negatively affected.'

The petition is more than 100 signatures away from its goal of 1,000. If anyone would like to sign, visit Change.org and search for 'Save Adult and Youth Services from Council Cuts'.

Gaelic Choir is looking for new members

In a great opportunity for folk to strengthen singing and Gaelic, Tarbert Gaelic Choir is looking for ladies and gentlemen who can hold a tune to join the award-winning choir.

Rehearsals are in the Templar Art and Leisure Centre with the choir starting fresh with new songs and support offered to strengthen Gaelic skills.

The ladies' choir meets on Friday January 25 at 7.30pm and the mixed choir meet on Saturday January 26 at 10.30am.

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This snowy Inveraray scene was captured at 8am on Tuesday by Sophie-Louise Tweedle.

Winter closes schools and roads in Argyll

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Argyll finally got a taste of winter this week.

It took until Tuesday January 22 for it to arrive after an exceptionally mild spell over December and January, but when it did come it came in style, closing schools and roads around the region.

Around three to five inches – heavier on the western shores of Loch Fyne at lower levels – fell in barely an hour around 8am, severely

stretching the snow clearing capabilities of both Argyll and Bute Council and trunk road management company BEAR Scotland.

Traffic stuck in snow blocked the A83 trunk road near Minard for a time, with reports of vehicles struggling in the conditions all over Argyll and Bute. Bus routes were hit and West Coast Motors reported 'severely disrupted' services from the Oban area through to Dunoon.

Treacherous conditions

forced the closure of a number of primary schools in Argyll and Bute for the day, including Craignish, Inveraray, Kilninver, Lochgoilhead and Strachur.

Argyll and Bute Council gritters were on duty from 4am, treating routes 'in order of priority'.

The local authority advised drivers not to attempt to travel unless absolutely necessary, but gritters had managed to clear main routes by the afternoon to get Argyll moving once again.



BEAR Scotland gritters battle through the snow on the A83 at the top of the Rest.

Discover peace and quiet in Lochgilphead

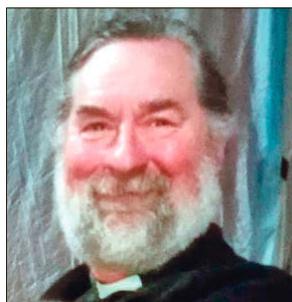
For anyone seeking a moment of rest or stillness, the Dochas Carers Centre can offer a place of peace.

The centre, on Campbell Street, Lochgilphead, will have a room set aside for shared quiet time on Tuesdays from 12.30pm to 1.30pm.

The Rev Canon Simon Mackenzie, of Christ Church in Lochgilphead, said: 'This Time of Quiet has been hap-

pening at Christ Church, but while works are going on it is transferring to the Dochas Centre.

'Stillness is very healing, but it is often easier together, so there will always be one or two people present. People are free to drop in and out. Just ask at the reception. Everyone is most welcome. You can use just as you wish.'



Rev Simon Mackenzie.



Wee Lily Renton from Inveraray had great fun in the snow.

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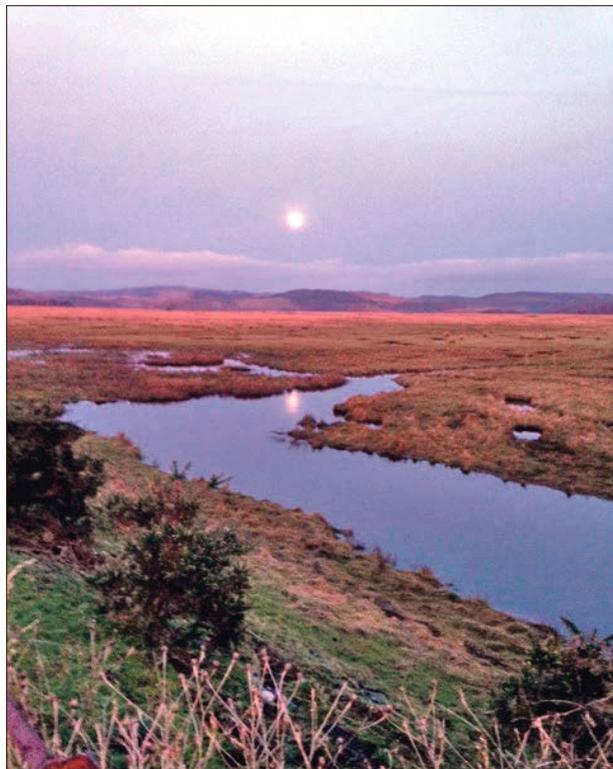
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Did you see the super blood wolf moon?



Stargazers had a magical sight to behold on the morning of Monday January 21, when a rare lunar eclipse brightened the cloudy skies.

The 'super blood wolf moon', did not create a rise in werewolves, but was a rare lunar eclipse that appeared to turn the moon red and glow brighter than usual.

The lunar eclipse was caused by the sun, Earth and moon aligning, with the shadow cast on the moon by the Earth making it appear to turn red. The supermoon occurred due to the moon being closest in its trajectory to the Earth.

A few Argyll citizens had their cameras out in time to catch the eclipse.

Freelance photographer Kevin McGlynn sent a photo of the moon at its most red.

Rosemary Neagle's shot

Photograph by
Rosemary Neagle.



Photograph by Kevin McGlynn.

shows just how bright the moon was even at dawn with a shot taken at Crinan Cross, while Stephen Carter in Kilmartin shows the phases of the eclipse as it happened.

Send your favourite photographs for publication to editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk or via the Argyllshire Advertiser Facebook page.

Photograph by
Stephen Carter.



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A step towards Kilmartin Church receiving loving care

The A'Chruach Community Fund has helped the Dunadd Community Enterprise to take a significant step towards realising the dreams of the local community. The enterprise has been awarded more than £20,000 so that a development officer can start to build on the ideas that local folk have come up with.

A major next step is to take forward the ideas from the recent inaugural meeting.

More than 60 members attended the meeting, where there was a lively debate about the possible purchase

of Kilmartin Church. Those present and the feedback given were overwhelmingly in favour of carrying out a feasibility study to see if the church would make a viable community building.

There are lots of ideas as to how it could be used, but the Dunadd Community Enterprise is keen to make sure that the true costs of purchase, renovation and then on-going running costs are identified.

David Bracken, chairman of the enterprise, said: 'It

is easy to get carried away with big plans and dreams of how such a great space could be used, but we need to be realistic and make sure that it is financially sustainable and that we aren't going to leave younger generations with a mill stone round their necks. This is why a thorough and robust feasibility study is so important.

'We will be contacting local groups and organisations and holding some community events early next year, as well as getting some professional advice. So, if you are a surveyor, architect or solicitor, for example, and would like to help us, please get in touch.'

The development officer will also start to explore the potential of some of the other ideas from the community including a hydro power scheme and a community market garden, both of which could provide the organisation with an income to support other projects.

Anyone who lives or works in Dunadd who would like to become a member or to get involved please contact David Bracken through the website dunadd.scot, or phone 01546 510202.



The recently-elected directors, chairman David Bracken, Di Roberts, Stephen Carter, Christine Carr, Allan McLean, Gary Linstead.

Over to you, Inveraray, as project makes progress

by Colin Cameron
ccameron@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Chairman Derrick Anstee opened the latest meeting of Inveraray's community company bemoaning the loss of local amenities since he first visited the area 45 years ago.

From banks to police station and pier to tourist office, all these things have gone.

It was the job of Inspire Inveraray, said Mr Anstee, to 'do something about the decline in this town'.

Around 30 people attended the Nicoll Hall to hear an update on projects being pursued by Inspire Inveraray - involving the community hall, Inveraray Pier and even the acquisition of a phonebox.

The Architectural Heritage Fund, assisted by a grant from the An Suidhe wind farm community fund, has allowed a structural engineer's



Inveraray Pier could be the subject of a community Right to Buy bid. 51_a04inveraraypier03; The crumbling Inveraray community hall. 06_a04InvCommunityCentre02

report to be completed on the community hall. In summary, Mr Anstee explained, not a lot had changed since an earlier report, though a lot of remedial work would be needed.

Mr Anstee added that the question was: 'What use do people want to make of the hall? Do we need it at all?'

The next question is

whether the hall should be demolished and a new facility built or whether the facade should be retained - for which heritage grant funding may be available. A sense of frustration was evident in the hall as people heard about surveys and consultation - a familiar theme for Inspire Inveraray since its formation three years ago.

Hotelier Donald Clark clearly wants to see action and is not keen on retaining the old building. He said: 'It's an eyesore. I think we need to work on the premise of demolition then decide on the use of it.'

Next it was on to the vexed question of Inveraray Pier. Numerous attempts to start a dialogue with the owner

Archie MacArthur had failed, said Mr Anstee.

One approach Inspire Inveraray is looking at is to attempt to purchase the pier using community Right to Buy legislation. There is also the question of whether to bid for the puffer, which Mr MacArthur is trying to sell, as well as the pier itself.

To get to the bottom of the

community's views, consultant Charlotte Lee has been employed to pull together opinions and draw up a community action plan. Of only slightly lesser importance is the telephone box in Church Square, in which Inspire Inveraray has expressed an interest. If BT agrees to hand it over, the next question is what to do with it.

The many questions highlighted during the evening in connection with the community centre, pier and even the phonebox will be condensed into a straightforward questionnaire to be handed round Inveraray homes with the help of Inveraray Community Council.

Anyone wishing to contribute their views or help with the consultation can contact Charlotte Lee on info@csconsultancy.net or call 01546 510209.

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LETTERS

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Dog attacks

It does not matter how lovely, docile and well mannered your dog is. Given the right circumstances they can chase and attack other animals.

Continuing attacks on sheep suggest that the message is failing to get through to a minority of people with dogs.

And let's forget the term 'livestock worrying'. These are livestock attacks, plain and simple, and the results can be truly horrific.

Dog owners and farmers alike - let's support the efforts of police officers in Argyll who are taking the issue seriously and taking steps to improve matters.

A man's a man

Happy Burns day and night to our readers.

Some of the Bard's attitudes to the fairer sex may be mildly misogynistic to our eyes, but his views on equality, freedom and egalitarianism are timeless and worth celebrating. As is his wit and lyrical power.

So enjoy your haggis, neeps and tatties (vegan or not - see page 45), and maybe a wee dram - and recite a poem or two in his immortal memory.

Ferry link to Ireland

Sir,
Michael Russell MSP has voiced the concerns of both residents and businesses of Mid Argyll and Kintyre, at the continuing risks of road closures at the Rest and be Thankful.

Clearly a permanent solution will be neither simple, nor without considerable cost.

Our MP Brendan O'Hara has expressed concern that Northern Ireland will be advantaged in comparison to Scotland under Brexit proposals. He claimed that Northern Ireland 'will be in a very strong position to attract jobs and investment at the expense of Scotland'.

Both the above matters will have a detrimental effect on the economy of Mid Argyll and Kintyre. At the same time, VisitScotland has closed the main tourist offices in this area. The result of this is likely to be a reduction in tourist numbers, and further loss of business.

In the years 1997-99, a limited summer vehicle ferry service was used by both commercial and private traffic, as well as tour buses and caravans. This was considered to have benefited local businesses by up to 25 per cent in turnover over the period of its operation. This was despite several alterations to the intended schedule.

For two weeks in the month of June each year of operation, the ferry boat was taken off the route to provide a service to the Isle of Man, over the period of the TT races.

In 2007 a press release issued on behalf of the SNP stated that 'the future economic success of Kintyre', was dependent on the restoration

of a Campbeltown/Ballycastle vehicle ferry link. It further pledged that if elected, as the governing party in Scotland, an SNP administration would reinstate such a service on an all-year basis.

I have written to both of the above Argyll representatives, requesting their co-operation, to have this ferry service restored.

**Ian Y Macintyre,
Tarbert**

Looking for Marjorie

Sir,
I am looking for the help of the Argyllshire Advertiser.

I'm trying to find a Marjorie Reader, Dom Reader, Steven Reader and Andrew Reader. I am the foster daughter of Marjorie's sister.

We have traced them to the region but are struggling to get any further.

We need to find contact details for the family to pass on information regarding a family member.

My email is Joevens1109@gmail.com and phone number is 07913 004221. I can be contacted by letter at the address at the foot of this letter.

**Joanne Evans,
48 St Mowdens Close,
Burton on Trent, DE13 0LS**

Muddying the EU waters

Sir,
Michael Gove was devastatingly correct when

he said Jeremy Corbyn is about the worst possible leader to lead the Labour party; but now Michael Gove needs to look in the mirror and admit that Theresa May is also about the worst possible person to lead the Conservative party.

Surely historians will label this stubborn and foolish woman the Betrayer of Britannia - a democratic vote by the public over two years ago resulted in telling the ruling elite that they clearly wanted to leave the EU - so why is Theresa May now pursuing 'her deal' which nobody voted for.

It is shameful that she blames both parliament and the EU for not fully supporting 'her deal' - indeed, she should take on board that it is only a weak, inept and shameless captain that blames the crew when the ship strikes an iceberg.

At the next general election voters should seriously consider voting for UKIP thereby giving a very much deserved kick up the proverbial to our spineless and incompetent so-called representatives - there is absolutely nothing to lose and possibly everything to gain, if we all have the wit and courage to make this decision.

**Dave Haskell,
Cardigan**

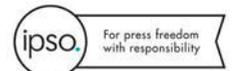
A new vote now

Sir,
It was striking to note that according to Downing Street it will take more than a year to organise another EU referendum.

This is, of course, an attempt to undermine

Press policy

At The Argyllshire Advertiser, we endeavour to ensure all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk; telephoning the chief reporter on 01586 554646 or write to the Group Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will try to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can call IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body that deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers. We will abide by its decision.



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the call by the People's Vote campaign for such a plebiscite and is total and utter nonsense.

It would be perfectly possible to organise a referendum to take place in much shorter order, without trampling on constitutional and practical requirements.

Indeed, the first EU referendum was called in February 2016 and the vote itself took place in June 2016, a mere four months. The referendum to establish the Scottish Parliament was held in September 1997 following the election of the Labour Party in May that year, again four months.

Further afield Greece's referendum to decide whether that nation should accept the bailout in the government-debt crisis was announced on June 27, 2015, with the referendum taking place on July 5.

While a week to hold a vote, as was the case with Greece, may be a little overambitious, the idea that another EU referendum would take more than a year to organise is patent drivel.

Alex Orr,
Edinburgh

Senior citizens' thanks

Sir,
I was very fortunate to attend the Tarbert Senior Citizens Dinner on January 11.

We had a beautiful meal served by volunteers who ensured we were well looked after the whole evening. Good company and great music added to making the night a very special one.

I would like to record my thanks to the Senior Citizens' Dinner Committee for its endeavours in ensuring the older people of Tarbert have a night to remember.

Alexander Horn,
Tarbert

YOUR PICTURES



Fiona McCuish sent in this photograph of Crinan Harbour, saying: 'It was a lovely morning on Thursday January 17 when out on my daily dog walk. It made such a difference to have a bit of light. Looking forward to spring.' Send your favourite photographs for publication to editor@argyllshire-advertiser.co.uk or via the Argyllshire Advertiser website.

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A moral maze

Science matters
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'Never in the history of humanity have we allowed a machine to autonomously decide who should live and who should die, in a fraction of a second, without real-time supervision.'

'We are going to cross that bridge any time now, and it will not happen in a distant theatre of military operation; it will happen in the most mundane of our lives, everyday transportation.'

This statement comes from a scientific paper entitled The Moral Machine Experiment* that addresses the need for internationally agreed ethical principles to guide the programming of autonomous vehicles. Very timely, since the first reported death caused by a driverless car occurred in Arizona, US, in November 2018.

The moral machine experiment used an online platform to gather global preferences for moral dilemmas likely to affect autonomous vehicles. Participants were asked to prioritise between two accident outcomes for each of nine alternatives: sparing humans versus animals, more lives versus fewer lives, men versus women, the young versus the elderly, the fit versus the unfit, those of high social status versus low social status, passengers

versus pedestrians and pedestrians crossing legally versus jaywalkers.

Overall, the moral machine obtained a massive 40 million decisions from 223 countries and territories. On a global scale, three strong preferences stood out: saving humans rather than animals, more rather than fewer lives and young lives. Clearly for public acceptance of autonomous vehicles on the roads, policymakers must prioritise these three preferences.

A great beginning for a global consensus. However, when decisions were analysed by country, differences began to surface. Preferences tended to reflect the differing values of authoritarian versus liberal regimes, as well the cultural values and economic status of the countries concerned.

So, some regions bucked the global trend by giving more preference to the elderly and high status individuals. Also, while there was almost universal preference for sparing females over males, this was less pronounced in countries where women's lives are undervalued.

These local preferences may jeopardise formulation of a global consensus on ethical principles for autonomous vehicles. (*Nature 563, 59-64. 2018.)



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Marine Concern petition tackles marine pollution

A petition started by Marine Concern is aiming to tackle marine pollution with closed-containment for salmon farms.

With the argument that a closed-containment system could produce more salmon and less harm to the environment, the Lochgilhead-based environmental group, Marine Concern is 'calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to ensure that the salmon farming industry solely utilises a closed-containment method with full water filtering in Scottish waters'.

The petition's background information says: 'We would like to see the Scottish Government legislate for all salmon farms in Scotland to be closed-containment, ie, using a physical waterproof membrane between farmed salmon and the open sea, including a pumping or filtering system that prevents direct flow back into the sea or are land-based with similar

filtering systems, then many of the adverse environmental factors could be eliminated.'

The common method for salmon agriculture currently is to grow fish in net cages located in sheltered bays and fjords, with no physical barrier between the fish farm and the sea. With a



Footage, released by animal charity OneKind, claims to show 'salmon with the flesh on their heads exposed due to severe sea lice damage, heavy sea lice burdens, and fish jumping out of the water, with one landing on top of another during one instance, and severe fin and tail damage'.

physical barrier and a filter, as proposed, there would be less pollution from feed, faeces and chemical waste to the fish farms, fewer escapes from the rearing facility, less risk of disease to wild salmon and less need for antibiotics and treatments in raising fish.

The petition can be found on two websites: The Scottish Parliament website and Change.org for a better chance of gaining an MSP's interest.

On Change.org the petition is named Stop Salmon Farms Damaging the Marine Environment and on The Scottish Parliament website the petition is named 'PE01715: Closed-Containment for Salmon Farms in Scotland'. Visit both if you would like to contribute a signature.

The Change.org petition says: 'Self-regulation does not work. The salmon industry works with an, "out of sight, out of mind" philosophy and that must change.'



On the Wagon played at the MS Centre's last musical session on Wednesday January 16. 51_a03MSCentre01

MS Centre has something for everyone

Lochgilhead's MS Centre has released its new schedule for the new year. Everyone is welcome since there's always something happening at the therapy centre. With a focus on mental and physical health, there is plenty to get you moving, chatting or training.

Every second Monday at 12.30pm, the centre has Brain Fog: peer supports for people with long-term conditions and a coffee morning every Monday from 10am until 11.30am.

Tuesday afternoons are filled with dance with Zumba Gold. The dance-based exercise is designed for all abilities, seated or standing. Every Tuesday at 12.30pm. Other activities on Tuesday afternoons include crafting, knitting and quilting.

Thursdays fill the centre with music as Singing for Fun starts at 2pm, with Stretch and Tone classes and games afternoon on Fridays.

The MS Centre is also looking at a new idea: Brain Gym. The MS Centre motto is: 'If you don't move it, you'll lose it' and that extends to the brain as well. The focus is to encourage physical activity and now the centre is looking at developing cognitive ability.

The activity is brain training in a fun, inclusive way to stay alert with games, quizzes, etc and regular memory testing so you can see it working.

Contact the MS Centre if you're interested. Call 01546 606303 or visit the MS Centre Facebook page @multiplesclerosiscentre.argyll

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The influence of Robert Burns

Born on January 25 1759, Scotland's most famous bard was someone who aimed to keep Scots language alive after the union of Great Britain, writes Laura Maxwell.

Burns is pretty inescapable, to the point that even opening your purse would show you his face, but the bard has a reach much further than beyond Gretna.

Ayrshire has the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum dedicated to the bard. The University of Glasgow has an entire wing named the Centre for Robert Burns Studies. In Edinburgh city centre stands the Burns Monument and countless others as far as Florida, and even a crater on Mercury is named after Burns. Throughout the UK, according to the Royal Mail, 724 streets across the UK are named after the bard, with Glasgow holding the most at 72.

And then there were those who were influenced by his work. American Of Mice and Men author John Steinbeck took the title of his novella set in the Great Depression from Robert Burns' poem 'To a mouse', which reads 'The best laid schemes o' mice an' men/Gang aft agley'.

The King of Pop Michael Jackson was also hugely influenced by Burns, enough to record an entire album with David Gest of 12 of his best-known poems set to music and Bob Dylan, arguably the most prolific poet of today's world, named Burns, specifically Red, Red, Rose as his greatest source of inspiration.

A simple and lasting effect of

Burns is that he paved the way for authors to write in their own vernacular, seen in authors such as Irvine Welsh, James Kelman, Alan Bissett and countless others.

And of course, there's Auld Lang Syne. People across the world, unaware of the meaning of its lyrics sing it on New Year's Eve - or something akin to it. Football fans in the Netherlands sing it for their team, the Japanese have adapted the melody into a folk song about fireflies, the US adapted it into an anti-slavery anthem, and South Korea into their national anthem.

Even closer to home, rumour has it he scratched a poem into a window at the Argyll Hotel in Inveraray, irritated to be denied a room at the castle.

'Whoe'er he be that sojourns here,

*I pity much his case,
Unless he comes to wait upon
The Lord their God, His Grace.*

*There's naething here but
Highland pride,
And Highland scab and hunger:
If Providence has sent me here,
'Twas surely in his anger.'*

So however you are remembering Robert Burns tonight, whether it's with poems or a meal or a dram, celebrate the man who kept Scottish culture alive.

The Robert Burns statue in Dumfries.



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The burning question: What does Burns mean to me?

by Laura Maxwell
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Robert, Rabbie, Rab Burns, has to be one of the most famous names of Scottish culture, up there with Mary Queen of Scots and William Wallace as the most influential Scots in our history.

With the national celebration of his birth coming up on January 25, the question posed to me this week is, what does Burns mean to me? Unfortunately, not as much as I'd like.

It means seeing his face in the window of every tat shop in Edinburgh, along with cheap tartan and plush Nessies – which probably means the tourists have read more of his work than I have.

It means a meal of haggis,

neeps and tatties when I'm at home with my parents, but haggis pakora, chips and Irn Bru while watching Trainspotting when I'm at home in Argyll.

It has never been much about the poetry for me, but a night to spend with my family and an amazing meal, with a lingering pride for who I am and where I come from.

Maybe there's a little indulgence to it. I wear my tartan pyjamas with a dram and laugh at Kevin Bridges.

Since Rabbie was aiming to keep Scottish culture alive after the union of Great Britain, I think I've hit the nail on the head, even if I do it with Irvine Welsh and Gerry Cinnamon.

It means Auld Lang Syne

was reclaimed by my gran as her song, since her birthday was December 31. I like the idea of the whole western world singing to Irene Maxwell, whether they were aware of it or not, especially since losing her in December 2017. Now I sing it for her.

It means reaching 26 years old and only having heard or appreciated two pieces of his work, the other being A Red, Red Rose, surprising no one.

It means a phone call to my high school asking why Burns never got mentioned in my favourite subject, English.

I have English poet Robert Browning's My Last Duchess memorised, along with the entirety of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, but only basic knowledge of Burns.

Since I left school Burns is now an option for Higher English.

It means a private project of putting on the auld 'literary analysis' hat again and grabbing a Rabbie Burns book out of the nearest tat shop.

Robert Burns was included in my doodled mural of Scottish stars. Anyone I could think of who had a name and Scottish birth was included. Burns is sitting next to The Bodyguard's Richard Madden, under composer Craig Armstrong and ironically, across from Trainspotting star, Ewan McGregor.



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New year fa

It is a sobering thought, but as the UK's farming unions have pointed out: Brexit will mean that, for the first time in a generation, UK politicians will have direct responsibility for ensuring our nation is properly fed.

NFU Scotland, NFU England and Wales, NFU Cymru and Ulster Farmers' Union sent a joint message earlier this month to Westminster which said that in the face of this fundamental responsibility, there is a very real risk that a disorderly Brexit will lead to an immediate reliance on overseas imports, produced to lower standards, while many UK farms struggle to survive.

'The implications, not only for domestic food supply but for the careful management of our cherished countryside, would represent an historic political failure.'

The message continued: 'Our organisations remain committed to playing their part in managing Brexit in the best interests of farmers and the UK public in the years ahead, but we believe that leaving without a deal on March 29 will lead, very quickly, to the opposite outcome.'

The unions have urged Parliament to recognise the severe impact No Deal will have and to take

all steps necessary to avoid such a departure. Or to paraphrase Churchill's famous speech: 'Never have so many relied on so few to keep their bellies full at a price they can afford'.

This is an important time for the West Highland farming community...

■ To keep united in its professionalism and skill in producing quality products and support one another's endeavours.

■ To celebrate people like 94-year old Bute shepherd Sandy McKirdy as the region's stalwart; with an award presented annually by NFU Scotland's Argyll and the Islands region at its AGM in recognition and memory of the dedication shown by Mull's Bert Leitch and Lachlan MacLean.

■ For the Highland Cattle Society to celebrate its 128th show and sale; the story of the breed and the society are testament to the determination and resilience of Scottish farming. As the society says, written records go back to the 18th century and the Highland Cattle Herd Book, first published in 1885, lists pedigrees since that time.

Highland Cattle societies have been started in Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Germany, Holland, Finland, France, Switzerland and Norway. There

are Highlanders in Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Estonia, USA, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Poland, and the Faroe Islands.

■ For firms like Hamilton Brothers to be holding open days at its Campbeltown depot when farmers can meet manufacturers and see the latest agricultural, construction and ground care machinery.

■ And for firms like Gordon Agri Ltd and Argyll Engineers Ltd to be providing our farms with good value new and used vehicles and all of these firms keeping them well serviced.

Now perhaps more than ever, farming needs the RSABI. The Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution was founded in 1897 to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and in recognition of the deep agricultural depression at the time. Today the thoroughly modern RSABI provides financial and practical support and friendship to over 600 individuals and their families across a range of occupations with the common theme of working on the land in Scotland.

The year 2019 is going to be an 'interesting time' as the wording of the supposed Chinese curse goes, but the farming community in the West Highlands and islands is ready to take it on.



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YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN MID ARGYLL

The Loch Fyne Viking Festival returns

Are you devastated at the news of TV's Vikings cancellation?

Fear not. Dig out your horned helmet and live out your fantasy at the Loch Fyne Viking Festival.

After a year's hiatus the Viking-themed festival will return to Tarbert with traditional boats sailing into Tarbert Harbour and workshops full of activities and items. The workshops will include Viking clothing, jewellery, woodwork, cooking and much more.

The festival will also include the Glasgow Vikings putting on re-enactments of historic battles to get involved in, Viking music by Swedish artists Medvind and even a shot at the archery competition.

So hoist a cup of mead with fellow Scandinavians. The festival will return to Tarbert on July 13 and 14.





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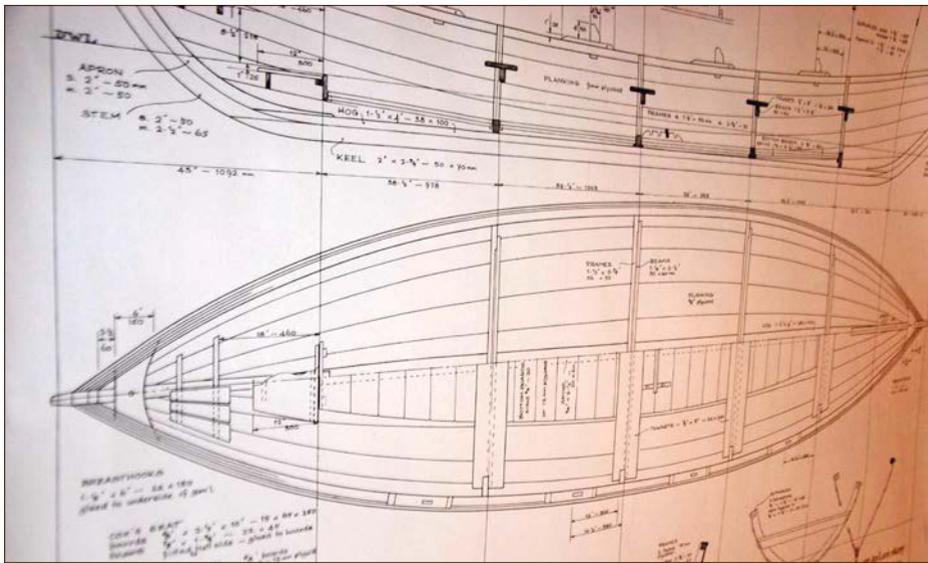
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The design for a planned new skiff for the rowing club. 06_a04InvCoastalRowing02



Martyn Webster, left, and Al Rodden started the rowing association. 06_a04InvCoastalRowing01

Does an Inveraray skiff float your boat?

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Martyn Webster has a vision: to build a skiff and help foster community spirit in Inveraray.

The retired surgeon presented his plans at the latest meeting of community company Inspire Inveraray, and

he is looking for recruits to help build and crew the boat in friendly races.

Mr Webster told the audience at the January 17 meeting in the Nicoll Hall: 'Hundreds of these boats have been built in coastal towns and villages around Scotland. They are based on an old fishing boat, modified

for construction by amateurs.' The skiff would be 23 feet long and cost £7,183 to build, which it is hoped will help to be covered by individuals buying shares. 'We will divide it into 64 shares per boat at £75 each,' explained Mr Webster. 'We have already sold more than 20 shares, but we need to sell more.'

A site has been offered at Argyll Caravan Park beside Loch Fyne for a shed to build and store the boat, with the help of another enthusiast for the project, Al Rodden. And in many places where boats have been built, the construction is carried out perhaps by retired people with more time on their hands.

Once built the boat – with a crew of four plus a cox – would be raced against rowers from other communities. Mr Rodden is keen to organise a regatta on Loch Fyne. 'I'm keen to organise one for around April time,' he said. 'The boat will take up to six months to build so we won't have it by that time,

but it will generate a bit of interest.' Mr Webster, too, is forging ahead. The Inveraray Coastal Rowing Association has already been set up, so the recruitment of volunteers has begun in earnest. Anyone interested in becoming involved should contact Mr Rodden on 01499 302285.

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Screen Machine returns to Mid Argyll

The much-loved Screen Machine will return to Lochgilphead from January 25 to 26.

It will be showing the long-awaited Mary Poppins sequel, Mary Poppins Returns, the Freddie Mercury biopic, Bohemian Rhapsody and the Oscar-worthy music romance, A Star Is Born.

Magical

In addition to the movie juggernauts above, the Screen Machine will also be showing the magical Harry Potter prequel, Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald and the historic movie Nae Pasaran! which tells of Rolls Royce factory workers in East Kilbride staging a protest by



The Screen Machine will be in Lochgilphead this weekend.

refusing to work on Chilean Air Force's fighter jets during General Pinochet's military coup.

Be quick because a lot of movies have already sold out online, but tickets are available at the door.

The Screen machine will be parked up at Lochgilphead's Resource Centre car park:

Friday January 25

Nae Pasaran! at 5.30pm

Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald at 8.30pm

Saturday January 26

Mary Poppins Returns at 2pm

Bohemian Rhapsody at 5pm (sold out online)

A Star is Born at 8.30pm (sold out online)

MAAA showing Sweet Sixteen in MAYDS hall

The Mid Argyll Arts Association and Mid Argyll Youth Development Services (MAYDS) have partnered up for a movie night in the MAYDS hall, showing Scottish-set Sweet Sixteen.

From the director who created I, Daniel Blake, Ken Loach gives the story of a teenage

boy, Liam, trying to survive in Greenock with a mother behind bars, doing time for a crime her drug-dealing boyfriend and carer for Liam, actually committed.

Liam is on a mission to escape his situation with his mother, which means raising cash to create a safe home

away from it, but being still a teenager, that's easier said than done.

With a 12 rating, the f-word alone uttered a total of 313 times throughout the film, maybe leave the young ones with a babysitter?

The comedy drama will be shown in the MAYDS

hall, opposite Lochgilphead Community Centre on Saturday January 26 at 7.30pm. Tickets are sold at the door at £7.50 for adults and £6 and child/concession rates.

Look out for The Maggie Shallow Grave coming soon thanks to the Mid Argyll Arts Association.

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<p>Mary Poppins Returns (U) 130 mins Emily Blunt takes on Julie Andrew's role, and it's supercali... 24/01 at 5pm, 26/01 at 2pm</p> <p>Bohemian Rhapsody (12A) 134 mins A foot-stomping celebration of Queen, their music and their extraordinary lead singer. 24/01 at 8.30pm, 26/01 at 5pm</p> <p>Films We Love: Nae Pasaran! (12A) 96 mins (£5/£3) English and Spanish - subtitles throughout. BAFTA Scotland winning documentary about the Rolls Royce workers in East Kilbride who stood up to Chilean</p>	<p>dictator, Pinochet. Before Nae Pasaran! we will screen a 10 minute short: Mining Poems or Odes. 25/01 at 5.30pm</p> <p>Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald (12A) 134 mins "Old school Potterheads will rejoice" USA Today 25/01 at 8.30pm</p> <p>A Star is Born (15) 136 mins Lady Gaga steps effortlessly into Barbra Steisand's shoes in Bradley Cooper's remake. 26/01 at 8.30pm</p>
<p>Book at: www.screenmachine.co.uk Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults. £5.50 concs. Fully accessible for wheelchair users.</p>	

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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Blackpool beckons – if football youngsters raise enough cash

The famous pleasure beach and tower are some of Blackpool's most famous attractions, but young footballers from Mid Argyll are heading to the seaside resort for another reason – to bring back silverware.

The Red Star 2008 team is desperate to get to the the International Cup in Blackpool later this year, but the cost of travelling and competing must be met by fundraising.

The Blackpool International Football Tournament takes place at Fleetwood Town FC's fantastic training facility, one of the best junior tournament venues in the UK.

To get there, the club has set up a GoFundMe page which has so far raised around £200 of a £1,500 target. Donations would be welcome via this site, called 'Help send RedStar 2008 To Blackpool'.



In other events, a race night will be held at the Masonic Lodge in Lochgilphead on Saturday February 16, to which all are welcome.

The first race will be at 6pm and all proceeds go to the Blackpool fundraiser.

A cake sale will be held

at Mid Argyll sports centre at the 2008 five-a-side tournament and there are various fundraising raffles – details of which can be found on the Red Star 2008 Facebook page.

A club spokesman said: 'We are hoping fundraising will pay for the players

and if there are funds left, we will use this to take the overall cost down for everyone else. This will be a unique opportunity for the team to experience football in a new environment and more importantly have fun and develop their skills.'



A gold-embossed poppy was released for 2018 commemorating the centenary of the end of the First World War.
06_a43PoppiesGold01

Lochgilphead poppy collection praised

Poppy Scotland has formally recognised the outstanding efforts of Poppy Appeal fundraisers in Lochgilphead.

The community raised a total of £2,804.88 for the 2018 appeal, which is used to support members of the armed forces community around the world.

Earlier this month a certificate, signed by Poppy Scotland chief executive Mark Bibbey and head of fundraising Gordon Michie, was issued recognising the 'outstanding work' of fundraisers, which will make 'a life-changing difference to our armed forces community'.

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Church rummage sale makes for creative buys

Odds and ends from the churches of Kilmartin, Ford and Glassary made for a particularly intriguing rummage sale.

Visitors were warned to arrive with money and creativity as such items for sale included bibles the size of briefcases, a communion table and even a pew if buyers could manage to retrieve them.

Interest mounted on the communion table with a few people placing bids to take it home. There was everything from crockery to cut-

lery, books to films, all to be sold for church funds, with the old church buildings on the market.

The sale made more than £1,000 for church funds. In under two hours all the pews in Ford church were sold and removed on the day.

Linda Tighe said: 'A huge thank you to all those who came along and supported us. The outcome will go a long way to easing the ongoing expenses of purchasing and settling into our new church building.'



Linda Tighe helping out at the rummage sale. 51_a04rummagesale07



There were plenty of bargains to chose from. 51_a04rummagesale05



Some intriguing Bibles at the rummage sale. 51_a04rummagesale03



There was much interest in the communion table. 51_a04rummagesale04

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Iona aims to beat the blues

Iona McMurdo has been appointed Beating the Blues coordinator for Argyll and Bute.

Beating the Blues is an online cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) course for the treatment of low to moderate anxiety and depression which can now be accessed by people living in Argyll and Bute.

Iona can assist with any technical difficulties, helps keep people motivated and provides support to steer people through the programme.

Accessing the course is easy and referrals are available through a GP. Patients receive an activation code within a few days of referral, authorising access to the programme.

The programme is simple to use and doesn't involve any special computer skills but just a laptop or PC.

People who feel the service would be beneficial to their health and wellbeing are advised to speak to their GPs to discuss if the programme is suitable for them.

The Beating the Blues programme helps people make

sense of their feelings and uses interactive tools to help people change their thinking pattern, and learn how to overcome negative thoughts about themselves.

There are video clips which follow other people who are suffering from anxiety and depression, and exercises to complete which help put the new thinking techniques into practise so that the course can really make a difference.

The course has been designed to be completed in people's homes. There is no need to visit clinics.

Patients can quickly access the programme within seven days of being referred.

It is completed over eight weekly sessions which helps people to better self-manage and be in more control of dealing with their emotions.

Case studies have shown that CBT is just as effective as antidepressants for treating anxiety and depression and more effective at preventing the symptoms returning.

The therapy works for most people who complete the



Iona McMurdo helps people with depression and anxiety.

course. It is a step-by-step method which means the more it is used and the more tasks undertaken, the better people will feel.

There is information about

the Beating the Blues programme on the website <http://www.beatingtheblues.co.uk>, including a demonstration video of the programme components.



Jill Denton offers support to smokers who want to quit.

Jill wants to help smokers to quit

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) has appointed Jill Denton as a smoking cessation specialist to offer free support to residents in Mid Argyll, Islay and Campbeltown.

Jill said: 'It is really important for everyone to know that you are twice as likely

to quit for good if you get the right professional support.'

Jill will be in Campbeltown Library on Tuesdays from 10am-6pm until March 26; Wednesdays at Argyll Pharmacy Room, Lochgilphead, 10am-4pm until March 27; while residents on Islay can ring 07707 868351 or email jill.denton@nhs.net.

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How important our homes are

At times of uncertainty our homes are our best bet

This newspaper is going to press at a moment in time when we are all wondering: what on earth happens next.

Are we Brexiting, going for a second referendum, or indyref2, general election, a hard border, a soft border, a border collie or what?

You just want to go home at the end of the day, shut the door, close the curtains and get away from it all by enjoying your family and your home.

We are not talking 'we're all dooooooomed'! Far from it. Think back over the last century – two world wars, the Cold War, the very edge of nuclear war over Cuba, and any other piece of political brinkmanship or financial depression you care to name.

We have ridden them all out and always will thanks to the comfort and practical support that only our home can give.

Our homes are our biggest asset not just financially but in terms of quality of life, nurturing and supporting our families.

Right now, more than in a very long time, we need our homes for comfort and reassurance and as a financial fortification.

Property always reflects the times in which we live. If we were in the business of social and economic forecasting – or had a crystal ball – we

Self-build makes sense

Self-build has always been the most popular choice in the West Highlands and Islands and today's home-building industry is more geared up for it than ever before. The range of kit homes and materials used in them now never ceases to impress.

A report published by the Scottish Government this month, Planning Economy, Place, says the majority of development in the UK and Scotland is now delivered by private sector developers and investors.

Since the global financial crisis in 2008, there has been clear risk aversion by development markets in the UK.

The consequence is that developers and investors typically seek proven housing markets, or committed (pre-let or pre-sold) developments which are mainly found in larger cities.

Private house builders operate a build-and-sell model which is dependent on development viability and often seek an early 'exit' through sale of a completed and occupied building.

Self-build in our part of the world makes sense in terms of finance and choice.

Enjoy planning your new home or new look home.

would predict that in coming decades more families will revert to two or three generations under the same roof. Think about it – that has always been the social model until the 20th century.

Also that more of us will return to the tradition of a family vegetable garden to supplement our diets and keep costs down.

These are two common-sense traditional approaches to housing and feeding the family unit.

A modern take on much older problems: warmth, water and waste is also com-

ing to the fore. It has been a long time since we have had to worry about these things; we expect always to flick the switch, turn the tap, pull the plug and get what we want to happen at a price we can afford. You can see the solutions filtering into our thinking and our home designs already: more bathrooms, the addition of utility rooms, energy efficiency, water recycling and renewable energy.

These are all factors to plan into your new home or the plans you are making when you extend your home, or renovate an old one.

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YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE.

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Not all your money has to come – just ask the government

The success of a pilot scheme in the Highlands has prompted the Scottish Government to launch a £4million loan fund last year.

After reviewing the success of the pilot administered by the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust on its behalf, the Scottish Government decided to take the project nationwide and the trust will continue to administer the fund.

Now people across the entire country who want to build their own homes will be able to apply to the Self-Build Loan.

These loans are available for eligible urban or rural self-builders who are unable to access standard

bank lending to support build completion, allowing access to a traditional mortgage which is used to repay loan. The original Highland Self Build Loan Fund pilot project has now finished.

Housing Minister Kevin Stewart announced that the £4 million fund was now open for applications last September.

The Highlands had been chosen for the pilot scheme because self-build is a traditional form of housing supply in many parts of rural Scotland and the islands – and at times, the only form of housing supply – but it has become increasingly difficult to obtain self-build mortgages.

Ronnie MacRae, the trust's chief executive said at the launch: 'While not yet back to where it was, self and custom-build is again a growing market and we're excited to be working with Scottish Government and a range of partners to ensure that this remains the case and the sector goes from strength to strength as a housing option.'

How do you apply?

Applications are now open for the Self Build Loan Fund and you can apply through The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust's website. <http://www.hscht.co.uk/scotland-self-build-loan-fund.html>

The application process is split

Money

Get the cash and funding right before you start

Before you pick your architect or choose your kit home or even contact your friendly local planning officer there is one person you need to meet: your financial advisor.

He or she is the key to everything that follows; you could say that they – or rather the result of their work – will have the biggest impact on your new home, extension or renovation project.

When you decide to build your own home, instead of buying, you will get more house for your money, that is a well-known fact but what is the best way of raising that money in the first place?

An important point to remember is that you need more money up front to build a house than to buy a ready-built property; you will al-

ways be working 'in arrears'. You need to buy the land and get the first stage completed on site before the mortgage starts up and cash arrives to fund the next stage. (Though some 'advance' mortgages can be found where the cash is paid at the start of each stage.)

It is worth remembering that a self-build mortgage may also be suitable if you are taking on a renovation, conversion or extending your existing property.

Many building societies or banks will loan up to 80 per cent of the total cost of the land and construction costs or valuation, whichever is the lower, making the whole build process more flexible but some will only loan money on a fixed-price contract, or on an all-trades

basis under the direction of a suitably-qualified project manager

The good news about 'package deals' where you buy a kit house and building services from an existing company – and perhaps even the land – is that they often offer, or source, financial packages. This can save a lot of leg work and grief.

Not all lenders deal in self-build mortgages and that is where a financial advisor comes in; you will benefit from having someone who knows how to hunt down those who do, and those offering the best deals for your circumstances and ambitions.

Finding the right mortgage can be as vital to a self-build project's success as finding the right plot of land.

from traditional lenders

into two stages. The first application will establish applicants' financial status, landownership status, planning status and post completion mortgage status.

If an applicant is successful, they will then need to complete Stage 2 of the application process. This stage will assess the applicants' build programme, cash flow, building warrant and construction approach.

Once an applicant is successful in both stages, they can then be offered a loan to help with their self-build project.

If this sounds like something that may be of interest

to you then please visit <http://www.hscht.co.uk/scotland-self-build-loan-fund.html> for more information, full terms and conditions of the Self Build Loan Fund and the Stage 1 application form. Or if you would like to speak to someone about the Self Build Loan Fund, you can do so by: Phone: 01463 572 030 Email: selfbuild@hscht.co.uk

Another way to raise finance is through the Rural and Islands Housing Fund which helps people build new homes and bring other properties back into use as homes.

This fund often works with

groups and can also be used to make empty homes ready to rent or sell; the planned homes must be affordable, whether for rent or sale and can include converting former business premises.

To be eligible the project must have a building site or buildings and show there is a need for affordable housing in the area and have local authority support with proof of working with the community. It also has a smaller feasibility fund available to help with architect's design, quantity surveyor's estimates and structural engineer's report.

Get the VAT back

The government has funds and grants available for self-building and renovating some properties but make sure that it is the government giving you the cash and not the other way round.

In short remember to keep on top of your paper work and claim back VAT where eligible.

There are circumstances where you qualify for zero-rated VAT; and a reduced VAT rate at source if any VAT registered business should supply labour, or labour and materials.

Once the project is completed you can reclaim any VAT paid on qualifying materials bought at 20 per cent VAT along with any five per cent VAT invoices.

The rules and regulations can be daunting and there are specialists you can hire to help you through the process. Applying for a reduced rate VAT certificate helps.

THE SELF BUILD LOAN FUND

HERE TO HELP THOSE STRUGGLING TO SECURE SELF BUILD FINANCE

ABOUT THE SELF BUILD LOAN FUND

The Self Build Loan Fund (SBLF) was established by the Scottish Government to support and encourage the self build market at a time where securing mainstream finance can be difficult. The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust administer the fund.

Now available across Scotland, self builders can borrow up to £175,000 to help them during their construction period.



[@SelfBuildFund](https://twitter.com/SelfBuildFund)

KEY FACTS

- Borrow up to £175,000
- Must be able to demonstrate that you have been unable to secure mainstream self build finance
- Used to financially support the construction of your home and then repay your loan with a traditional mortgage on completion
- Fees and interest apply
- Must own a house plot, with planning consent in place

For more information visit our website:

www.hscht.co.uk/scotland-self-build-loan-fund

Or get in touch:

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We have also recently launched a new website dedicated to providing self and custom build news and information. You can view it here: www.selfandcustombuild.co.uk.



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'We can help assess your

options from the start; our design and technical expertise guides projects through from concept to completion.'

The team's 3-D modelling programme helps bring ideas to life and tests them out along with their skills in integrated renewable energy systems each individually designed for existing properties and new-builds.



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- A member of a professional chartered body; RIAS or FRIAS, the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, and RIBA, Royal Institute of British Architects.
- Members must carry professional indemnity insurance and uphold the reputation of the profession.
- A professional who can steer you through planning and building legislation.

A good architect listens to what you need the property to do for you and your family and how you want it to look. It is their professional experience that will make sure you get the best for you out of what you have; creating as much home as possible from a plot, materials and construction costs. This will save you money in the long term.

Sustainable construction Chances are you will not have heard of Sandy Halliday, but the manufacturers of the house kit you are buying or your architect will have.

Tonight at the RIAS Bookshop in Edinburgh she will be giving a short talk followed by a question and answer session.

Sandy, AKA Professor Sandy (Sandra) Halliday BSc(Hons) MPhil CEng MCIBSE FRSA wrote the book, literally; the event tonight is to celebrate



A property in the West Highlands was named the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) House of the Year for 2018. Lochside House, West Highlands, the work of Haysom Ward Miller Architects, dazzled the judges. Comments included 'The care in the design and in the building of this house makes it an exemplar of its genre.' 'The scale, material choices, use of the setting and integration into the landscape were all excellent.' 'A sustainable building making good use of wood.' (Photo: Richard Fraser)

the launch of the second edition of one of her work, Sustainable Construction.

The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland says the book 'provides a masterclass on the principles and techniques involved in the design and delivery of practical, affordable, high quality sustainable buildings.'

The review continues: 'It presents precedents, theory, concepts and principles alongside 120 wide ranging case studies that highlight current best practice and encourage implementation.'

Prof Halliday is part of Gaia Research an organisation that provides specialist advice on sustainable design and continuing professional development for clients, project managers, engineers and architects striving to create sustainable strategies for the built environment.

Perhaps the most well known example of their work

in the West Highlands is Acharacle Primary School.

Calculating the cost

Architects' fees are part of the overall cost of any project and usually calculated in three ways. You and your architect should decide in advance whether expenses will be included within the agreed fee or charged separately.

Percentage is based on the total construction costs in the building contract including site works; agreement is needed on the services provided, nature of the work and an approximate construction budget.

Lump sum fees work best when the project can be clearly defined right from the start and there are no surprises for either side.

Time charged is the flip-side of that coin and best where the amount of work cannot 'reasonably' be seen; an agreed upper limit is needed and fees are often staged.

Planning to succeed

It has never been easier to navigate the system, thanks to online help and the pre-application services



Main Street, Tobermory in one of Argyll and Bute's 32 conservation areas where extra planning permission approvals are needed.

Make sure you get your planning application and building warrants right, right from the start and you will save yourself no end of time and money – not to mention stress.

Ask any planning officer or councillor and they will tell you the same: talk to your local council's planning department first of all.

Before you begin – when your new home or extension is just a twinkle in your eye and a sketch on the back of an envelope – your first step is to take advantage of the pre-application advice offered by councils.

When planning a self-build project or a major renovation, remodelling or repair, you can save boost your budget by doing the applications for planning permission and building warrants yourself.

Pre the internet revolution few people would have even considered taking this role out of the hands of their architect or agent but times have changed – and so have resources.

Scotland now has eDevelopment.scot – an online service available for anyone to use to prepare and submit planning permission and building warrant applications.

It caters for construction professionals and public alike and links to your local council.

The first step in a planning journey is planning permission in principle, formerly known as outline planning permission.

Approval of matters specified

What's permitted...

Small alterations and extensions can go ahead without applying for planning permission, but how small is small?

The Scottish Government website's planning and architecture pages have all the details, including easy-to-follow flowcharts which talk you through the rules covering everything from sheds, sun loungers, greenhouses and garages, and decking and access ramps, right up to extensions of more than one storey.

...and what's not

We live in a country with an incredible landscape and history; people come from all over the world to see it so it is important that it is protected.

Remember that if you live in a conservation area or if your building is listed in any way you will need to apply for extra permission.

It does not matter if you are building from new, or extending, converting or renovating an existing property you will need consent for all external work and inside if you are altering the historic fabric of the building.

Scotland has 40 areas designated as National Scenic Areas covering 13 per cent of the country. Your plans must take this into account if you are in one of the areas and there are also areas classed as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Ignore this legislation at your peril.

in a condition then goes on to approve the conditions involved in the planning permission in principle; work should only begin when this approval is in place.

Remember also that it is an offence to start building work or demolition without a building warrant. If you do, you could be fined. The rules for building warrants and building regulations in the rest of the UK vary significantly and can lead to expensive mis-

takes – so if you have moved to Scotland from England, Wales or Northern Ireland make sure you are aware of the differences and the impact this might have on your plans and work flow.

You usually won't need to ask your local council for permission to carry out minor work, but you should check with them to make sure. You can be fined and ordered to remove any new building work if you need a Building Warrant and don't get one.

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We have over 30 years' experience of designing houses, alterations and extensions in Argyll. Our aim is to tailor the design to fit your needs as well as those of the environment.

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the advice that helps you to achieve what you are looking for.

Give us a call, and come for an initial meeting in our office, which is free of charge.



Friendly Professional Service



Kit yourself out!

Kit homes are one of the most popular ways to build your own home there in the Highlands and islands and they come in all shapes, sizes and materials

How the times have changed when it come to kit homes.

They first saw the light of day in the post Second World War era as a way of boosting the nation's depleted housing stock and wartime neglect.

Back then, when your grandparents or parents were buying their first kit home it was far more primitive than our contemporary computer-designed and constructed homes; the technology available today would make their heads spin.

It was a case of struggling to get the house weatherproof on site during the vagaries of the Scottish climate. Today, entire rooms can arrive, sealed, on site; the hard work has been done undercover in the factory and the time spent on site getting the property weather-tight is minimal.

In the old days it was very much a 'one-size-fits all'

scenario. Today's technology means that a kit home is totally customisable. Want to flip the interior lay out? No problem, think the porch would be better over there?

Today's kits have flexibility built in as standard and some kit home manufacturers have the ability to take your architect's drawings and use their production techniques to build your home from start to finish and give you a bespoke service.

The one proviso for a timber frame home design is making sure that you know what you want at the design stage. Alterations once the kit has been constructed will be costly. That is one point where brick-built wins; you can move a window or door or wall during the construction phase. Try doing that to a timber frame and it will mean a trip back to the draw-

ing board and the factory and that will prove expensive.

Kit homes are the most popular way to build a home in the West Highlands and Islands and some of the leading kits come from manufacturers in the region.

One advantage of having a kit home supplier build your home for you is that they will have their own team of proven tradesmen and women who have worked together before and they know this product inside out – literally! You are saving on time but you are paying for expertise and experience.

You might decide to put the work in the hands of a building firm you know and trust; in the West Highlands the chances are that good building companies will have worked on all the big name companies' kits and have a

proven knowledge and understanding of the product.

Or you are in the building trade yourself and can put together your own team. Job done.

You might decide to project manage the build yourself and hire in the trades and skills as needed. This could save money but most people who go down this route will tell you that the demands on your time will be far greater than you anticipate.

Flexibility truly is the key word. They create and build many different styles of home for many different people and so the choice of bathrooms and kitchens and flooring reflects that wide range; you can even source fittings from other suppliers if you have your heart set on a particular style or type and they will carry out the installation.



Is SIPS the next

The choice is remarkable in kit building including some innovative, industry-leading alternatives

Structural Insulated Panel (SIP) technology is considered by some in the industry as the next generation building material for kit homes.

This unique material offers incredible design opportunities for wide open, airy

designs. Used to form the walls and roofs, SIPs kits are growing in popularity with self builders as a kit-only option and with 'turnkey' contractors for a completed house.

Since SIPs don't require roof trusses, this means

designs can feature upstairs rooms and double-height hallways constructed with vaulted ceilings, making them light and spacious.

It is also a material which can offer high levels of insulation with an excellent airtight level.

Timber frame

The house has a basic wooden frame, covered in waterproof material (like stone or bricks). A number of companies sell timber frame 'kit homes', which are house styles that have already been designed and just need to be put together. This remains one of the most popular choices in the West Highlands.

Steel frame construction

Once the steel frame is built, panels are attached to it. These are coated, or made waterproof in some other way. Building a steel frame house on-site can be quick as much can be made in advance off site.

Alternatives

Across the West Highlands and islands you will find many interesting alternative styles of building; eco friendly and energy saving ideas; turf roofs, insulated concrete form work; water recycling and energy generation.

They are fascinating and use many pioneering techniques. Perhaps the only thing holding people back from experimenting this way is that traditional lenders will not give mortgages.

The best thing about a kit home is that many of these elements and your choices of heating and energy efficiency can be incorporated into your kit.

All types of timber fencing commercial and domestic, general building timbers, contract sawmilling, contract machining, pressure treatment, oak frames & oak beams, garden seats & benches, woodchip for biomass larch cladding and shingle.



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A helping hand for self and custom builders...

Scotland's Self and Custom Build Portal has been created to provide advice, guidance and support to those interested in building their own home in Scotland.

How and why was this portal created?

It began with the Scottish Government creating the Self and Custom Build Housing Pilot Challenge Fund. The Challenge Fund was created to test new models for increasing self and custom builds in Scotland. The Challenge Fund was open to all and looking for those who could provide an innovative approach to encouraging and supporting self and custom builds across Scotland.

There has been a significant decline in high street lenders providing self-build mortgages and as a result has made it difficult for people to finance self-build projects and decreased the amount of work available for the construction and architectural industries. The Scottish Government have recognised these issues and are putting

new initiatives in place to try to reinvigorate the self-build sector, including the Challenge Fund.

The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) decided to submit an application for the Challenge Fund with their idea of a new self and custom build portal for Scotland. The portal would be an innovative hub for people to get advice, guidance, funding options and help buying and finding plots. HSCHT were also able to demonstrate their experience in the self-build industry as they have previously helped aid a number of self-build projects. They have led the way in creating new finance models and mechanisms to make self build an easier route to build a home. HSCHT were successful with their application and thus was the beginning of Scotland's Self and Custom Build Portal.

Who is the portal targeted at?

The portal has been set up to help anyone who is considering undertaking their own self or custom build project. The portal provides information on the different self-build routes and finance options available. The interactive 'Getting Started' function allows people to assess their house plans and finances and give an estimated cost of how much their project may cost.

The portal can also help landowners who are looking to sell their plots by utilising our 'Plot Finder' feature. The Plot Finder lets people view different plots that are available in Scotland. If you are a landowner and would like more information on how you can advertise your plot on the Plot Finder, contact hello@selfandcustombuild.co.uk

big thing?

If a member of your family has some special needs a kit home makes so much sense – wider door frames, larger bathrooms or wet rooms and strengthened joists for hoists can be added at the click of a mouse at the design stage.

Most self-build clients choose render as their main choice for the exterior, followed by wood, brick and stone.



www.selfandcustombuild.co.uk



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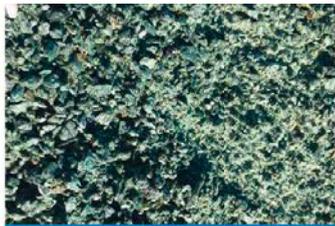
MacLeod Construction is the largest timber frame design and manufacturing company in the area with 40 years' experience and a proven track record in quality timber frame construction. Using the very latest methods and materials they design every frame and panel with the innovative software before manufacturing the kit with an automated frame-maker. It's quick, easy and accurate.

Business Development Director Greig MacLeod tells us 'We are a family run business and passionate about what we do. We offer a lot of services, but house building is our speciality. Our homes are stylish, spacious and affordable and can be customised to your exact requirements. Building a kit home is faster, easier and less wasteful than a traditional build. Our kits are highly insulated and come with double glazing



Building sand

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- floor screeds



Type 1

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- decorative driveways
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Large round stone

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to help keep your heating bills down. All our kits have been designed to accommodate the latest renewable heating systems'.

MacLeod Construction is able to offer a full range of services from obtaining planning permission and building warrant right through to completion.

To help streamline your build-process you can pick and choose trades from any of their extensive service division:

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Small...but perfectly formed

Wouldn't we all like a beautifully designed home with character and charm? How about lower bills and a more sustainable, less stressful existence? All that can be yours thanks to the rapidly-growing small house movement, giving you the opportunity to live big with the associated cost savings. What's more, a small but perfectly formed home could be yours in a matter of weeks.

Willie and Jane Coghill did just that, choosing The Wee House Company to design and construct their dream custom build home.

Perched on the edge of Scotland, in Caithness, the Coghills opted for a 2 bedroom bespoke design that would make the most of the stunning scenery around the plot.



With an internal floor area of around 80m² this Wee House, lovingly named Bluebelle Cottage, has been optimally designed to take advantage of the panoramic views from the site. As well as an open-plan living/dining area, the house includes a sun room; creating an additional relaxation area for the family. Opening the French doors creates an unexpected feeling of space in the house, while closing them over gives the couple the option of a cosy, peaceful retreat.



The heart of Bluebelle Cottage is the kitchen, featuring a beautiful palette of cream and wood finishes, offset with traditional pewter finish handles. The generous oak-style worktop makes it an inviting space for food preparation and clever use of all available space means there are plenty of cupboards for storage.



Managing a build project of your own can be extremely challenging and that's one of the reasons The Wee House Company is so popular – they take the stress out of the self-build experience. Everything from applying for planning consent and a building warrant to ground works, construction and service installation is taken care of by their dedicated team.

The Wee House Company founder, Jennifer Higgins said, "Our Wee Houses are designed and constructed to achieve the highest standards in safety, sustainability and energy efficiency and we pride ourselves on our exceptional customer care."

"Our clients are really varied. We've built homes for couples looking to downsize, we've helped families stay close together by building in their garden plot and we've built Wee Houses which have become very successful holiday lets. The houses are mortgage eligible so it's also an affordable option for first time buyers struggling to get on the property ladder."

If you've always dreamt of a loch side getaway, a romantic forest retreat or an island escape, it's never been easier – or quicker. The Wee House Company can construct, transport and build a Wee House on your plot in as little as eight weeks!

The company have been designing and building small homes since 2013 and use over 50 combined years of experience in construction and smart design to maximise the functionality and liveability of a smaller floor area. For more information, please visit www.theweehousecompany.co.uk

**Prices start from £99,000 for a 2 bed Wee House*

The Wee House Co.

Modular cottages built on your plot, anywhere in the UK



"I was offered guidance at every stage of the process. The Wee House Company handled everything to do with the planning and building warrant applications. They also took care of all the ground works that were required to get our Wee House into the site and connected to services."

Jane McFadzean

Two Bedroom Wee House, Dalduff Farm, South Ayrshire

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McKinven & Colville Ltd has been established for over 50 years and is regarded as Kintyre's leading building contractor. The business is led by Barry Colville and delivers high specification projects within the domestic, leisure and commercial markets throughout the region.

As complete-service building contractors, they

carry out all aspects of general building, renovation and refurbishment work including new builds, extensions, refurbishments, conversions, windows, doors, bathrooms, kitchens and all associated trades including joinery, roofing, plastering, electrical work and tiling work.

The company prides itself on achieving consistently

high levels of repeat business and referrals as a result of gaining a real understanding of the client's needs.

McKinven & Colville employ a vast team of skilled, qualified and experienced tradesmen. New builds are a major part of their business and they pride themselves on their growing portfolio. Traditional

build, Timberframe, System-Build, Greenfield and Brownfield sites are all within their areas of specialization. All statutory consents and certificates are supplied upon completion as standard.

If you are planning a self-build project give McKinven & Colville a call to discuss how they can work with you.

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tradesmen we can now deliver all your building needs from the ground up.

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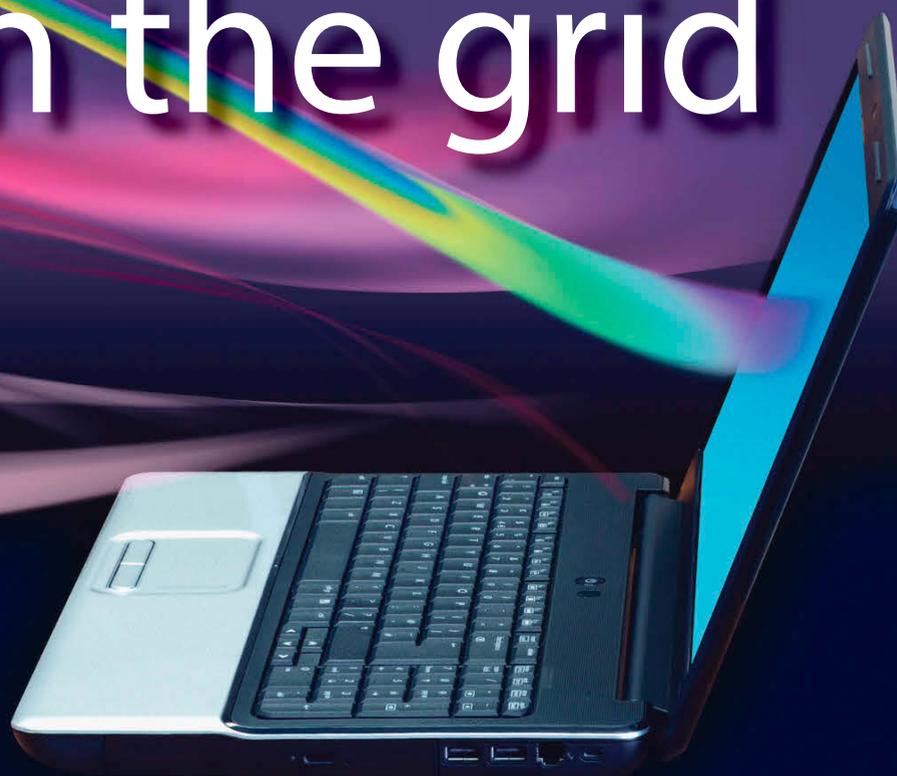
The pictures show the recently completed office building for "Ferguson Electrical Ltd", transforming what was a cramped garden space into a modern office and parking area.

Contact info@sinclairplant.co.uk

tel 01631 710762 / 07825012259

Getting your new home on the grid

As far as your kids are concerned broadband and a mobile signal are essential, never mind about mains water!



Our great-great-grandparents' memories of the Tilley lamp, the earth closet at the end of the garden and the water pump alongside the big stone sink are slowly fading from memory.

There are very few people left alive today who can recall them – though chances are many of us still have a few Tilley lamps on standby for power cuts.

The utilities we expect today were luxuries back then and some of what we consider basic utilities now were just plain unheard of, luxury or not.

Electricity, water and sewerage are just expected to be available and if we are too far away from mains water or drains or power lines then the technology exists to provide them. 'Town gas' in our major population centres is backed up with gas or oil tanks at our homes

outwith the gas supply areas. We also expect landline and mobile telephones and television and broadband as standard utilities laid on in our homes.

When self-building many plots will already be connected to services, or be close to them.

It is a good plan, early on, when looking for a plot to buy to ask about the ease of connecting up to services and the cost; for some budgets this could be a decisive factor in whether to go ahead with the purchase or not.

It goes without saying that getting services on site as soon as possible is an important step. Builders will need power tools and water right from the start.

Ask your children what they would think of living in a house with no, or painfully slow, wi-fi, with no mobile

network and in a shadow unable to pick up satellite television or Freeview via terrestrial television. To youngsters, these services are basic utilities they cannot imagine living without.

Ask some families what they would rather have: a dining room where they can sit and eat together and talk, or a media room where they can watch Sky or Netflix or play games on a massive, wall-covering television with a sound system that rattles the triple-glazing. You know what the answer is going to be.

So it makes sense to check these services out. You might be pleasantly surprised because of the amount of investment in broadband for remote and rural locations by the government. Remember mobile signals can be boosted via broadband.

Energy and renewables

Building a new home means you can benefit from the latest energy-saving technology from the day you move in

Installing green technologies in your self-build offers the chance of energy savings and might also qualify for government schemes or

loans. Organisations like Home Energy Scotland can provide free, in-depth advice custom-designed to your style of home and circumstances.

They can talk you through the options for energy saving and generating your own energy for heating

or electricity. Though there have been changes in recent years, renewable heat incentive schemes still exist and so do feed in tariff schemes for the use of small small-scale, renewable and low-carbon technologies to generate electricity.



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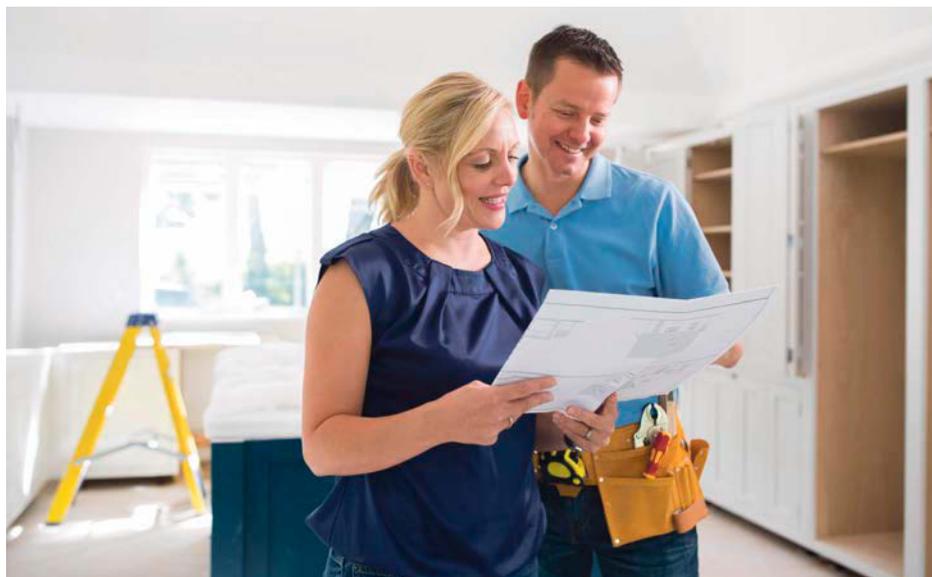


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Thinking about a self-build project?



Your self-build plans need approval by your local authority planning department and will need to meet Scotland's energy efficiency requirements. For many this will mean home renewables. Home Energy Scotland's specialists are ready to give you tailored and impartial advice on suitable renew-

able technologies, typical running costs and available financial support. Working with your plans, we'll provide bespoke modelling and compare the running cost of different technologies. Our advice covers a lot more too: maintenance costs, getting the best out of systems, Feed-in Tariffs, the

Renewable Heat Incentive and accredited installers. We also provide ongoing support to help you through the installation process, applying for funding and giving advice once your renewables system is commissioned. To find out more call us free on 0808 808 2282 to speak to one of our advisors.

Why build to Passivhaus standard?



Photo credit: Andrew Michler

The international Passivhaus standard is the world's leading standard in energy-efficient building design. In this article, Passivhaus designer Es Tresidder of HighlandPassive.com explains why you should consider going for Passivhaus certification for your new-build or retrofit project, and how you should go about it. The Passivhaus standard is well known as an energy-efficiency standard, and it certainly does that well – Passivhaus-certified buildings typically require 90% less heating than existing buildings, or 70% less than typical new-builds (think annual heating bills of around £100 for a 2-3 bedroom house, for the house being warm 24 hours a day). They achieve this through high levels of continuous insulation, high-quality triple glazing, airtight construction and careful design and attention to detail. But Passivhaus buildings offer more than just energy efficiency, they are also more comfortable, more robust and healthier to live in. Here's how.

More comfortable in winter (and summer)
Passivhaus-standard buildings feel warmer. Walls, roofs and ground floors are better insulated, and the insulation in each element meets the insulation in the other elements with no gaps (thermal bridges). This, coupled with high-quality triple glazed windows, means that the temperatures of the surfaces surrounding you are higher. Warm surfaces mean you lose less heat via radiation and feel warmer. Airtight construction and well-designed ventilation systems eliminate draughts. Well-designed Passivhaus buildings also perform better in summer, staying cooler when the weather gets hot.

More robust
Because Passivhaus buildings are extremely airtight and well ventilated, warm, moisture-laden air does not leak through the building fabric.

This eliminates the risk of hidden, long-term moisture problems within the structure of a building.

Healthier to live in
Plentiful fresh air is provided via mechanical ventilation with heat recovery. This means better indoor air quality than naturally ventilated buildings. Better ventilation and warmer surface temperatures mean that mould, which increases the risk of asthma, respiratory infections and allergies, is eliminated. Occupants often remark on an improvement in respiratory health problems, and an improvement in sleep quality.

How do I build myself a Passivhaus?
The easiest way is to work with a certified Passivhaus designer. This could be your architect (some architects are Passivhaus certified), or a designer who helps your architect design to the standards required. The earlier you get the Passivhaus designer involved, the simpler and cheaper it will be – ideally right at the very start of the project, before any of the design work starts.

The Highlands and Islands are the coldest, windiest places to build a house in the UK, and we spend a lot of our time indoors escaping the weather. On top of that we have some of the highest fuel and electricity prices in the UK. Here, more than anywhere, Passivhaus makes sense; for your comfort, your wallet, your health and the health of the planet.

Recommended resources
UK Passivhaus trust: <http://passivhaustrust.org.uk/>
Excellent magazine focussing on Passivhaus: <https://passivehouseplus.ie/>
Passivhaus blog: <https://elrondburrell.com/>
Passivhaus-focussed podcast: <http://www.houseplanninghelp.com/>
Highland Passive website and blog: www.highlandpassive.com



THINKING ABOUT A HEAT PUMP IN YOUR HOME?

Beneath the surface Scotland is a warm place. However, is a heat pump the right option for you and your home?

We can give you free, impartial and in-depth advice on the best renewables options. We can also provide information on financial support available, including an interest free loan of up to £10,000 from the Scottish Government.

Speak to a renewables advisor at Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282.



HOMEENERGYSCOTLAND.ORG

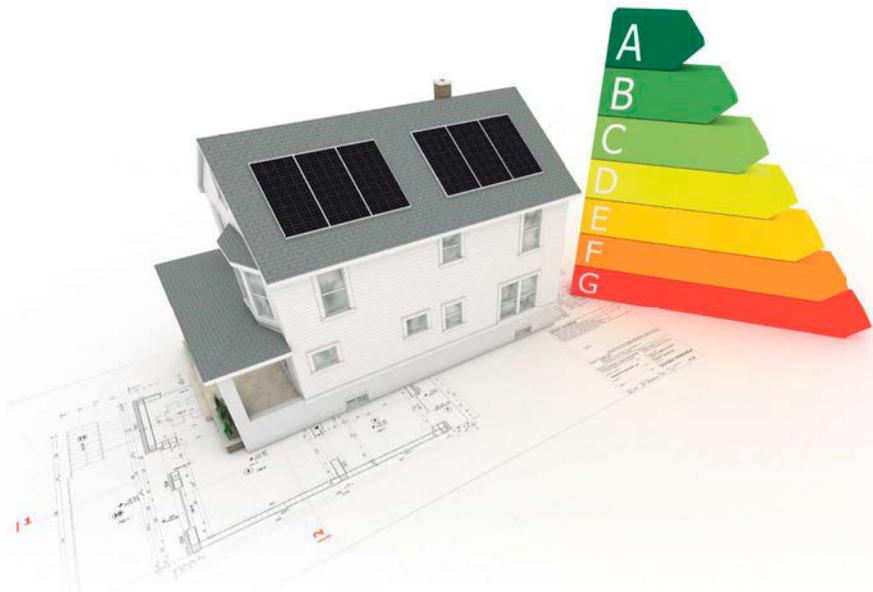
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All the planet-saving, greenhouse gas reducing, technological solutions aside, what is nicer on a dreich day than being cosy in front of a wood-burning stove?

Once the choice was coal, gas or oil to fuel both power stations and heat our homes, with the occasional nuclear power station thrown in, of course.

Today you can add sun, water, wind, plants, soil and air to the list as we strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and our dependence on non-renewable energy.

These methods of generation are supported by advances in building design and materials to

make new-build properties themselves need far less energy to keep them warm and well-lit, or dramatically improve the energy efficiency of older buildings through renovation and retro-fitting.

So important is the need for us tackle the problems caused by unchecked use of non-renewable fossil fuels that government intervention has seen new building regulations and supporting grant systems to help people finance this work. In Scotland today there

are loans of up to £38,500 for owner occupiers and eligible landlords in the private sector for energy efficient improvements.

If your home project is in a very remote and rural location investing in the technology to live off the grid could be lower than the cost of bringing in a mains supply. And, all the planet-saving, greenhouse gas reducing, technological solutions aside, what is nicer on a dreich day than being cosy in front of a wood stove?

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Milligan Transport: Delivery problem solved

No matter how remote your delivery in the West Highlands and Islands, Milligan Transport can do it.

This Mallaig-based company specialises in land and sea transport.

They delivered an alligator to the Isle of Rum to act in a television documentary, so your kit home or building materials will be all in a day's work.

The star of the show is the landing craft Spanish John

2, actually the third vessel to carry the name; the original, a Navy-surplus vessel was legendary in West Highland waters. This incarnation was Clyde-built in 2003 at Alexander Noble and Sons of Girvan.

Sitting at 20m long and 6.5m wide, deck cargo can be up to 40 tons. Power comes from twin 236 hp Daewoo engines. Loading can be either via the 3.6m wide bow door ramp, or with a 23t per metre Palfinger

hydraulic crane operated by radio remote control.

They deliver equipment and feed to fish farms daily.

Plant and diggers are regular cargos and so are sand and aggregates, council skip lorries with refuse and recycling skips, towing fish farm cages. She has also been a platform for movie making and also featured in the new Ford Eco Sport advert that has just started airing on television.



For all your Highlands and Islands transport logistics...



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Spanish John www.milligantransportltd.co.uk

An island li

Do you want to join an island community or build yourself a home in magnificent isolation on the mainland? Don't be daunted by the logistics, when it comes to living on islands or in remote rural places, we've been doing it for centuries... we're experts.

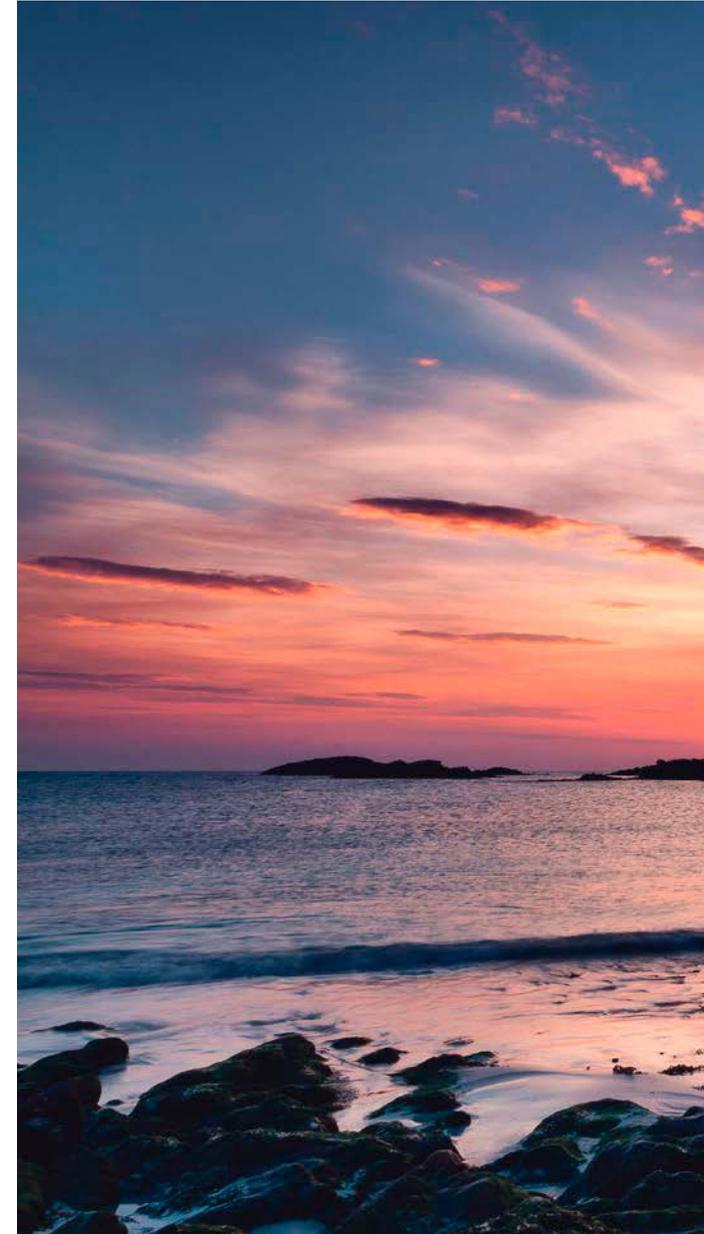
If you can comply with all the planning permissions, building warrants and regulations, and you have the money, you can build anywhere; it's a simple fact of life. That includes the remotest spot you can find on the West Highland mainland or the islands.

There are islands that would be offended if you called them remote. Do not forget that in Argyll, with its many peninsulas, and Lochaber's wild mountains there are places on the mainland that it can take longer to reach than an island with a ferry service.

Remember that people have lived here for centuries; people in this part of the world know how to get to remote places – and how to get very large loads to remote places. We've had plenty of practice.

Do not just take our word for it; take a walk along to the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry terminals at Oban or Kennacraig. You will see the skilled deck hands loading builders' merchants' lorries laden down with materials and roof trusses bound for Mull and Islay and from there onto Jura or Iona.

Many of you will have quietly cursed under your breath and reversed back to a passing place to let a lorry carrying earth moving plant



go by, on its way to dig out some new foundations.

It is easier, for example, to get planning permission to build on a plot in the communities of Tobermory on Mull or Bowmore on the Isle of Islay than a remote mainland spot which is in the middle of an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) where you will find yourself having to provide reports on environmental impact to bodies like SEPA (Scottish Environmental Protection Agency). You might have to prove that there is a need for a house in this particular spot or there could be residency conditions linked to employment.

No community ever stands still; new houses or renovations and extensions are always taking place. Early contact with the council planning department will always pay dividends, especially the pre-planning guidance on offer.

Islands and remote rural communities are desperate for new families. Your children might mean the difference between a closure or an extra teacher for a primary school. The different areas have different incentives to help make this happen.

Utilities can be expensive and take time to install in a remote location; but nothing that cannot be solved with an innovative approach to waste water disposal, a good quality private water supply and system (it will need to be tested and approved) and the many alternative types of power generation available today. There are some excellent examples to be found all over this region; many of them award-winning.

Just don't be naïve when it comes to the extra expenditure of cash and time – but one of the ways you can help keep this as low as possible is to be thoroughly, thoroughly organised. You have to be

Life for me!



right first time, or face a day-and-a-half ferry journey, or an 80-mile round trip on single-track roads, to return the wrong part for the right one or pick up extra materials, while the weather closes in or workers have to wait.

Don't even let the lack of a ferry service worry you; transport companies here have boats and vehicles that can get anywhere.

You will see a ferry timetable tucked on the dash board of many a builder's van along with the obligatory old copies of the Daily Record and a few used paper coffee cups and crisp bags. Everyone has got the CalMac app on their mobile phones. Ferries do not just take you to islands; they will also cut your journey time on the way to mainland peninsulas at Corran Ferry, in Lochaber, and Portavadie to Tarbert in Argyll.

One obvious piece of advice is make sure that the majority of the build project takes

place during the summer timetable when there are more ferries running, often earlier and later in the day – a blessing for your logistics.

If you are transporting materials and people yourself, remember to book well in advance during the height of the tourist season and on days when major events like Highland games and agricultural shows are taking place. You will also have the advantage of longer daylight and (hopefully) better weather.

Land

If you already have a plot then one of the hardest parts of the job is over.

If you are searching for a plot always check the ease and cost of connecting to utilities in this location. Make sure that you have a right of access; some roads can look public but are in private ownership and you might have to cross someone

else's land to get to yours.

Also make sure that you are not in a black spot for mobile phone reception (not uncommon) and that you can pick up a satellite signal or are in range for Freeview for terrestrial broadcasting. But that said, you will be pleasantly surprised by how many islands and remote communities do have superfast broadband thanks to government investment.

Materials and design

If living on an island with a stunning sea view or in a remote rural spot is your dream remember that by your very choice you will almost certainly experience West Highland and island weather at its most enthusiastic.

Design and materials should be used accordingly and that does not just mean your home. Your garden will need hedging, shrub screens, and plants that are salt spray, deer and rabbit-proof.

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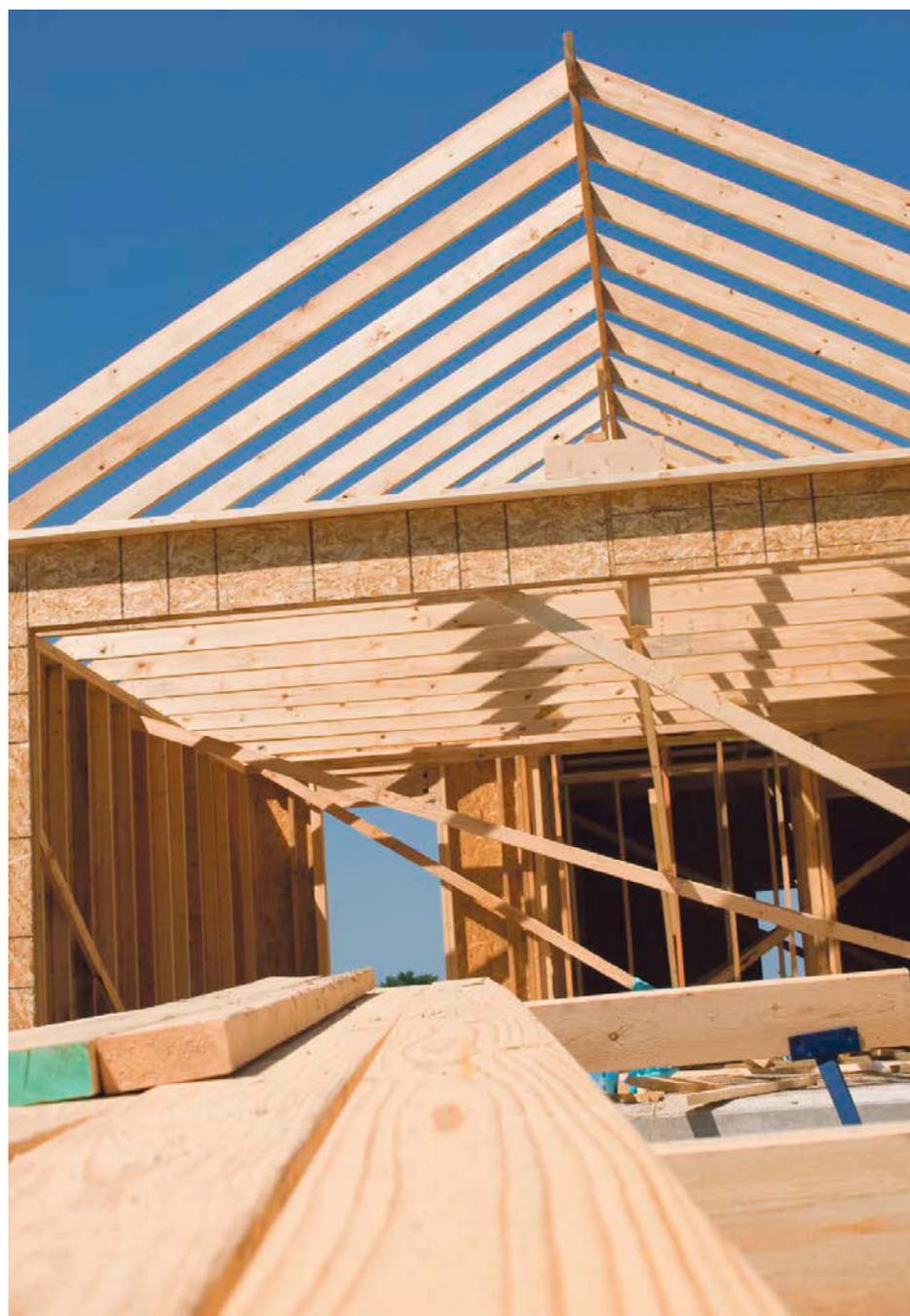
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You love your home it is in a great place, with a good primary school nearby and you have all made some valued friends in the area, so you want stay put and renovate.

It might be that essential structural work needs to be done or a complete re-wire; that major fixtures like the heating, bathroom or kitchen are so tired they have to be changed.

A central heating system is a major investment and not something you make very often, so you will be amazed at how more efficient and well-designed your new investment is.

This work is going to cause

some upheaval, so while you are at it why not do it all in one go and remodel to include a utility room, a new bigger porch or knock the dining room and kitchen into a big, bright and modern family living space.

Think of your house as a blank canvas, and paint a new masterpiece for your family. A brand new home would have an en-suite bathroom, or an extra shower room and additional lavatory downstairs, so why not add these to yours?

Not only will they make your home more enjoyable but also these kind of improvements will put your house back at the top of the list of attractive

properties if you should ever change your mind and sell. Suddenly your older house would be well able to compete with far newer properties with more extras.

If it makes emotional sense to stay put and renovate, it also makes sound economical sense as well if you sit down and really plan out what you needs to be done and what you would like to do as well. Consulting an architect and a financial advisor might give you a pleasant surprise and you can afford to do more than you think because of the value the work will add to your property, a real win-win situation.

Is your renovation your great innovation?

Which renovator are you? The one who has bought an uninhabitable shell to turn into a home or the one who wants to breathe new life and space into the home they have loved for so long.



There you were, searching for the perfect plot of land upon which to self-build your dream home and suddenly there it was: the wreck you knew you had to rescue.

The roof is all but gone, you can see the rafters; one wall has buckled in, the others are only standing out of force of habit but you can see what it can be once again.

Friends think you are crazy and that it would be cheaper just to bulldoze the entire site and start again, but you know differently.

It is all down to the 'three Rs' of renovation, restoration or remodelling. What needs to be done?

Renovation is renewing what you already have in place and adding new parts where necessary, whether it is floor boards or an entire wall. Restoration returns a room or home back to its former glory, respecting the original, or period, features. Remodelling changes the actual structure or use; like ripping out a wall,

moving the kitchen to the other side of the house, or adding an extra bathroom, sunroom or annexe.

The chances are that you will probably be doing a mixture of all three.

If the property is a listed building, or in a conservation area, you must apply for the necessary permissions.

A house that is run down and in need of repair can be a potential bargain and be the best way to put your finances to work and get more home for your money.

For a start they will almost always have road access, water, electricity, sewerage and mains gas, where available making it easier, quicker and cheaper to get connected to the services.

Take into account that in more rural spots when there is a septic tank this might need renewing or repair and if there is a private water supply it might not comply with the latest standards or pass the newer health tests

without some major work being carried out.

You will need a surveyor's report. Remember that if it is a major endeavour, comparable to building a new home, an architect will prove just as valuable on this project.

If it is a very old and decaying property the first jobs will be to stabilise it and stop any further decay.

Planning permission and building warrants will be needed for a major rebuild or remodelling, but if you can keep within permitted development rights this will save more money. These rights can vary and what might have been fine where you lived before in the UK might not be the same in your new location.

Once again this is where planning officers can advise you.

Though they are becoming more rare, there can be grants or VAT concessions available for certain costs. It is worth checking to see if you qualify.

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Doors

There is something elegant and reassuring about a wooden front door, be it high gloss or matt-painted, or the natural beauty showing through. It is the first impression that always counts. That's why we all take so long deciding how to decorate and then adorn it with handles, bells and names plates. Inside, doors help to create and develop how the interior looks. Will you go for laminate, solid wood or will it be painted? Will it have glass panels to help spread light and increase the feeling of space? Which wood grain appeals the most? Choose the right handles and no one notices; choose wrongly and they will glare at you.

Floors

The development and growth of laminate floors has been phenomenal and the choices and price ranges are staggering. You can achieve any look, from cool and light-giving,

golden and warm, to dark and gleaming, making rich coloured rugs look like gems. In solid woods the traditional favourites of pine and oak are being joined by bamboo and block wood flooring, including the traditional parquet blocks which are becoming popular again.

Stairs

If you are renovating a house, a new flight of stairs is the equivalent of a nose job; it can change the look so completely. Even if you are just updating your look, today's technology enables a new flight to be added far more easily and affordably than ever before. The stairs can be an elegant statement within your living space or entrance hall or just the way you get upstairs, there is so much choice available within design and the range of products. One thing is for sure make sure the space underneath is never wasted.

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Living on site

With a self-build property more money is needed up front to get the project started and many families decide to sell their homes and live in a caravan on site to free up their capital.

The good news is that as a tourist area the West Highlands is never short of good quality second-hand static caravans to buy and there will be a market for the home once you come to sell.

You also have another asset, the plot itself, to help keep your costs down; it can hold a shipping container or two for your possessions thus reducing storage fees. It can even make financial sense to build your garage or large garden shed before your home for additional space; that is if you

know exactly where you want it to go and it will not impede work on the house.

A second mobile home or a demountable Portakabin-style building can be a good investment for your washing machine and tumble drier, bikes and big pieces of family kit.

The trouble with living on site is that you are living on a building site and it can mean plenty of mud, which combined with kids and dogs is not a good mix especially when the doors on static caravans lead straight into the kitchen or living space. If you know you are going to be over-wintering or the building process might have to halt on occasions for finance then a built-on timber porch does not look like an

extra expense but an essential.

Inside, a good collection of micro-fleece throws for the fixed upholstery, which can be quickly washed and dried is a good idea as are Turtle-style doormats and runners – the better condition the soft furnishings are in the better price you will get when selling on and there are plenty of professional cleaners with equipment to help put a sparkle on it all when your new house is ready.

And just remember that you are going to want an extra helping of sense of humour; down-sizing your average family and their possessions into such a compact space will produce plenty of times when you are going to need it.



Time for your new home to blossom

Take the indoors outdoors and bring the outdoors indoors to make the most of your garden throughout the year

Your new home needs the perfect setting; it is time to reach for your wellies and pull on your gloves.

If you have renovated instead then chances are you inherited a garden with established trees and plants along with the property which will all need a major overhaul and a fresh look at the garden layout. Here's some advice from people who have been there, done that and now got a lovely lawn to prove it:

Decide what you want from your garden when you are designing your home; it is never too soon to start. A garden room with sliding glass doors and a patio or decking, all with carefully placed heating indoor and out, will keep your garden in play nearly all year round.

It is never too early for action. Knowing where you want external power points for garden lighting and heating and pipes for taps or water features makes it easier and more economical to install when the house is being built. The same applies to garden paths, hard standings for sheds and summer and greenhouses and locations for decking.

Do a bit of snooping; check out neighbouring properties and see what plants are thriving there

Decide early on if you will need extra top soil; your builders will probably have good contacts for supplies.

Once your house is up and the interior is being worked on, go outside and take photographs of the house from all

sides, from the road and looking out of the windows and, when the stairs are in from all the upstairs windows.

Print out copies and set to work doodling and planning your planting.

A garden truly is another room; coordinate the look of door fittings, lights both on the house and in the garden, timber paints and stains and ornaments and planters.

You are not the only one who will be using your garden; make sure there are plenty of bee and butterfly-friendly plants and lots of berries for birds come wintertime.

Gardens, like Rome were not built in a day. Take your time and remember: no one ever planted too many snowdrops.





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Eagles, vegans and climate change – the union's view

'The whole point of the National Farmers' Union Scotland is to lobby for a sustainable, profitable future for Scottish agriculture.'

These were his opening remarks as NFUS chief executive Scott Walker addressed members ahead of the lunch break at the recent Argyll and the Islands region AGM.

Reflecting on the previous 12 months in his presentation at the Stonefield Castle Hotel in Tarbert, Mr Walker outlined some of the key areas of work carried out by the union.

There is the ongoing effort to help understanding among politicians and decision

makers about the impact of Scottish agriculture on climate change.

A problem for agriculture, however, is the agreed way in which emissions and sequestration of carbon are calculated following the Paris Summit.

Mr Walker explained that every emission from agriculture is counted against the industry as a debit, but no account is taken of sequestration through agricultural activity – instead this is allocated to a vague category of 'land use'.

'We are working to help understanding that by grazing the land, we're creating the

environment which allows carbon sequestration to take place,' said Mr Walker.

Even sequestration within highly important peatlands, managed by farmers and crofters, is allocated against 'land use' rather than agriculture.

Mr Walker added: 'We have to be open and admit where we can improve, but as an industry agriculture in Scotland has a fantastic story to tell.'

Referring jokingly to 'the attack of the vegans', Mr Walker said that it had felt as if farming had been constantly under attack over the past year.

He added: 'I have no problem at all if someone wants to be a vegan; that's a personal choice. But what they shouldn't be doing is constantly criticising agriculture and making our members feel bad about what they do.'

Species management and the impact of particular birds and mammals on agriculture had taken up a good deal of union attention.

Geese, badgers, white-tailed sea eagles, beavers and more besides have been on the agenda, but in Argyll the spread of sea eagles has been of particular concern.

Speaking from the floor, Loch Awe hill farmer John MacPherson questioned the accepted approach of focusing on sheep predation when

highlighting the sea eagle issue.

'I just wonder whether we should be talking about the loss of Scotland's icon, the golden eagle,' said Mr MacPherson. I think we, as farmers, have been taking the wrong approach.'

He added: 'Politicians, to be perfectly honest, don't give a

damn about losing sheep, but if we started talking about golden eagles they might sit up and listen.'

'If we don't do something soon the west coast of Scotland is going to be finished for hill sheep. And the golden eagle population will be zero within the next 10 years.'

Scott Walker responded: 'As a lobbying organisation, NFUS has to look at who we're speaking to and what is going to press their buttons, so I think that is an excellent point.'

Also in the sights of NFUS are rural crime, farming tenancy reform and, of course, Brexit.

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NFUS chief executive Scott Walker thanks Gill Johnstone for her many years of dedication to the union at the recent Argyll and the Islands region AGM. 06_a03NFUS

Gill's 24 years of service recognised at union AGM

Long-serving Islay secretary Gill Johnstone retired at the end of December after 24 years with NFUS as group secretary for Islay.

Speaking at the regional AGM, Argyll and the Islands NFUS chairman John Dickson praised Gill for her many years of service and dedication to Islay and the wider region.

Invaluable

'Her experience has been invaluable and we wish Gill all the best on her retirement.' Gill has now handed over NFU Scotland

and NFU Mutual duties at the Islay office to Garry MacLean.

Her retirement was not to last long, however. At the Islay, Jura and Colonsay NFUS branch AGM, Gill was appointed the new branch chairperson.

NFUS president Andrew McCornick said: 'It is fantastic news that Gill's knowledge and expertise will be retained as she moves from the secretary's office to be branch chair.'



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Advertorial

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It is our advice to monitor your heating oil levels and order before they get too low, as this means you'll be prepared should the colder weather start earlier than anticipated. On average, between October and March a household will use 2/3rds of its yearly heating oil consumption. Planning ahead and being prepared for the colder weather in the winter months is crucial when your household is reliant on heating oil.

There is a risk of unexpectedly running out of fuel if you do not know how much heating oil you have in your tank. Monitoring your oil levels will reduce your chances of running dry. This is important throughout the year but especially during the winter, when our delivery schedules will be at their busiest. Letting your

heating oil levels run low or even dry could have serious implications for your boiler and heating system. Running out of heating oil often means you will need to pay for an emergency breakdown visit by an OFTEC boiler engineer to safely bleed the fuel lines and restart your boiler. This is not only an inconvenience but could be costly should the breakdown happen at a weekend, or even over the festive period.

An annual boiler service can help to reduce the chances of unexpected breakdowns or maintenance issues over winter. We recommend that boilers are serviced at least every 12 months to ensure they are working safely and efficiently. Routine boiler services help to detect developing problems before they worsen and ultimately lead to a boiler failure. Any faults or problems will be caught early on, reducing the chances of expensive breakdowns and repairs.

Contact our Connel Depot to order heating oil or to book a boiler service. For more information visit: www.gleaner.co.uk, where you'll also find our latest news articles full of advice and top-tips for heating oil customers.

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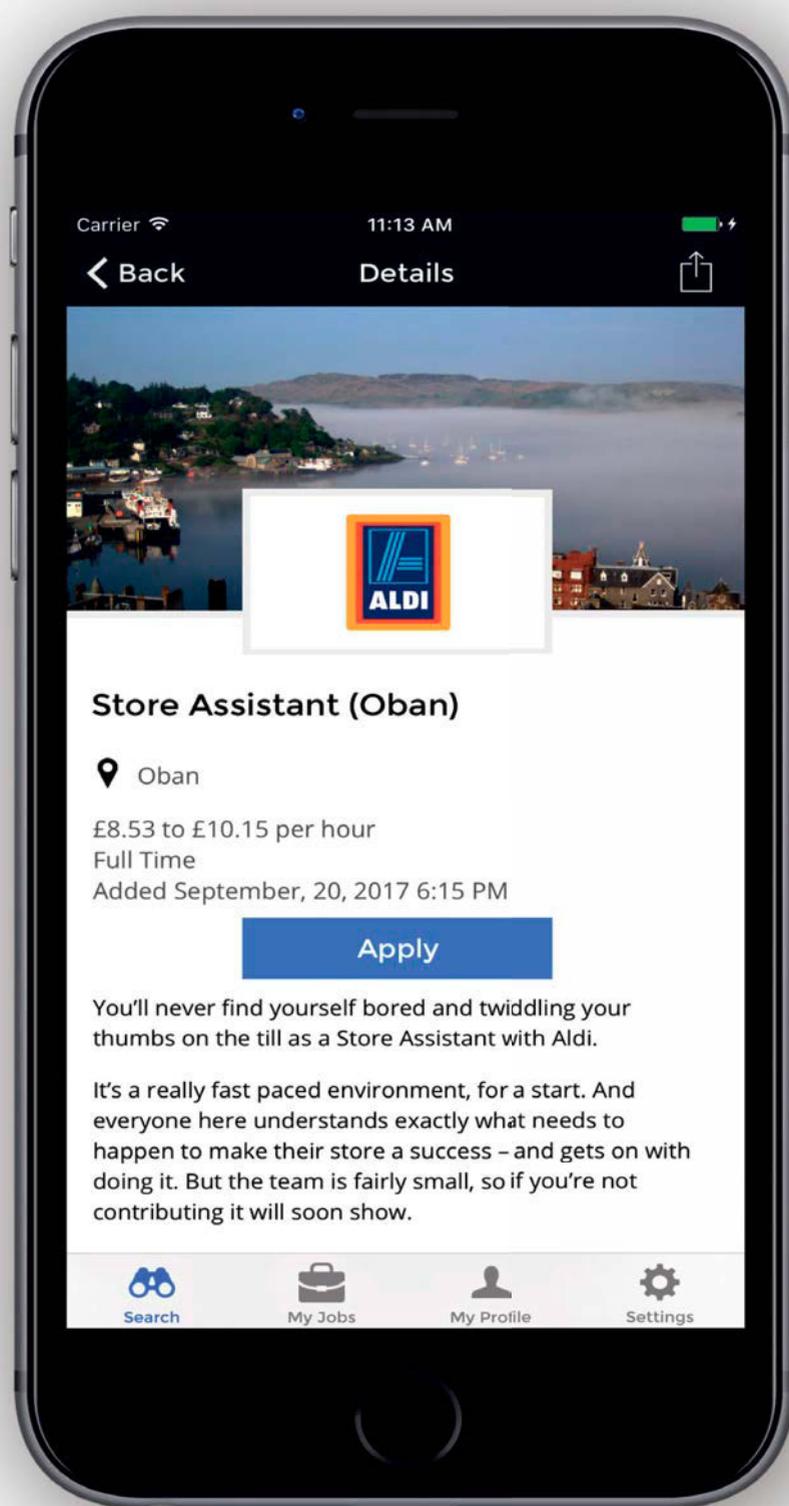
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REG	MODEL	COLOUR	MILEAGE	PRICE	REG	MODEL	COLOUR	MILEAGE	PRICE
18	Dacia Stepway LAU TCe	Grey	30	£10,750	64	Renault Clio DYN NAV 1.2	Black	32,000	£7,150
66	Renault Captur DYN DCI NAV 120	Black	18,000	£12,250	64	Vauxhall Corsa SXi 5dr	Silver	35,000	£5,500
66	Dacia Sandero LAU DCi	Silver	6,000	£8,950	14	Skoda Rapid TDi	White	27,000	£6,950
66	Renault Clio S NAV DCi-90	Red	11,000	£12,200	63	Nissan Qashqai 1.5 DCi Visa	Black	48,000	£7,550
66	Renault Clio 1.2 DYN NAV	White	14,000	£9,750	13	Renault Megan DYN DCi EST	Black	75,000	£5,750
66	Renault Captur TCe DYN NAV	Cream	18,500	£10,250	13	Kia Rio Petrol	Black	44,000	£4,750
65	Dacia Logan EST LAU TCe	Silver	19,000	£6,950	62	BMW Series SPH 1.6	Black	48,000	£8,950
15	Nissan Micra Visia 1.2	White	24,600	£5,750	12	Nissan Micra Visia 1.2	Blue	42,000	£5,750
64	Renault Twingo SCe Play	Blue	12,000	£5,950	61	Renault Megan HB EXP 1.6	Blue	23,000	£4,500
64	Renault Clio DYN TCe	Red	16,000	£7,500					

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NEW YEAR, NEW REASONS FOR CHOOSING ŠKODA AS FRESH JANUARY DEALS ARE ANNOUNCED

- Generous finance deposit contributions of up to £3,000 for Solutions PCP* (5.5% APR Representative)
- Servicing plan included on selected models
- 3 years roadside assistance package on selected models
- £500 test drive voucher redeemable on selected new ŠKODA orders
- £500 test drive voucher redeemable on selected new ŠKODA orders



ŠKODA is delivering a range of deals and offers that are guaranteed to see off the winter blues. Thanks to finance deposit contributions of up to £3,000* (5.5% APR Representative), service packages on selected models and test drive reductions across the range, buyers drive an exceptional deal on an award-winning new ŠKODA. The biggest savings can be secured on the Superb range, which is available with a finance deposit contribution of £3,000 when purchased with a Solutions PCP* (5.5% APR Representative). Customers who take a test drive before placing their order can also secure a voucher** entitling them to £500 off the OTR price - enough for multiple tanks of fuel or even a weekend away. For further peace of mind (and more savings), Superb buyers benefit from a inclusive ser-

vice plan^ that covers the two consecutive services (1 x oil and 1 x oil and inspection service). SE Technology models are excluded from this offer. And it's not just buyers of ŠKODA's biggest models that benefit from incredible savings. The recently updated new Fabia comes with up to £2,450 finance deposit contribution (TSI engines receive £1700 deposit contribution) when financed through a Solutions PCP* (3.9% APR). The offer is available on all models except the Fabia S, and means that buyers can drive off in ŠKODA's feature-packed supermini for an unbeatable price. Customers also benefit from 3 year roadside assistance and can receive a £500 voucher** towards their purchase by simply taking a test drive before placing their order. Generous finance deposit contributions,

test drive voucher** to the value of £500 and a service package that covers the first two services are also available on ŠKODA's popular SUV models. The Kodiaq attracts a deposit contribution of up to £2,000 when financed with a Solutions PCP* (5.5 APR Representative). The offer excludes vRS and SE Technology models. The Kodiaq's smaller sibling, the Karoq, comes with a finance deposit contribution of up to £1,950 when financed with Solutions PCP* (6.9% APR Representative) and is available on all models except SE Technology. Customers looking to start 2019 with an adrenaline rush can pick up the remarkable Octavia vRS with a finance deposit contribution of £2,500 when financed with a Solutions PCP* (5.5% APR Representative). Buyers can snap up the most powerful production

vRS model ever built (2.0 TSI with 245PS), with the first two services covered and a £500 voucher** simply for taking a test drive. Offers on the Rapid Spaceback and Citigo complete ŠKODA's January deals. The Citigo is available with a finance deposit contribution of £1,500 when financed through a Solutions PCP* (6.8% APR Representative), while the Rapid Spaceback is available with a £1,700 deposit contribution when financed through a Solutions PCP* (6.6% APR Representative). Both cars are offered with three years roadside assistance and a £500 voucher** for taking a test drive. The offer excludes the Citigo S trim level. ŠKODA's January offers are expected to be extremely popular with buyers, and customers are urged to act quickly to secure their deal as quickly as possible.

TO FIND OUT MORE AND START YOUR ŠKODA EXPERIENCE

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Images are for illustrative purposes only. Model shown is not UK specification and may include features or options which are not available in the UK. West End Garage is a broker and not a lender and can introduce you to a limited number of lenders, who may pay us for introducing you to them.
 *At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) pay the optional final payment and own the vehicle; ii) return the vehicle; subject to excess mileage and fair wear and tear, charges may apply; or iii) replace: part exchange the vehicle.
 †With Solutions Personal Contract Plan. 18s+. Subject to availability & status. Excludes SE Technology. T&Cs apply. Ordered by 1 April 2019 from participating retailers. ‡KAROQ petrol engines receive £1,450 deposit contribution and KAROQ diesel engines receive £1,950. Indemnities may be required.
 ^Service plan covers first two consecutive services limited to 1x Oil and 1x Oil and Inspection service. Accurate at time of publication. ŠKODA Financial Services. #£500 voucher available for orders placed between 20 December 2018 – 31 January 2019 and registered by 31 March 2019. Subject to availability. Retail customers only, excluding SE Technology models, CITIGO S Trim & KODIAQ vRS. Excludes Channels Islands and Isle of Man.
 Official fuel consumption WLTP for the ŠKODA KAROQ range in mpg (litres/100km): Combined 50.4 (5.6) to 32.8 (8.6). NEDC derived CO₂ combined emissions for the ŠKODA KAROQ range are 134 to 118 g/km.
 Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO₂ figures with other vehicles tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load. There is a new test used for fuel consumption and CO₂ figures (known as WLTP). The CO₂ figures shown however, are based on a calculation designed to be equivalent to the outgoing (NEDC) test cycle and will be used to calculate vehicle tax on first registration. For more information, please see www.skoda.co.uk/owners/wltp-info or consult your retailer. Data correct at December 2018. Figures quoted are for a range of configurations (including non-UK) and are subject to change due to ongoing approvals/changes. Please contact your retailer for further information. For fuel consumption data based on the outgoing test cycle (NEDC equivalent data), which is the 'official' UK fuel consumption data until 31.12.18, please consult your retailer.

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Oban's Tesco car park featured some impressive cars last weekend, with S & S Services showcasing a fleet of its vehicles.

The dealership, which has been selling cars for 40-years and has been Subaru UK's Sales Dealer of the Year multiple times, regularly supplies Obanites with new Subarus and Isuzus. And it was no

different his time around, with at least five people driving away from Tesco's in a new car.

Speaking to The Oban Times on Sunday, John Spicer of S & S Services said business had been good.

The company aims to visit Oban every five to six weeks and Mr Spicer anticipates his next visit will be in March.



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Tips to help you save money on your heating bills this winter

With the Met Office confirming that the Beast from the East could return this year and fuel prices hitting an all-time high, there is no better time to look at ways to reduce your heating bills.

According to ComparetheMarket, the average household energy bill in 2018 was £1,706, a rise of over £400 in just three years. As 62% of your energy costs come from heating and hot water usage, this is an ideal place to start if you are looking to save yourself some money. NHBC, the UK's leading warranty provider for new homes, is offering all home owners some tips to help you lower your heating bills this winter:

1. Switch energy suppliers

If you have used the same provider for years, you are probably paying too much for your energy. The cheapest deals are available for home owners who are prepared to switch suppliers, particularly those who are on a standard tariff. Energy regulator Ofgem estimates that consumers

could save up to £245 a year by switching. Take a look at a comparison website to see how much you could save.

2. Be in control of your temperature

It is best to have as many controls as possible so you can be in charge of how you heat your house. Install a thermostat in your main living area. Once the temperature hits the one set on the thermostat, your boiler will turn off until the temperature drops again. By adding thermostatic valves to your radiators you can lower the heating in rooms you don't use so often. According to the Energy Saving Trust, these measures could save you £75 per year.

3. Turn down your thermostat

Experts recommend you set your thermostat to 18°C rather than a costly 20-25°C. Just by lowering your thermostat by 1°C



you could reduce your heating bill by 10%. Consider putting an extra jumper on instead.

4. Timers

Paying money to keep your home heated while you are out the house isn't cost-effective or an efficient use of energy. British Gas and the Energy Saving Trust both advise using a timer to control your heating so it's only on when you need it to be.

5. Spend a little – save a lot

If you live in an older property

you may benefit from improving your insulation and upgrading your boiler. Spending a little now can save you money in the long term. Better insulation will reduce unwanted heat loss and minimise drafts, while newer condensing boilers can reach 90% efficiency in comparison to older non-condensing boilers which don't usually reach more than 65% efficiency.

6. It's the little things

There are lots of little things you can do which all add up to help you keep your home feeling warmer:

- Don't block radiators with bulky furniture as it will only stop the warm air circulating;
- When your heating is on, close your curtains, trapping the warmth indoors;
- Open and close doors – yes, both. If you have a south facing room that benefits from lots of direct sunlight, it will naturally be the warmest room in the house. Leave the door open to allow the heated air to circulate around your home. Once the sun has

moved round, close the doors to keep the warmed air inside your main living areas.

Neil Smith, Head of Standards, Innovation & Research at NHBC, said: 'For many home owners, the biggest burden on their winter finances is the cost of keeping their home warm.'

'We believe it's not only important for home owners to invest in their older properties, but for good information and advice to be made available to help consumers save money on their energy bills.'

'People living in houses built in the past 10 years will typically have lower energy bills as they are built to comply with the latest energy efficiency standards – but people in all types of properties can make small adjustments to achieve a warmer home for less this winter.'

For more tips on how to keep your heating costs down, download the handy fact sheet from NHBC's website.



10 Linnet Court, Ardrishaig

No. 10 Linnet Court enjoys a quiet location on the banks of the Crinan Canal. Built in 1998, the accommodation consists of Kitchen/ Dining Room, Lounge, Hallway, 2 Double Bedrooms & Bathroom. There is off-road parking and car port to the side of the property.

The local primary School is only a five-minute walk with the centre of the village around ten minutes away.

The close by Canal Towpath is used by Dog walkers/ Runners/ Cyclists etc., with the Canal itself a hive of activity.

2-bedroom semi-detached house

1241 **Offers over: £115,000** EPC: D66

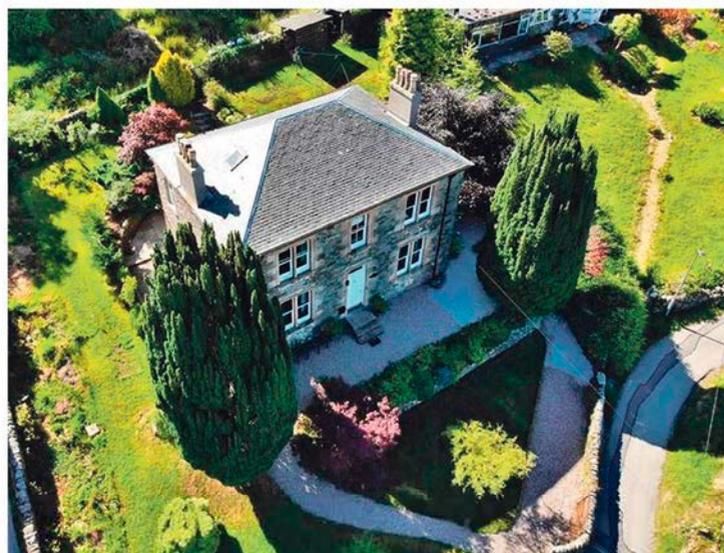
Rockfield, Tarbert



5-bedroom Detached Stone House

1340 **Offers Over: £295,000** EPC: F23

Rockfield is a beautiful stone house located in the desirable area of Pier Road in Tarbert. The property is currently set up for use as two flats but could easily be changed into one family home. The property consists of Lounge, dining room, kitchen bathroom and two double bedrooms on the ground floor. The upper floor consists of Lounge, kitchen/dining room, bathroom and three bedrooms. While the property would benefit from some upgrading, the location and surrounding garden ground will make it an attractive proposition.



Ingleside, Tarbert

We are delighted to market this stunning 5-bedroom detached Victorian Villa set in a prime location within the picturesque village of Tarbert. Its elevated position within the village allows for beautiful views across Tarbert Harbour and the hills beyond. The property has been sympathetically restored in recent times to introduce the comforts of modern living whilst retaining many of the original features throughout the house, such as ceiling roses, cornicing, internal doors, window shutters and skirtings.

This family home with its mature well-maintained and landscaped garden is impeccably presented.

5-bedroom detached Villa

1317 **Offers Over: £392,500** EPC: F36

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1999

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
18/02691/PP	Change of use from community hall (Class 10) to Solicitor's office (Class 4)	Kinloch Hall Kinloch Road Campbeltown Argyll And Bute PA28 6EG
18/02776/PP	Erection of boathouse	Shore Cottage Castleton Lochgilphead Argyll And Bute PA31 8RU
18/02676/CONAC	Demolition of workshop/garage and conservatory	Tighnaglaic Crinan Lochgilphead Argyll And Bute PA31 8SW
18/02556/MIN	Application for extension and continuation of operations at existing hard rock quarry and siting of modular building	Corran Farm Quarry Clachan Tarbert Argyll And Bute PA29 6XN
18/02678/PP	Demolition of workshop/garage and conservatory, alterations to dwellinghouse, erection of garden structure and landscaping works	Tighnaglaic Crinan Lochgilphead Argyll And Bute PA31 8SW
18/02781/PP	Use of land for the siting of 12 No. holiday lodges (twin unit caravan) and variation to period of occupancy from 1st April - 31st October to 4th March - 4th January.	Point Sands Caravan Park Tayinloan Tarbert Argyll And Bute PA29 6XG
18/02685/PP	Change of use of land to form campsite including erection of facilities building, installation of sewage treatment plant and infiltration area and associated works	Land North Of Gigha Boats Ardmish Isle Of Gigha Argyll And Bute

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. 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. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Blue Energy is holding a public consultation event for the proposed High Constellation Wind Farm, located approximately 5 km southeast of Clachan.

Members of the project team will be available to provide information on the application including visualisations showing how the project could appear in the landscape, and to talk through the application process.

An event will be held on Monday 28th January 2019 from 3:30pm to 7:30pm at the Clachan Village Hall, Clachan.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Kintyre Juvenile Pipe Band Association

AGM

Tuesday
5th February
at 7.00pm
in Kinloch Hall
All welcome.

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AGM

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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.

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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.

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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.

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Key responsibilities will include:

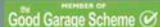
- Working with the distillery management team to ensure a high quality visitor experience by delivering excellent levels of customer care for all visitors.
- Conducting regular guided tours, walking tours and whisky tastings (training provided).
- Ensuring that the Visitor Centre areas are well presented, fully stocked & tidy at all times.
- Assisting the distillery management team with delivering the events programme (including the Glen Scotia Open Day during the Campbeltown Whisky Festival) and in managing group visits to ensure the smooth running of all events.
- Assisting the management team with cash handling, banking and associated paperwork and in ensuring all daily shop controls are undertaken in a timely manner in compliance with the visitor centre rules.

Other details:
The role holder will work 10am - 5pm, five days out of six (Saturdays will be required but the visitor centre is usually closed on Sundays). A flexible approach will be essential.
Contract duration: 18th Feb 2019 - 30th October 2019.
Salary range: £18k-£22k depending on experience.
Bonus potential: of up to £3k upon satisfactory completion of the contract
Holidays: 25 days annual leave (pro-rated)

Application process:
Applications should be made, in writing, no later than 12noon on 4th February 2019 and should be emailed to: payroll@lochlomondgroup.com
Each application should contain a CV and a covering letter explaining why you wish to be considered for the role. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Interviews will take place on 12th Feb 2019 and candidates must be available on that date if selected for interview.

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A full time position in a marine boatyard office to handle telephone enquiries, general office work with Sage experience essential, online parts ordering, self catering bookings with Super Control, training available.

Own transport essential. Wage to be negotiated with pension, hours 9am - 5pm negotiable. Contact Colin on 01631 566123 or colin@ardoran.co.uk

WHISKY MACS CAFE BAR

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GRADUATIONS



ASHLEY FERGUSON

Graduated from Edinburgh University with a Degree of Laws of Medical Law and Ethics. Ashley is the younger daughter of Lena and Archie Ferguson, Castleton and the granddaughter of the late Alasdair and Christina MacLeod, Achnaba and of Mary Ferguson and the late Chubby Ferguson, Lochgilphead.

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STANDARD BOWLING JACK-LIGNU Bowling ball, Standard Jack, Lignum Vitae, Antique, inscribed "J.Riley", £10 Telephone 01586 554537.

Baby Equipment

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PAPERBACKS 30 paperbacks, mostly new or as new. Well known authors. Bargain, £12 Telephone 01631 720369.

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REPLACEMENT CHIMNEY POTS for older houses, ornate Victorian/Edwardian pots in various sizes and colours, £40 Telephone 01631 564578².

Clothes, Shoes and Accessories

LADIES JACKET F&F black & white, size 12, brand new. Calls evenings, can deliver to Oban, £25 Telephone 01852 300154.

Domestic Appliances

ZANUSSI VACCUM CLEANER Little used, £22 Telephone 01546 850287.

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SINGLE BED with guest bed, VGC, £25 Telephone 07833 551164.

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CAST IRON STAGS BOOTSCRAPER Heavy garden ornament/bootscraper, 2 stags on 17" long strip of cast iron, each stag 6" tall, weathered brown, £10 Telephone 01586 554537.

GARDEN ORNAMENTS Snow White & Seven Dwarfs concrete garden ornaments. Very large, whole set weighs 1/2 ton. Snow White 3 1/2 feet tall, dwarfs 2 feet tall, brand new, varnished to preserve colours. Will deliver, £375 Telephone 07951 293090.

VINTAGE CART WHEELS and smaller implement wheels. Colourful garden display items. Prices from £30, Telephone 01631 564578².

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VINTAGE LAWN ROLLERS cast iron and decorative, for working use or colourful garden feature, various sizes from £90, Telephone 01631 564578².

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DAIWA, WHISKER FLY ROD Whisker fly fishing rod, #7-9, (WT 98-11'3"H) Cork Handle, excellent condition, (£50 on eBay), 25 Telephone 01586 554537.

FLADEN FISHING ROD, 9FT Fladen rod, "Avant-Garde", 9ft, 30-60g /1.2oz, no. 537,

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Kitchen

BODUM WINE COOLER Brand new, transparent purple colour. Call evenings. Can deliver to Oban, £10 Telephone 01852 300154.

FOOD MIXER Kitchen chef classic food mixer. Blender/mixer/juicer/mincer, as new, unused. Metal mixing bowl, £60 Telephone 07514 466297 or 01631 562834.

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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 or telephone 01371 851868.

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PERSONAL



THANK YOU

Andrew and Margaret wish to thank family and friends for cards, gifts and flowers they received on the occasion of their Golden Wedding. Your very kind donations of £1,130.00 will be donated to the British Heart Foundation. Special mention to our grandchildren for entertainment and all who made the party such a memorable night.

MACHRIHANISH

Painting's Kintyre location
boosts TV show valuation

The owner of a painting titled Carefree Days at Machrihanish was told by an Antiques Roadshow expert that its location was a 'positive point in its favour'.

The landscape painting by William Arthur Laurie Carrick, who was born in 1879 and died in 1964, appeared on the BBC show on January 20 having been filmed at Crathes Castle in Aberdeenshire.

The picture, which has an ornate golden frame, shows a coastal scene with bright blue skies overhead as children play on the beach.

Charlotte Riordan, a specialist in Scottish art, who described it as a gloriously sunny, turn of the century era painting, was told that its owner had bought it in Edinburgh in the 1980s in memory of his mother.

She said: 'It has got elements that really appeal to people when they collect Scottish paintings.'

'You've got the sense of a sea breeze coming in, there's this amazing blue [sea] that you do get on the west coast of Scotland, this very clear, bright blue.'

'I love the little crofters' cottages, the detail there, and you can see the influence of people like William McTaggart in these beautiful little children playing on the sand.'

'It's got every element you could look for in a landscape.'

Talking about its Machrihanish setting, Ms Riordan added: 'A lot of people have a connection to that part of the west coast in Scotland, so in terms of subject matter, this is actually a sort of positive point in its favour.'

'And I think of course, the fact that it is a gloriously sunny day, it's a cheerful picture to have on the wall - I'm sure it does brighten any room that you have it hanging in.'

The owner said that he particularly liked the sky and the painting's bright colours.

He said that he paid £1,000 for it in the 1980s, having talked the seller down from £1,400 which Ms Riordan said was a 'good bargain'.

She added that, on a good day, it could make between £2,000 and £3,000 at auction.

Viewers in Kintyre spotted the painting but many commented on the use of artistic licence after finding it difficult to place the cottages and section of shoreline depicted.

INVERARAY

BOWFest bids farewell

The music and food festival organised by the Duchess of Argyll has played its last gig.

The organisers of the Best of the West Festival (BOWFest), staged at the Duke's home, Inveraray Castle, announced last Tuesday that it will not take place in 2019, citing a lack of funds for the decision.

The event was one of several which applied to Argyll and Bute Council for a share of the authority's 2019/20 'strategic events and festivals budget', but was unsuccessful.

The festival usually takes place each September and has been running since 2011, showcasing west coast talent, including musicians, artists, food and drink producers, and craftspeople.

A council spokesperson said: 'We are disappointed that BOWFest will not go ahead this year. We provide funding where possible for events.'

'However, it should be noted that our contribution to BOWFest has been low-level and on an ad-hoc basis, rather than as a key partner.'

'Given ongoing cuts to our budgets, expectations of councils have to be realistic and events have to be commercially sustainable.'

'We will continue to do everything possible to promote Argyll and Bute as a great place to live, work, visit and invest.'



Campbeltown's Archie McAllister played with Skipinnish at last year's festival.

06_a37BowFest17

The organisers of the festival applied for £11,000 from the council, but at a meeting last month, members of the authority's policy and resources committee approved officers' recommendation that the event should receive no council funds.

A note in the officers' report on the festival's application stated: 'Expenditure shown to exceed income even with the ask to the council included, and therefore not one in terms of best practice to support.'

Announcing the cancellation, the Duchess of Argyll said: 'The reality is that we receive no government support and Argyll and Bute Council has withdrawn its financial assistance whilst providing significant funding to other similar events.'

'Funding available from some local community sources has also been consistently denied despite the proven local interest and economic benefits.'

'It is a huge regret that we can no longer deliver a family festival beneficial to the community in this part of Argyll but to bring a freshness and a continuity to this, or any event, requires support both financial and in kind.'



Lori Silvan, AKA Funky Chicken, from Clachan, entertained youngsters at the 2018 event. 08_a37BowFest01

Thought for the Week
with Marilyn Shedden

I am a great fan of Call The Midwife and find the sensitivity and pathos that runs throughout the stories most poignant indeed.

The episode last Sunday, in my opinion, was one of the best.

It was an extremely tender story which told of an old woman living in a house of squalor, with no sanitation or order, little food and an untreated gaping wound on her leg.

To many, she would have seemed to have brought this on herself and may not have gained much sympathy or understanding.

However, through the concern and love of a young nurse who saw the image of God in everyone, this old woman was afforded a dignity she would have been denied by the authorities.

It transpired that this 'insignificant' old woman had been a suffragette - one who had undergone abuse, prison and hunger strike - all for the sake of her convictions and beliefs.

Midwife, set in the 1960s, tells a great story of the social issues of the period, a time when many of us were growing up.

It addresses the problems of racism, classism, poverty and deprivation, but it does so with sensitivity, compassion and hope.

These blessings are offered unconditionally by the sisters and midwives who care for all people regardless of colour, race or creed.

The final words in the epilogue were these: 'Courage can't move mountains, but it teaches us how to climb.'

On this Burns Day we may well reflect on the words of the bard, longing for the day when 'man to man the world o'er may brothers be for a' that' ... and sisters too, of course!

CONTACTUS

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

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**TEXT
FOR THE WEEK**

God says, 'You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God ...' (Exodus 20:7).

DEATHS

MACKINVEN - Peacefully, at Craig Ean Gojne, Nursing Home, Kilsyth, on January 17, 2019, Catherine Rankin McVicar, in her 88th year, formerly of Limecraigs, Campbeltown, dearly beloved wife of the late Ian MacKinven, much loved mum of Donald and William, and loving granny of Fraser, Euan and Stuart. Funeral service in the Highland Parish Church, Campbeltown, today Friday, January 25, 2019 at 1.00pm, thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. Family flowers only please.

MCGLYNN - Peacefully, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, on January 17, 2019, Catherine (Cathie) McGlynn, née Jackson, aged 86 years, of Ardfenaig Residential Home, Ardrishaig and formerly of 16 Brodie Crescent, Lochgilhead, beloved wife of the late Teddy, loving mother of Shona and David, and cherished granny of Tom, Karen, Fiona and Roddy. A dear auntie to all the family. A good neighbour and friend to many, and a much respected former

work colleague. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilhead Parish Church, on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at 12.00 noon, thereafter to Achabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations if desired, to Ardfenaig Comfort Fund and Dementia UK. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

ROSS - Peacefully at University Hospital Hairmyres, Glasgow on January 19, 2019, Robert Alexander Ross, retired fisherman, formerly of Penlea, Tarbert, in his 93rd year. Beloved husband of the late Margaret Wilson, dearly loved father of Bruce, dear father-in-law of Gail, and a loving and much loved grandfather of Olivia Margaret. Funeral Service at Tarbert Parish Church on Monday January 28, 2019 at 12 noon, interment thereafter at Carrick Cemetery, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Transport by bus will be available from the church to cemetery and return. Family flowers only, donations please to The Fisherman's Mission.

ROWAN - Suddenly at home on January 21, 2019, Morag Catherine McCallum, beloved wife of the late Jamie, loving and much loved mother of James, mother-in-law of Kelly and devoted granny of Chloe and Isla. Much loved sister and auntie. Funeral private.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DUNCAN - The family of the late Robert Duncan (Bobby) would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for all their cards, flowers and expressions of sympathy following the sad loss of Bobby. Special thanks to Carrgomm, the Acute Ward, Sharon and Fiona for their dedicated care and attention of Bobby over the last few years, and to Tommy for his regular visits. Grateful thanks to Rev William Crossan for his very fitting and comforting service, to Kenneth and Rhys Blair for their personal attention and professional services, and to the Ardshiel Hotel for their excellent tea. Finally, our thanks to everyone who paid their respects at the church and graveside, and to all who contributed to the retiral collection for Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland and the Acute Ward, Campbeltown Hospital.

KELLY - Richard and family would like to sincerely thank family, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy and support received after the sad passing of Helen. Our heartfelt thanks to the Rev William Crossan and Rev Barbara O'Donnell for their uplifting, comforting and fitting services in Campbeltown and Alexandria. Special thanks to Alasdair MacLeod and Cooperative funeral care, Alexandria for

personal attention and professional services, and also to the staff of the Ardshiel Hotel for catering, and to everyone who paid their respects in both Alexandria and Campbeltown at church and graveside. The retiral collection for Alzheimer's raised £705

IN MEMORIAMs

HARKNESS - In memory of Chris, a loving husband, dad and papa who died January 20, 2000.

- Ellen and family
MACKINLAY - In loving memory of Alexander MacKinlay, who passed away on January 25, 2016. Close in our hearts you will always stay, Loved and remembered every day.
- Mum, Jock, Peter and Aly.

MACKINLAY - In loving memory of Alexander MacKinlay Jnr, died January 25, 2016.

Memories last forever.
- Sadly missed by Mum, John, Jason, Kelly-Anne and family.
Gone but not forgotten.
- Daughter Courtney.

MACKINLAY - In loving memory of Alexander MacKinlay, who passed away on January 25, 2016. Memory drifts to scenes long past, Time rolls on but memories last.
- Heather, Iain and the boys.

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MACKINLAY - In loving memory of our dad, Alexander MacKinlay, who passed away on January 25, 2016. You're always in our thoughts and minds Forever in our hearts you'll stay.
Love your girls, Caitlyn and Chloe xxxxx.

MCINTYRE - Precious memories of Johnnie, who died January 26, 2018.

Loved with a love beyond all telling, Missed with a grief beyond all tears.
- Catherine and the family.

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CHURCH NOTICES

ST. KIERAN R.C.
ST JOHN ST,
CAMPBELTOWN
01586 552160
Rev Tony Wood
**Vigil Mass
Saturday 6pm**
(except 1st Saturday of the month)
**Sundays, Holy Mass
10.00am**
All welcome
(SCO02876)

Argyll Street, Campbeltown
St Kieran Episcopal Church:
Campbeltown
Scottish Charity No SC023277
Sunday 27th January
Presentation
Holy Communion 10:45am
Enquiries Tel: 01586 551141
The Scottish Episcopal Church is a Province of the Worldwide Anglican Communion

**CAMPBELTOWN
COMMUNITY CHURCH**
Sunday 27th January
11.00am Family Service
Speaker - Andrew Chalkley with Sunday School and refreshments after the service
The Ark
Baby & Toddler Group
Every Thursday 10.00 - 11.30 am
(Term time only)
South Kintyre Youth
Every Friday at 7.30 pm
Visit our Facebook page for upcoming events
We meet at the Kinloch Hall,
Kinloch Road
www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk
SCO43322

CHURCH NOTICES

**CHURCH OF
SCOTLAND
WEST
LOCHFYNESIDE**
Sunday 27th January 2019
Cumlodden and Lochgair
Charity No. SC016097
**Cumlodden Church -
10.00am**
Service will be taken by
Rev. Dr Roderick Campbell
Tea after the service
Glenaray and Inveraray
Charity No. SC016665
Inveraray Church - 11.30am
Service taken by
Rev. Dr Roderick Campbell
ALL WELCOME

**free church
of scotland**
George Street, Campbeltown
Sunday 27th January
11.15am Worship Service
Rev Ian Watson
11.15am Sunday School
Wednesday 30th January
12 noon Bible Study & Prayer
All Welcome
All Rodger Crooks' sermons can be found through our website:
www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

**LORNE AND
LOWLAND
PARISH CHURCH**
Scottish Charity Number
SCO11686
Sunday 27th January
Morning Worship 11.15am
Creche, Triple C, Gen 1
Congregational Meeting
Rev W Crossan
Tuesday 29th January
Tiny Tots 9.45am
New Hall
Anchor Boys 6.00pm
Junior Section 7.15pm
Church Hall
Thursday 31st January
Choir Practice
Friday 1st February
Lunch Club 12.00 noon

THE SALVATION ARMY
Campbeltown Corps
Church and Community Centre
Registered Charity No. 214779 and in Scotland SC009359
Burnside Street, Campbeltown
01586 552046
Sunday Services
10.30am Morning Worship
(Army Kidz)
6.30pm Evening Worship
Wednesday
12.15pm Lunch Club
1.30pm C.A.M.E.O.
7.00pm Make 'n' Munch
Craft Group
Major Ruth Russell
All welcome

**SPRINGBANK
EVANGELICAL
CHURCH**
75 Longrow, Campbeltown
Friday 25th January
SKY Youth Group 7.30pm
Sunday 27th January
Family Communion Service
11.00am
Pastor Steve Davies
Wednesday 30th January
Bible study
7.30pm at the manse
All welcome
Enquiries 01586 551200
www.springbankchurch.co.uk
SCO14646

**ARDRISHAIG AND
SOUTH
KNAPDALE
PARISHES**
(The Church of Scotland)
*"It is good to sing praises
to our God"*
Sunday 27th January
Services in
Ardrishaig at 11.00am
(including the Lord's Supper)
and
Achahoish at 12.30pm
All Welcome
For all church enquiries and
pastoral care contact
DCarruthers@churchofscotland.org.uk

**SCOTTISH
EPISCOPAL
CHURCHES**
**Christ Church
Bishopton Road,
Lochgilhead**
(SCO13787)
Sundays 11.00am
Eucharist & Coffee
**St Columba's,
Poltalloch(SC031391)**
1st Sunday of the month
9.00am Holy
Communion
3rd Sunday of the month
3.30pm Evensong
All Welcome
Father Simon
Mackenzie
01546 602315

**ST MARGARET'S
R.C. CHURCH
LOCHGILPHEAD**
Holy Mass Sunday 10am
All Saints, Inveraray
Holy Mass Sunday 12.30pm
Fr. David Connor
01546 602380
All Welcome (SCO02876)

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
GLASSARY
KILMARTIN and
FORD PARISH
CHURCH**
Kilmartin
Sunday 27th January 2019
11.30am
Mr Douglas McHugh
All welcome
(SCO 02121)

**NORTH KNAPDALE
PARISH CHURCH**
Charity Number SC001002
Sunday 27th January 2019
10am Tayvallich Church
Saturday 26 January 2019
Achnamara Hall
Cafe Connect
10.30am - 12.30pm
All welcome
www.northknapdale.org

**SKIPNESS LINKED
WITH TARBERT
LOCHFYN AND
KILBERRY**
Church of Scotland
Sunday 27 January 2019
Skipness service 10am
Dr John L Morrison OBE
Tarbert service 11.30am
Mrs Margaret Sinclair
Kilberry service 2pm
Mrs Margaret Sinclair
For all church enquiries and
pastoral care: Contact
DCarruthers@churchofscotland.org.uk
Everyone very welcome
Tarbert & Kilberry SCO02622
Skipness SCO04280

**Highland Parish
Church**
SCO02493
Sunday 27th January 2019
The service will be conducted
by Rev Anne McIvor
and will be held in the church
at 11.15am
All welcome.

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Late goal denials 'Dale win

Carradale	2
Bothwell	2
GGPAFL Division Two	

A goal seconds before the whistle blew denied Carradale three points after their clash with Bothwell at Meadows last Saturday.

Rain the night before made the pitch soft and conditions proved detrimental to Carradale, with the visitors' side scoring in the third minute.

A long ball from the Bothwell side, which Carradale keeper Robert Todd came out to meet, stuck in the heavy ground leaving him exposed.

The Bothwell striker took advantage of the unguarded goal to kick the ball into the net from 30 yards out.

This did not dishearten Carradale, as they got straight on the attack and equalised in the 14th minute.

A through-ball from David Johnstone was met by 15-year-old mid-fielder Matthew Lang, who slid the ball calmly past the advancing keeper to draw the game level.

Carradale had a few more chances in the first half, despite some regular players being unavailable and injured.

Conditions were challenging for both teams but Carradale played the offside trap and caught the Bothwell striker on numerous occasions.

There was some great playing especially from Todd, deputising

for Archie McKellar in goal, whose experience helped with the defence and proved vital.

Also on form was right-back Daniel Campbell, who returned to the game after a break, while Johnny McCormick and Johnstone worked hard in the midfield.

Both teams' defences were on top and Elliot Gemmill proved to be a thorn in Bothwell's side but there were no more goals in the first half.

Into the second half, the McFadyens Transport-sponsored Carradale side was kicking up the slope and the park got more cut-up as the match progressed.

Similar scenario

The East Kintyre side took the lead in the 64th minute in a similar scenario to the first goal, when a through-ball from Johnstone gave Lang another chance at goal.

This time, the keeper came out and blocked the shot at the edge of the box.

The ball rebounded and Lang passed it into the empty net to the delight of the home side after being one-goal down early on in the match.

With 25 minutes to go, Carradale's centre-half Michael McKinlay went off with a back injury, and MacPhee, who produced some outstanding play in the centre mid-field, replaced him at the back.

Young Millar Irwin was brought on and moved up to the front alongside Gemmill.



Matthew Lang, pictured last year, scored both of Carradale's goals. 25_c50carradale03

the visitors piled the pressure on 'Dale looking for an equaliser, but the home defence, especially Craig Galbraith who cleared any danger, was outstanding and hard to beat.

With 11 minutes left, from a Bothwell corner on the left, the ball swung in and looked sure to be a goal but Lang cleared the ball off

the line, striking the home side's crossbar, and going away to safety.

Bothwell gained another corner and with MacPhee off injured, Carradale had no more substitutes.

The ball swung in from the left at close range. It looked as though Kenny Kerr had cleared the ball from the goal line but the referee awarded

a goal. It was a disappointing end for the home side, but a deserved point for Bothwell who faced some strong pressure throughout the match.

Man of the match was Craig Galbraith and the match ball was sponsored by Gerry Nugent.

Next week, Carradale are away to Glasgow University.

Last-minute goals knock Pupils Youth 2005s out



Scott Graham in action with Lorne Paterson behind.
Photographs by Helen Phillips.

Pupils Youths 2005s	3
Kirkshaws Colts 2005s	6
West Regional Cup	

Despite being 3-1 up with 20 minutes left on the clock, Campbeltown Pupils Youth 2005s were knocked out of the West Regional Cup by Kirkshaws Colts.

The Coatbridge-based team travelled to Campbeltown with just 10 players to play in the third round of

the cup on Sunday. The Pupils were leading 1-0 at half-time and were 3-1 up with 20 minutes to go, thanks to two goals from Calum Ellis and one from Ryan Shields.

Despite this, Kirkshaws never gave up and stormed to a fantastic finish, scoring five goals at the last gasp.

2005s coach David Paterson said: 'It was disappointing for the Pupils but that shouldn't detract from the superb performance by Kirkshaws who now march on to play Drumchapel in the next round.'



Calum Ellis giving the Pupils 2005s a lead in the first half.

Argyll Bowling Club charity triples

Carpet bowlers boosted dance group Footnotes' funds by £165 at a marathon competition.

The recent event saw eight teams on the carpets in two groups of four. Play started at 11am, with the final at about 4.30pm.

The winners by 10 bowls to seven were Billy Bruce, lead; Davie Reid, second and Gavin A McLachlan, skip.

Commiserations to the runners-up: Moira MacDougall, lead; Kathleen McGougan, second and Dougal McKendrick, skip.

The club said a big thank you to all participating teams who made it an enjoyable day, members in the kitchen, raffle prizes donated and the bar staff.

Darts results

There were plenty of 180s in the latest results from Campbeltown District Darts Association.

Johnny MacIntosh scored 180 for the Ailsa A, Martin Coffield scored 180 for the Burnside, Billy McLean scored 180 for Fiddlers, and Alan Glen scored 180 for Kilbrannan A, while Kenny Docherty had a finish of 113 for the Burnside.

Results: Ailsa B 2 Fiddlers 6; Kinloch B 1 Kilbrannan A 7; Kilbrannan C 2 Kinloch A 6; Burnside 7 Ailsa A 1.



Pupils players in action in Dunoon.

Pupils Youth 2007s gain valuable game time

The Campbeltown Pupils Youth 2007s gained some valuable game time against a more experienced Dunoon side last Sunday.

The youngsters travelled to play Dunoon 2007s in the Dunoon Youth Football League, and despite losing the match, they played some impressive football.

Campbeltown and District Juvenile Football Association chairman and 2007s coach Rhys

Blair said: 'They played extremely well against Dunoon 2007s, who have just played a full season at nine-a-sides in the Dunbartonshire Football Development League.

'It was great to see all the Campbeltown children getting to play a team that has done so well.

'The game was a great challenge for them but it's all game time for the players who should be proud of their efforts.'



Left to right: Charles Robertson, CDDA chairman Donald Stewart, Gavin McLachlan and Carol Green of the Fiddlers.

Burnside pair takes Taylor title

The Burnside's Charles Robertson and Gavin McLachlan were on point in Campbeltown District Darts Association's (CDDA) Jimmy Taylor memorial doubles.

The pair beat Alan Glen and Richard Tavendale from Kilbrannan A in the Fiddlers bar final on Monday January 14. A spokesperson said: 'Thanks to Carol and Jim Green, proprietors of the Fiddlers, for donating the bottle prizes and to Abigail MacSporran for the photos.'

Scottish Amateur Football League - results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: West of Scotland Cup, fourth round – Oban Saints 3, Thorn Athletic 1; Premier Division – Barrhead Arky 5, Dunoon 2; Premier Division One – Hillington 4, Campbeltown Pupils 4; Port Glasgow 3, Lochgilhead Red Star 1; Premier Division Two – Villa Park v Tarbert, postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures: Jimmy Marshall Cup, first round – Lochgilhead Red Star v Oban Saints, Lochgilhead Joint Campus, kick-off 2pm; Premier Division – Dunoon v Motherwell Thistle; Premier Division One – Campbeltown Pupils v Ferguslie Star; Premier Division Two – Tarbert v Glynhill Moorcroft.

SPOT THE BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £550

We have removed the football from the photograph below. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 10 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £250 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

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. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. 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 is 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. Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes.

Winners names and hometowns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/destroyed within 30 days of the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.



Please remember to enclose £1 for 10 crosses. 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

Name

Address

Tel No.

Please tape your £1 coin here (only if posting)

LAST WEEK'S BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
M Thomson Glasgow
A Robertson Campbeltown



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Pupils Youth 2007s gain
valuable game time

Young Pupils players are comeback kings

Hillington	4
Campbeltown Pupils	4
SAFL Premier Division One	

An amazing comeback in the last 30 minutes saw the McFadyen-sponsored Pupils come from three goals down to level the match against Hillington with only seconds remaining.

Last Saturday's away performance was a perfect example of how the club wants to approach every match that appears to be already 'done and dusted'.

A never-say-die attitude was very much in evidence as the away team produced a monumental recovery, a game in which the home side must be shaking their heads in disbelief as the victory horse reared up and bolted with almost the last kick of the match.

With six teenagers in the Pupils squad, every week

promises to be a steep learning curve for players fresh from youth football.

Results like this will help to breed confidence and assist in the long haul towards a graduation in adult game.

Not that this was in anyone's mind as the home club raced into a two-goal lead and, like the week before, very much against the run of play.

The visitors pressed the ball extremely well in the first quarter, but fell behind to a clever goal when the ball was cutback from a corner kick and a sweet strike entered the net via the fingertips of the Pupils keeper.

Number two arrived after a great piece of play by the home side, the move finishing with a fine strike from the edge of the box into the post-age stamp corner of the net.

More bad news followed when Gary Grumoli had to be replaced through injury, but

the incoming Kyle Colville made his mark almost immediately.

He got on the end of Martin McCallum's delivery to power the ball home with his head.

The home side held a narrow 2-1 advantage at half time, but on the restart were seen to force the play and had the visitors defending in depth to keep in touch.

Hillington were rewarded with two goals in quick succession, the first a scrabbled effort from close range, but the second was a decisive strike drilled home beyond the despairing Alasdair Ferguson.

The score line was unfair considering the run of play, but the Pupils mounted what would prove an unbelievable comeback.

Colville flicked the ball on with his head and Donald McCallum completed the move by rounding the goalkeeper to slot the ball home.

Minutes later, McCallum scored a tremendous goal to give the visitors hope.

Moving onto a smart Stuart Crossan pass, he dropped his shoulder before sending an unstoppable shot from all of 30 yards into the roof of the net.

With a minute remaining, the comeback was complete, this time another Martin McCallum delivery caused consternation in the home defence and Liam Renton



Liam Renton, photographed celebrating with Gary Grumoli last year, scored possibly his best goal ever. 50_c37pupils13

scored what must prove his best ever goal.

Dropping behind the Pupils' midfield stalwart, Liam sent a powerful overhead kick high into the roof of the net for the equaliser.

Best for the visitors on a memorable day was Ryan Deans, a powerful display of grit and determination.

There were no weaknesses,

and the management want to recognise the efforts of teenagers, Alasdair Ferguson, Bailly Freeman, Fraser MacBrayne, Ross Brown, Kyle Colville and Finn Scott.

And not forgetting the goal-scoring feats of Donald McCallum and Liam Renton, but with special mention for Kyle Colville's first ever goal for the club.

It is hard not to mention everyone in this special effort, but it is good to see Lee Allan and Stuart Crossan making their return to the colours.



Donald McCallum, pictured in action last year, scored for the Pupils on Saturday. 25_05pupils03





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