

## Spring Property REVIEW 2019



# Record-breaking music festival fantastic at forty

by Colin Cameron  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Generations of people have cut their musical teeth at Mid Argyll Music Festival and this year's event got under way, appropriately, with performances from some budding musicians.

The 40th anniversary Mid Argyll Music Festival is the biggest yet, with more than 550 performers of all ages taking part from as far away as Islay, Oban, Campbeltown and Glasgow.

The festival opened on Monday March 18 in Ardrishaig Public Hall with poetry performed with gusto by primary school pupils, before the focus turned to choral competitions, duets and solo singing.

Later in the week, the competitive action will feature musical instruments at solo, ensemble and band events.

All eyes will be on the prestigious Co-operative Premier Award, presented at the end of the festival to the most promising performer chosen

by the adjudicators from all the performances throughout the week.

But it is not all about the white heat of competition.

The non-competitive children's classes are guaranteed to encourage fun in a more relaxed environment, while a festival highlight each year is the Songs from the Shows extravaganza on Wednesday night.

The judging panel includes vocal coach Ann Lampard, musician Christina Thomson, Mod music adjudicators Stewart Fyffe and Raibeart McCallum, piping adjudicator Ian Hurst and verse speaking adjudicator Anne Curnyn.

Mid Argyll Music Festival chairman Martin Gorringe said: "The festival continues to flourish despite cuts to funding. The number of competitors has risen significantly this year, so particular thanks to parents and teachers who devote their time encouraging the next generation of budding musicians."

As part of the festival's 40th anniversary celebrations



Third and second prizewinners Jessica McNab and Martha Moir with Millie Fyfe, centre, winner of Monday's P4/5 Scots verse speaking competition. 06\_a12MusicFest\_Monday13

there is to be a special concert in June, where talented past performers will return to Ardrishaig Public Hall to entertain.

This year's festival continues

until Saturday March 23, on which day the venue will be Lochgilphead Joint Campus. Competitions start at 9.30am and continue throughout the day, culminating in the

evening band competitions and the presentation of the festival's major awards.

All performances are open daily to the public for a modest entry fee.

Turn to pages 10, 11 and 12 for photographs from the first three days of festival events.

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## POLICE FILES

## Careless driving

Police stopped a white Ford Transit van at 10am on Monday March 11 after it was spotted being driven in a careless manner while overtaking other vehicles on the A83 near Port Ann, Lochgilphead.

The male driver, aged 61, was charged and issued with a £100 fixed penalty ticket with three penalty points.

## Bike stolen

A white Ghost ladies mountain bike was stolen from a garden shed which was broken into at the back of flats in Baddens Park, Lochgilphead, sometime between noon on Sunday February 24 and noon on Sunday March 3.

Police are investigating and appeal for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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# Five nights of overnight A83 closures



Roadworks will continue over the next week on the A83.

a46RestLights02

Work next week to resurface a kilometre-long stretch of the A83 at Stonefield has been extended from four to five days' duration, BEAR Scotland has announced.

Starting on Sunday March 24, the trunk road management firm plans to carry out the work overnight between 7pm and 7am for five nights.

The A83 will be closed during these times, but traffic will be allowed through at 8pm, 9pm, 10pm, midnight, 2am and 4am, with an additional amnesty at 6am to accommodate any ferry traffic.

Motorists are encouraged to arrive prior to these times to ensure they are let through. Local access and access for emergency services will be maintained at all times.

## Convoy

On Monday April 1, another stretch of the A83 is due to be resurfaced near Inveraray. BEAR Scotland will carry out the work at Shira to Inveraray Bridge during the day between 7am and 7pm.

The road will remain open, with a 10mph convoy system in place.

This project was originally scheduled for Friday March 29 but was pushed back a day because of the extension of the Stonefield project.

The projects at Stonefield and Inveraray represent the final two sections of a late winter resurfacing programme on the A83.

A spokesperson for BEAR Scotland said: 'We thank all road users and the local community for their patience while we complete these repairs.'

## Discarded tin can almost kills curious Campbeltown cat

Scotland's animal welfare charity came to the aid of a cat in Campbeltown which had its head trapped in a discarded tin can.

The Scottish SPCA received a call from a concerned member of public on March 15 after spotting the cat with a tin can stuck on its head hiding behind a shed in the town.

Scottish SPCA inspector Enid McMurchy said: 'We can't say how long the poor cat had the can stuck on his head but we're glad someone spotted him.'

'Thankfully we were able to remove the tin quite easily and the wee guy

had no injuries. The vast majority of people are very responsible and take care to properly dispose of their rubbish. However, we want to remind everyone to be vigilant when placing their rubbish in the bin. You can even go as far as squashing tin cans so on the chance they do escape a bin, wildlife are that bit safer.'

'Animals aren't always as lucky as this little cat and rubbish can kill pets and wildlife.'

Anyone concerned about the welfare of an animal should contact the Scottish SPCA animal helpline on 03000 999 999.



The helpless cat before its lucky escape, thanks to the SSPCA and a vigilant member of the public.

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## Flags flown at half-mast after New Zealand gun tragedy

Flags were flown at half-mast all over Argyll and Bute as a mark of respect following the recent mass shooting in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Argyll and Bute Council lowered its flags as news broke of the killing of 50 people at two mosques during Friday prayers in the

city on New Zealand's South Island on March 15.

In common with the Scottish Government and many other public organisations, Argyll and Bute Council decided to show solidarity with all those affected and the flags were lowered on Friday.



The saltire on Lochgilphead's front green at half-mast. a12\_NZ\_Halfmast01

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## Views wanted as Kilmory sports centre vision revealed

A public meeting is to be held to discuss the potential for a new sports hub on Lochgilphead's outskirts.

In conjunction with Lochgilphead Community Council and a number of Mid Argyll sports clubs, an approach is to be made to Argyll and Bute Council to acquire 30 acres of farmland at Kilmory Home Farm.

The group behind the project claims the land in question has been identified as suitable for sports facilities. The plans will also incorporate community woodlands.

A meeting, open to the public, will be held on Monday March 25 at 7.30pm in Lochgilphead Community Centre. Anyone who wants to find out more about what is planned, which could include a rugby pitch, an athletics track and a target range, is welcome.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for the group to hear from people who are keen to use the new community facilities or from people who may be affected by the development in other ways.

Brian MacLennan of Lochgilphead Community Council said: 'This community venture will tie in with the other proposals for the regeneration of Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig, bringing new opportunities in sports and recreation for residents and visitors to Mid Argyll.'

# Looking out for each other in rural Argyll

by Colin Cameron  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

A scheme to help fight rural crime is paying dividends in Cowal – and could soon be replicated in Mid Argyll.

Village police stations are being closed as centralisation continues apace. Recognising the danger of losing touch with rural communities, officers in Cowal decided to promote the Rural Watch scheme.

Dunoon-based police officers attended Cairndow Community Council on March 13 to explain Rural Watch and outline the benefits. Acting Sergeant Donald McKay is Rural Watch co-ordinator for Argyll and West Dunbartonshire and he told the community council: 'Rural Watch is an online platform. Its success is down to getting as many people involved as possible and widespread coverage.'

'The police can then keep in touch with members with messages and targeted alerts.'

He cited two recent examples where Rural Watch had paid dividends. The first involved a metal theft from a property near Dunoon.

Sergeant McKay explained: 'The message went out to Rural Watch members within 15 minutes, giving plenty

of time to get eyes and ears deployed.'

The suspects were apprehended by police before they had the chance to leave the Cowal peninsula.

On another occasion, a fly tipper who dumped rubbish in a remote glen was caught, based on information obtained through Rural Watch.

The scheme was set up in 2013 as an extension of the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland movement. Its purpose is to reduce crime and the fear of crime by providing the right information, to the right people, at the right time while encouraging people to think about safety and security for themselves and their neighbours and to work in partnership to develop more resilient communities.

By joining members can receive alerts and advice by phone, text or email.

Rural Watch is already active in Mid Argyll, but police officers are keen to expand its membership. Mid Argyll has a number of police officers dealing with Rural Watch, one of whom is PC Ben Rusden, who said: 'There is further work to be done and any help and support would be appreciated.'

To join Rural Watch visit [www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk) and sign in from there.



From left: Cowal and Bute Area Commander Douglas Wilson with Cairndow Community Council convenor Debbie Donald and Sergeant Donald McKay. a12\_CairndowCC\_RuralWatch01

## Wind farm fund deadline looms

Time is running out for community groups to apply for the latest round of Ventiont A'Chruach community wind farm fund payouts.

The deadline for applications is Friday March 29.

The wind farm lies within Kilmichael Forest and eligible groups must be able to demonstrate how the project will benefit the communities of Dunadd, West Loch Fyne or Lochgilphead. The fund was established to support community-led activity that is strategic, positive, creative and improves the futures of these three communities.

Potential applicants are encouraged to call

Foundation Scotland on 0131 524 0300 if they have questions. Foundation Scotland works with communities and developers, administering approximately £4 million in community benefit payments annually, mainly linked to commercially-owned and operated on-shore wind farms.

The foundation works with more than 200 communities and a wide range of developers, supporting the set-up and operation of more than 50 community funds across Scotland.

For more information on the A'Chruach fund, visit [www.foundationscotland.org.uk/achruach](http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/achruach) or email [communitybenefit@foundationscotland.org.uk](mailto:communitybenefit@foundationscotland.org.uk)



Kilmichael Forest wind farm's community fund deadline approaches.

Photograph: courtesy of Ventiont Energy.

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# Family tree research leads MSP Jenny to Auchindrain



by Laura Maxwell  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Researching her family tree led a Scottish politician from Fife to Auchindrain in Argyll on Friday March 15.

MSP Jenny Gilruth was in the area to visit the home of her great-great grandfather.

The SNP MSP from Fife traced her father's ancestors back to Edward McCallum, whose home is still intact and on display in Auchindrain Museum, and she was offered a tour of the museum to learn more.

Spurred on by a suggestion from Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell, Jenny stopped by with partner Kezia Dugdale to learn more about her great-great-grandfather's life in Argyll.

'My mum had taken an interest in the family line, even though this is not my mum's line,' said Jenny. 'My granny on my dad's side was born on Arran and her dad's from Islay and her mum is from Lochgilphead.'

'I've traced more than 200 members of my family going as far back as 1740. It was marginally obsessive for a while.'

#### Remarried

Jenny Gilruth's great-great grandfather Archibald McCallum was born in Cairndow in 1823 and moved into Edwards House in Auchindrain township in 1829. When his mother died, his father Edward remarried while he was a young boy.

With his father too young to give up the farm, Archibald moved to Lochgilphead and

started a drapers shop with his brother on Lorne Street. In the late 1890s Archibald became the provost of Lochgilphead and died in his 80s in Lorne Street.

'I was quite interested in the politics side of it, because I didn't think anyone in my family had any politics, but we were saying it was less of a political position and more of a civic duty.'

'He would have been respected, or feared. I've got a book about the McCallums that talks about him being feared which I thought was hilarious.'

#### Interesting

'It's really interesting because the further back you go, especially in Scotland, a lot of things were recorded in Gaelic, or they just weren't recorded or it says 'Eideard' rather than 'Edward', 'MacCallum' or 'McCallum', then it chops and changes and it's difficult to follow the person through the census,' Jenny added.

It seems Jenny was pointed to Edward's home in Auchindrain after some small talk with MSP Michael Russell.

Jenny said: 'When speaking to Mike in the chamber one day, I randomly mentioned, "I'm doing my family tree and it turns out that my great-great-grandfather was from somewhere in your neck of the woods". So it was an off chance mention or I would have never have found out about it.'

Jenny has said she would like to return in the summer to hear more stories about her great-great-grandfather.

MSP Michael Russell and Auchindrain Trust Convenor Alison Hay offer a certificate of friendship to Jenny Gilruth from Auchindrain Museum.

51\_a12Auchindrain07

'It's really interesting because the further back you go, especially in Scotland, a lot of things were recorded in Gaelic.'

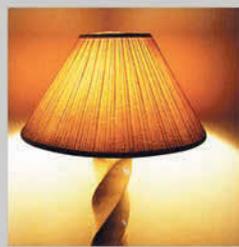
Jenny enjoyed the hospitality of Auchindrain.

51\_a12Auchindrain15



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# Community groups to benefit from Strategic Housing Fund

Community groups wanting to build affordable homes in Argyll and Bute can benefit from the council's Strategic Housing Fund.

At a recent meeting of Argyll and Bute Council, members agreed to extend the funding criteria to

include community groups and registered social landlords, providing they secure a Rural Housing Fund and/or Islands Housing Fund grant from the Scottish Government.

Those who qualify will be awarded £12,000 per affordable house deliv-

ered, for new build properties which meet the criteria.

The council's policy lead for housing Councillor Robin Currie said: 'We have projected delivery of more than 790 affordable homes between now and 2021.

'This is on top of the 336 affordable homes that have already been delivered in the current Argyll and Bute Local Housing Strategy for 2016 to 2021. This makes a potential total of more than 1,100 affordable homes - far exceeding the target of 550 we

set back in 2016. The extension of this fund is a great opportunity for community groups across Argyll and Bute to help meet the needs of their local area and build affordable housing in remote and rural communities.'

## Lights out for Earth Hour

Earth Hour, the world's largest annual event to protect the planet, is being backed by Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara.

Joining more than 100 MPs in the House of Commons this week, Mr O'Hara made a pledge to the environment, ahead of the global lights out event on Saturday March 30 at 8.30pm.

Brendan O'Hara said: 'We must do more to protect our environment. We cannot sit back and watch the

destruction of nature. Earth Hour gives a voice to people everywhere who want to raise awareness of some of the biggest environmental challenges that we as a planet are facing.

'Small changes in everyday life will help to protect our environment and I hope by adding my voice to this campaign, I can encourage my constituents in Argyll and Bute to do the same.'

Every year in the UK, millions of people take part in

Earth Hour, joining hundreds of millions more around the globe. Earth Hour has helped to find solutions for global environmental challenges.

The global lights out event involves switching off lights from 8.30pm to 9.30pm as a visual display of commitment to the planet.

Photograph: Eilidh Cameron.



## Argyll welcomes record numbers to birdwatching conference

Argyll Bird Club members attended The Scottish Birdwatchers Conference, which is held in a different location each spring.

It recently returned to Oban after an absence of seven years.

Organised by the British Trust for Ornithology and the Scottish Ornithologists' Club, with help from Argyll Bird Club, this popular event recently attracted 240 delegates from Argyll and throughout Scotland to the Corran Halls.

This was the largest attendance at this event to date and clearly demonstrated the attraction of Argyll for birdwatchers.

Talks started with a presentation by Professor Jane Reid of Aberdeen University entitled It's tough for Chough, which described the difficulties caused by a change in food supplies and a limited genetic base that Argyll's USP bird is facing. Difficult conservation decisions are now being considered for this species which is now only found



Choughs. Photograph: Andy Hay.

in Scotland on Islay and Colonsay. Professor Reid's talk was followed by a fascinating presentation by Lila Buckingham of the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, which described how modern technology was being used to track guillemots and razorbill in winter.

Birds from Canna, the northern isles and the east coast of Scotland largely spend their time in the North Sea and around the northern isles. Results for Argyll's auks are awaited.

Bridget England from RSPB Scotland gave an update on another Inner Hebridean speciality, the corncrake, the population of which is now declining, following a significant recovery. She described the key factors in land management which are required to sustain this short-lived species which winters in Africa.

The morning session fin-

ished with a tribute to Paul Howarth, lately of Mull, by fellow researcher Alan Fielding, who described Paul's lifetime of raptor research.

Paul made major contributions to the golden eagle and hen harrier species which have helped further their conservation. He was also a leading light in the early rewilding project at Tireraganon on the Ross of Mull.

Proceeds from the raffle, which included gifts from Whitetail, Oban Distilleries and CalMac ferries, was donated to the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust as its observatory was recently destroyed by fire.

The following day delegates enjoyed field trips to North Connel, Loch Laich, Lismore, Kerrera, Seil, Luing and Mull.

More information about Argyll Bird Club is available at [argyllbirdclub.org](http://argyllbirdclub.org)



Black guillemot in breeding plumage.

Photograph: Dennis Morrison.

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## Music magic

In these times of austerity and uncertainty, Mid Argyll Music Festival is something to be treasured. It is run by volunteers who do an excellent job every year and the benefit to our young people is inestimable.

One of the stalwarts of the festival mentioned during the week that they are now seeing children coming through of those who performed 20 years ago, and that sense of tradition and continuity is worth something in a rapidly-changing world.

The news that performer numbers are up this year is welcome and we wish the festival success for the rest of this week and for years to come.

## Genealogy

Auchindrain was delighted to welcome an MSP from Fife to the museum to find out more about her ancestors.

Jenny Gilruth recognised the value of this unique place and whether or not we have an ancestral connection with Auchindrain, it really is well worth a visit.

## Look out

We would recommend the Rural Watch scheme to anyone in Mid Argyll. Police resources are stretched, so it seems to make perfect sense to band together to fight crime in our remote rural part of the world.

## 90th birthday thanks

Sir,  
This is a short note of thanks to all who made my 90th birthday party at Chalmers Court such a success.

I did not help a great deal by having a bad fall near the bus stop on my way for the morning papers and am lucky not to have broken bones. A bruised and battered face caused alarm on first viewing which gave way to quite a lot of laughter and ribald comment.

But what a delightful party, laid on by our warden Sheena Stewart and ladies who saw we all had tea, coffee and home baking, including shortbread and scones (butter and jam – yummy) and presents of wine and malt whisky. What a lovely morning.

To all who sent cards for my 90th, including the community council, the Wednesday Club, the Inveraray Highland Games (of which I'm a former convener and strong supporter), my warmest thanks. And many thanks to those who helped me up after my fall and in particular Stuart Campbell of Brambles who took me to the surgery, where very kind people cleaned me up and sent me on my way to my party half an hour later.

And a mention too Take the Floor on Radio Scotland on Saturday night. Thank you Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club and Margaret Mather our secretary for this request.

So I won't forget my 90th in a hurry, but such kindness and friendliness cannot be forgotten ever.

My thanks to you all.  
Niall Iain MacLean, Inveraray

## McCrone report

Sir,  
I read with great interest the letter in the March 8 edition of the Argyllshire Advertiser from C Rees, Lochgilphead.

In addition to all that was mentioned I wonder if your readers are acquainted with the McCrone Report which was written in the 1970s?

As I'm sure your readers are aware this was when oil had just started flowing from the North Sea. Mr Gavin McCrone was, at that time, a civil servant instructed to write a report on the possible effects of North Sea Oil on the argument for Scotland's devolution.

This quote comes from a letter written, by Mr McCrone, in April 1975: 'The paper was written over a year ago in the weeks immediately before the February 1974 election. This will be particularly apparent on page five where, of course, the Ministerial pronouncements referred to relate to the Conservative Government.'

So he was instructed to write this report by a Conservative Government but was reporting to a Labour Government.

This quote comes from the end of the letter: 'When my paper was written it was classified 'secret' and given only a most restricted circulation in the Scottish Office because of the extreme sensitivity of the subject.'

The report discussed the possibility of Scottish Independence and came to the conclusion: 'What is quite clear is that the balance of payments gain from North Sea oil would easily swamp the existing deficit whatever its size and transform Scotland into a country with a substantial and chronic surplus.'

Now, this is a very tiny segment from a document that could have changed our history but that's in the past and we must now look to the future.

What is upsetting is that if this wealth had been invested in an oil fund or more fairly distributed by the British Government – either Conservative or Labour – there might not, now, be an upsurge in support for separation from Westminster.

Wilma Watts, Tarbert

## Brexit

Sir,  
With Theresa May's Brexit deal yet again failing to get through the House of Commons and a possible delay to the date the UK is due to leave the EU, it is clear that we are simply lurching from crisis to crisis.

One wonders what good an extension will actually do given the negotiating position of both the EU and the UK. The UK is deadlocked, in terms of its people, Parliament and Cabinet and the likelihood of any semblance of a deal that commands the majority of the House of Commons is unlikely. This is especially true given the deep divisions within the Tories, both remainers and leavers, as well as opposition from the DUP.

Given this situation those like myself have long argued that a UK-wide referendum on the deal, a so-called 'People's Vote', with the option to remain in the EU, is the only credible way to break this deadlock.

As David Davis, the former Brexit Secretary and an ardent leaver, pointed out before the EU referendum: 'If a democracy cannot change its mind, it ceases to be a democracy.'

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There are few I know who voted for Brexit in the belief it would make them poorer, and it is up to the public to give its view on whether the deal, and more importantly its implications, are what it wants. For once I agree with Jacob Rees-Mogg who previously supported a vote on the renegotiated settlement. A statement he now curiously seems to have forgotten.

The Scottish Parliament has led the way in backing a People's Vote and now that we know the precise nature of the deal, it is up to the public to have its say.

Alex Orr, Edinburgh

## Rock fall prevention

Sir,  
I recently had the opportunity to check in on the terrific work being done in Port Askaig to prevent further rock falls.

Following the significant failure that occurred on January 21 2018, CAN and Fairhurst were commissioned by Argyll and Bute Council to inspect the rock slope and to recommend to our council remedial measures that could be taken to mitigate the risk of further instability.

The rock slope inspection findings stated that 'the individual geological units and structures present on site have specific engineering implications' and a report was produced which presented a series of options which could be considered to mitigate or reduce the risk of any additional rockfall events that may occur.

This work will hopefully prevent further disruptions to one of Islay's vital ports.

Councillor Alastair Redman  
Kintyre and the Islands

## YOUR PICTURES



This beautiful sunset across Loch Etive at Connel was taken with mobile phone by Fiona McCuish from Ardrihaig. Send your photographs for publication to [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)

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Ali McCrossan of the Scottish Health Council addresses the Inveraray conference.



Delegates were encouraged to try Tai Chi.

# Celebrating the role of Argyll's carers

Caring for others is part and parcel of human society, but the role of today's carers has been brought into focus as pressure grows on health and social care finances.

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) has launched a new carers' strategy, aimed at helping those looking after others and supporting the mental and physical health of adult and young carers.

The strategy was unveiled at the Argyll and Bute Carers Conference on March 15 at the Inveraray Inn.

Representatives from the HSCP were joined at the conference by others from carers' centres and organisations working together to improve the daily lives of young and adult carers.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell opened the conference, which included presentations from guest

speakers Heather Grier, patient/carer representative on the Argyll and Bute Integration Joint Board which oversees the work of the HSCP, Alison McCrossan, Scottish Health Council, and Gillian Davies, HSCP mental health consultant nurse.

The overall aim of the event was to celebrate the role of carers and focus on carers' well-being while raising awareness of their unpaid work, the challenges they face and the contribution they make to health and social care.

Throughout the day carers were given the chance to participate in Tai Chi gentle exercise and soul singing.

Linda Currie, HSCP lead for Allied Health Professionals, said: 'The HSCP is really pleased to be launching the carers' strategy and is proud of the multi-agency approach taken in producing this.



Speaker Heather Grier represents carers on the Integration Joint Board.

Below: Michael Russell MSP opened the conference.



'This is a new era for carers across Scotland with support for them in their caring role now a statutory requirement.

'In the next few years, we expect demand and services to build up for adult and young carers.

'Our partnership recognises the hugely valuable role our carers play in caring for their loved ones, family and friends.'

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# Are the world's falling fertility rates a boon or a disaster?

Between 1950 and 2017 the global population rose from 2.6 to 7.6 billion while total fertility rates (average live births per woman of childbearing age) fell from 4.7 to 2.4. These dramatic figures, which recently hit the headlines, were reported in the medical journal *The Lancet*\*. The report collates information from 195 countries over the 67-year timespan. Its 57 pages are packed with statistics vital for governments to plan future strategies for everything from housing and education to public health, care of the elderly and food supplies. But clearly the results of this massive study have wider global implications.

The overall rise in population despite falling fertility rates highlighted in the report is accounted for by large differences in the figures within

## Science matters

DOROTHY H CRAWFORD



and between countries. This contrast is particularly noticeable between Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa. In Europe fertility rates are low (for example 1.5 for Scotland and 1.7 for the UK) and populations show a decline from 2010 onwards, although in western Europe this was mitigated by increased longevity and an influx of migrants.

Meanwhile in sub-Saharan Africa the opposite is true; the highest fertility rates reached 7.1 (for Niger in 2017) and population growth rates exceeded 2 per cent (3.8 per cent for Niger).

The negative effect of a declining population, with its

inevitable imbalance between those of working age and the elderly, is of great concern to economists. Nevertheless, there are others who see declining populations and global fertility rates as extremely good news.

Most environmentalists regard the unprecedented global success of the human race as the main cause of many modern ills – the energy crisis; food shortages; lack of clean water; air, sea and land pollution; plant and animal extinctions (currently 200 species become extinct every day), and, of course, anthropogenic global warming. So, from a long-term perspective,



Photograph: Lindsay Shannon Photography.

the message from this report – declining global fertility

rates – is a rare encouraging sign; it may just save life on

this planet. \**Lancet* 392, p1995. 2018.

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Monday's adjudicator Ann Curnyn with clerk Alison McGinty. 06\_a12MusicFest\_Monday15

# Halls are alive with the sound of music

More than 550 performers of all ages have been taking part in the 40th annual Mid Argyll Music Festival, which runs until Saturday March 23.

Read all about the festival on this week's front page,

but here are a selection of photographs from the first three days – Monday to Wednesday lunchtime – of the festival.

Look out for more coverage and photographs in next week's edition.



The class for intermediate choirs was won by Mid Argyll's B Natural, singing 'A Million Dreams' and 'Ev'rybody Wants to be a Cat'. 51\_a12MusicFest\_Tuesday09



'The Budgie Likes to Boogie' was the poem recited by, left to right, Jessica McCrae, second, Genevieve Rolland, first, and Martha Moir, third. 06\_a12MusicFest\_Monday06



Éowyn Rose Price, winner of the P1-3 solo verse speaking, reciting 'I'm a Diplodocus'. 06\_a12MusicFest\_Monday01



Feorlin Renton won the verse speaking solo competition for P6-7. 51\_a12MusicFest\_Monday05



Left: Winner of the P6-7 verse speaking solo Sophie MacCallum. 51\_a12MusicFest\_Monday03



Left: Adjudicator Ann Lampard said she was 'really enjoying herself' at the festival. 06\_a12MusicFest\_Tuesday02

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Inveraray Primary School won the Christina McDougall Trophy for Gaelic song.

51\_a12MusicFest\_Tuesday04



Kilmartin Primary School won the Jean Ballantyne Plate for verse speaking choirs (primary).

51\_a12MusicFest\_Monday07



Winning the Ardrishaig Primary School PTA Shield was Lochgilphead Primary, singing 'Truly Scrumptious'.

51\_a12MusicFest\_Tuesday03



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Showing off the fabulous festival merchandise – available to buy – is festival volunteer Fiona Cupples. 06\_a12MusicFest\_Monday12



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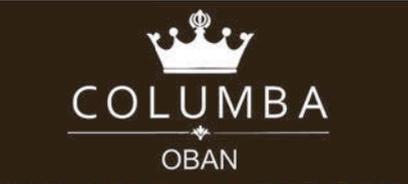
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Ardrihaig Primary School choir sang 'I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing' and 'Doh-Re-Mi' in Tuesday's non-competitive class. 51\_a12MusicFest\_Tuesday01



Ross Potter-Irwin won the Gifford Cup for vocal solo boys (trebles). 51\_a12MusicFest\_Wednesday04



Lexie Houston won the Ashfield Plate for vocal solo girls' P4-5. 51\_a12MusicFest\_Wednesday02



The Minard Quach went to Adam Rusden in the P4-5 vocal solo boys' class. 51\_a12MusicFest\_Wednesday03



Benjamin McEwan, right, won the P6-7 vocal solo boys' competition, with Jamie Day second. 51\_a12MusicFest\_Wednesday06



Right: The Cecily Bannatyne Plate for Gaelic song was won by Coisir Og Dhail Riata, with conductor Cheryl Naisby. 51\_a12MusicFest\_Tuesday08

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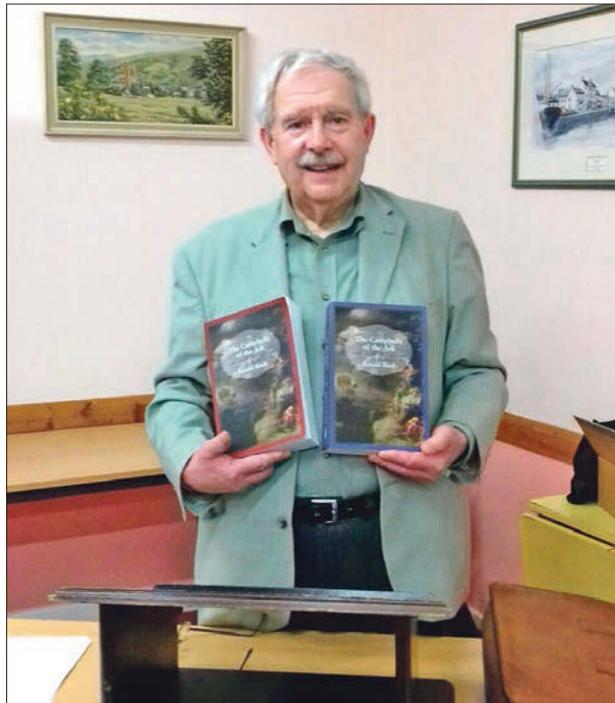
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# Rebellion at the Inveraray History Society



Ronald Clark gave a talk at the Inveraray History Society.

An appropriate title for the Inveraray History Society this month, reflecting the number of members and guests attending a highly regarded academics talk on the subject.

Ronald Black gave the crowded room an informative summary of his two-volume book *Campbells of the Ark*.

Based on the poem *The Ark* written in 1751, Ronald Black's book describes in different chapters the link between the poem and the Campbells' involvement in the 1745 rebellion.

Members heard about Colin Campbell of Glenure, the victim in the Appin Murder, as well as 'Mamore', the

fourth duke, who thought of Inveraray as a 'charming pretty place' on his first visit with government forces in '45.

#### Loved Inveraray

The fourth duke contributed substantially to the British victory at Culloden. Also mentioned, amongst many others, was the fifth duke

(1770), who loved Inveraray and completed New Inveraray and the aptly named Arkland housing.

Next month's meeting will be held on April 2 at 7.30pm in the Nicoll Hall. The speaker will be Nick Cooke on Reviving Scotland's Pilgrimage Heritage. Anyone is welcome.

## Get set for 2019 Garden in Bloom competition

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) will be welcoming entries for this year's 'Garden in Bloom' competition from Monday April 1.

The competition started in 2010 and has always proved popular with entries received from throughout Mid Argyll and Kintyre.

Tenants and neighbours can nominate those who maintain their ACHA gardens from April until July 2019. Categories include best garden, best container and, new for this year, best wildlife garden.

Members from the Mid Argyll and Kintyre area will judge nominated gardens at

their annual general meeting on Wednesday August 14. Winners will receive a trophy and vouchers from a garden centre of their choice.

Betty Rhodick, chairwoman of Mid Argyll and Kintyre Area Committee, commented: 'Please take part in the 'Garden in Bloom' competition. It will brighten your garden and your neighbourhood. Give it a try. You never know what you can achieve.'

In addition, ACHA is also encouraging entries for the largest sunflower from all pre-5 nurseries in the area.

For further information or an application form, contact 01546 605800 or 01546 605880.



Last year's winners, Riverside Rascals Day Nursery, Lochgilphead.



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# Mid Argyll Camera Club wins after 25 long years

In a literal photo finish the Mid Argyll Camera Club won the annual Frank Walton competition between all nine Argyll photo clubs for the first time in 25 years.

On Thursday March 14 about 50 amateur photographers from all over Argyll

and Bute braved the wild weather, many making a long detour to Arrochar due to the A83 being closed overnight in Inveraray. The competition was hosted this year by the Three Villages Camera Club in the magnificent Three Villages Hall in Arrochar.

A record number of nine Argyll photo clubs entered this year, demonstrating the upsurge of enthusiasm for improving digital images through friendly competition for the Frank Walton Argyll Inter-club Trophy. This year the Bute Photographic Society was added to clubs in Campbeltown, Carradale, Cowal, Helensburgh, Mid-Argyll, Oban, Peninsula (Cove) and Three Villages.

Ten images from each club were judged by Neil McGregor of the Kirkintilloch Camera Club.

Neil made useful comments on each of the 90 images, with encouraging suggestions for improvement rather than criticism.

Cowal and Mid Argyll both scored the same total points but Mid Argyll was declared the winner, having entered the highest scoring individ-

ual image. The top image – scoring 20/20 – was In Safe Hands, Verina Litster's photo of baby Nia held by her father Derek Robertson who is a firefighter at Inveraray and Clydebank.

Verina also scored joint second highest with Dreich Night in Glasgow, an image that she took on her mobile phone.

Helen Phillip was joint third with Café Life giving the club a first, second and third placing.

The trophy was donated in 1981 by Frank Walton, the photographer who had the camera shop in Oban, and the last time Mid Argyll won the cup was back in 1994 when it was a slide competition.

The clubs take turns to organise the event in their home towns. The next competition will be held in Dunoon in March 2020.



Verina Litster and Christine Macintyre (club president) with the Frank Walton trophy.

Scores out of 200: Mid Argyll CC 166, Cowal CC 156, Campbeltown CC 152, Bute Photographic Society 150, Carradale CC 150, Three Villages CC 150, Digital Photography Club 163, Oban Photographic Club 161, Helensburgh



In Safe Hands, by Verina Litster.

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## What lovely things are you planning for Mother's Day?

Each year we celebrate this old-fashioned tradition but it doesn't mean your Mother's Day gift has to be.

In this fast-paced hyper-connected crazy world there is one thing that you cannot insta-tweet-book away and that is Mother's Day.

Your mum is worth much, much more than that; this day, along with her birthday and Christmas, is a day when you pull out all the stops because that is what love is all about.

Mother's Day here in the UK is celebrated on the fourth Sunday in Lent, this year it is on March 31.

Sunday lunch out has always been a favourite; once upon a time it was to give mum a break from cooking. Today, when mums and dads alike share the cooking duties a Sunday lunch out is equally important – perhaps even more so – because it is now seen as an occasion amidst a far more hectic family lifestyle, that everyone makes sure they all sit down together as a family.

When it comes to presents, a favourite perfume, chocs or tipple are always

popular and flowers play a big role, whether a bouquet or plants for indoors or the garden.

You might be thinking of one single, larger gift paid for by all, perhaps a piece of jewellery and a charm bracelet in its many modern forms can become a special family tradition for Mother's Day. 'But we've done all those!', you might cry.

Remember that gifts are not just to own or consume – experience makes for an

equally special gift because it creates memories. So how about a beauty or spa-day treat or cinema tickets because a bit of pampering never goes amiss.

Maybe, just maybe, your mum would much rather be hurtling around an all-terrain course driving a 4 x 4 or a quad-bike; having a go on a zip wire, or a climbing wall. Perhaps a try-dive or a kayaking or sailing taster lesson with one our many activity schools is more her style?



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WHAT'S ON IN MID ARGYLL

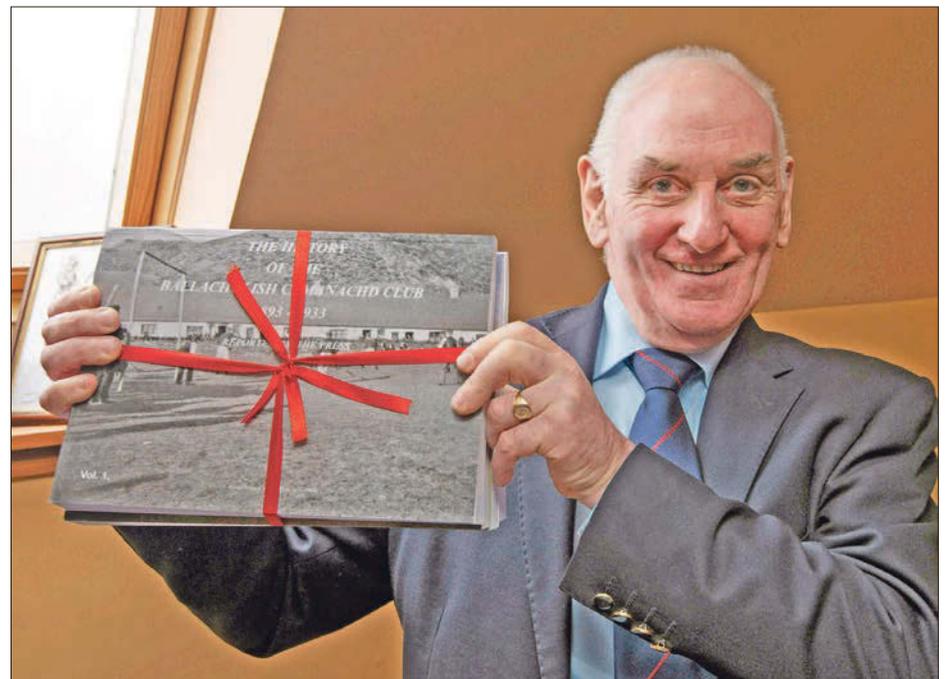
## Lochgilphead's Ian compiles the shinty history of Ballachulish

The pavilion at Jubilee Park in Ballachulish was packed ahead of the club's home match against Col Glen on Saturday, but the crowd was not just there to watch

the South Division One encounter.

They were also there to mark the launch of a new book celebrating 125 years of Ballachulish Camanachd

Club. Having spent around 25 years compiling articles, reports and photographs, Ian MacPhee was proud to finally launch The History of Ballachulish Camanachd



Ian MacPhee with one of his four volumes of the book. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Club - a four volume book documenting the history of the club as reported by the press and media.

Mr MacPhee, a former player and Ballachulish stalwart who now lives in Lochgilphead, set out with a small collection of old photographs but before long, after trawling through The Oban Times' archives he had collected enough material to fill four volumes for an

anniversary book - which he reckons has more words than Tolstoy's War and Peace.

### 'Labour of love'

Despite the long hours and travel needed to complete the books, Mr MacPhee said the project was 'a real labour of love' and he hoped the book would inspire the younger generation in the village to keep playing shinty.

The club thanked Mr MacPhee for the 'countless

hours' he had spent compiling the volumes of the book and was delighted to host 'such an incredible occasion' to show off his hard work to the shinty world.

To keep up with the demand, the club is having to do a reprint after 50 copies of the book flew out of the clubhouse on Saturday.

Anyone who would like to buy the books should contact the club directly.

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#### 20th Annual Boat Jumble & Car Boot Sale

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Pictured at the book launch, left to right: Iain Brown, Andy Thornton, Iain MacMillan, Ian MacPhee, Archie Clark, Gavin Whyte, Phillip Maclean and David Macgregor.

# Quattro MacJazz plays for the Mid Argyll Arts Association

by Peter Quelch

Invited by friends to a jazz concert in Ardrishaig public hall, I thought, 'Jazz? Sure, I like that music', and am I glad we went. The last time I heard jazz was many years ago in a cellar club in Krakow of all places.

Jazz for me anyway has to be a live music event. I have many records in the loft from the late '60s when I was an avid teenaged fan, listening to weekly jazz broadcasts on an old wooden-cased radio beside my bed from 14 years onwards. I became obsessed by players like John Coltrane and Miles Davis, even avant-garde saxophonists like Albert Ayler.

But what a reunion with my favourite music. Quattro MacJazz is led by Alastair McDonald, a breezy and cheery banjo player who

quickly asserted his leadership by announcing the numbers, singing the gospel song vocals, and introducing the three others in the band. The programme is spot on when it says that Alastair brings a show business touch to the band.

Lennie Herd is a trumpet player of steady brilliance whose solos I found delightful right through the concert.

The music the band plays is what I know as trad jazz, and which they classify as hot jazz to players like Lennie and Hamish McGregor on clarinet. Due to the many years of experience between them all they have an almost telepathic connection to each other, and it would not matter which genre of jazz they played, I think they would excel. Their solo playing soars above and beyond the actual



tune or melody to transport the jazz fan in a way no other music can do.

The fourth band member is double-bass player Roy

Percy and as the programme explains: who needs a drummer to keep time when you have Roy behind you? Not only keeping time alongside

Alastair's rhythmic banjo playing, but also soloing in his own right, Roy plays his classic instrument with some unusual techniques in what

In tune with each other – Quattro MacJazz: Lennie Herd, Roy Percy, Hamish McGregor and Alastair McDonald.

can only be described as virtuoso bass playing.

So, with Scots trad jazzmen and Polish jazz cellars, jazz is clearly international, with wonderful players from all sorts of backgrounds who have made this music their life, and that is exactly what we experienced in the Ardrishaig Hall last week.

Alastair described the music as toe-tapping, but that is a big understatement.

I heard from others that they had never witnessed the Mid Argyll Arts audiences so enthusiastically stamping their feet, clapping and singing along to what was an exciting and high quality concert.

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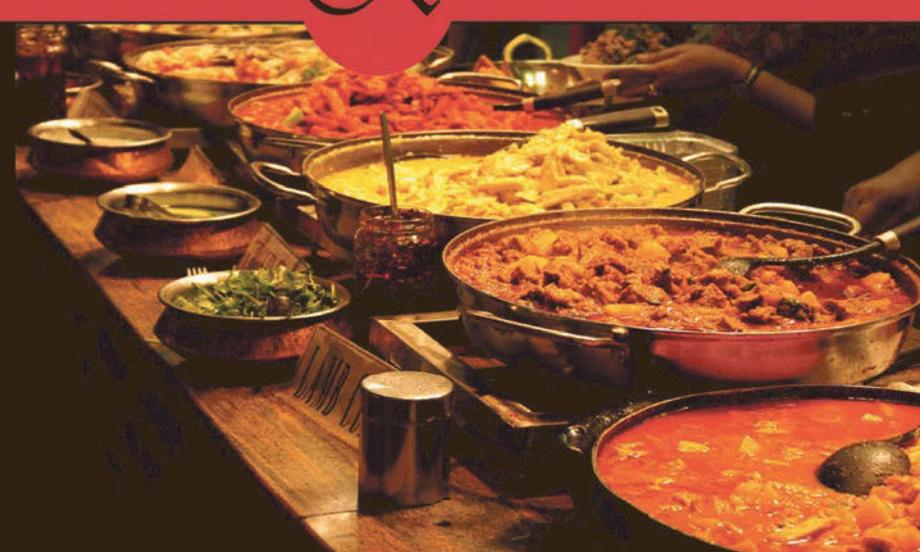
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# Homemade crafts and treats found at Lochgilphead church craft fair



Aileen and Debbie of Paw Treats and Sweets. 51\_a12CraftFair04

Lochgilphead Parish Church hall hosted a craft fair on Saturday March 16.

Stalls included Sue Bland, who was selling handmade jewellery and trinkets; Margaret Davidson's knitted toys; and artist Jan Oliver was selling her paintings as well as painted rocks and shells for a little bit of the country to take home.

But there was more to be seen, including handmade soaps from goats' milk from Julie Liddell; doggy items to keep man's best friend happy and healthy and also a raffle, raising money for riding for the disabled.

A full hall saw visitors browse the produce, from artists all over Mid Argyll and enjoying a cup of tea and cakes served by the Oban and Lorn group Riding for the Disabled.



Woolly Bobbins' Cathleen MacDonald. 51\_a12CraftFair06



Artist Jan Oliver and her painted rocks. 51\_a12CraftFair05



Sue Bland and Jacob Bland of Sue's Bespoke Jewels. 51\_a12CraftFair02



Twisted Yarn's Margaret Davidson. 51\_a12CraftFair07



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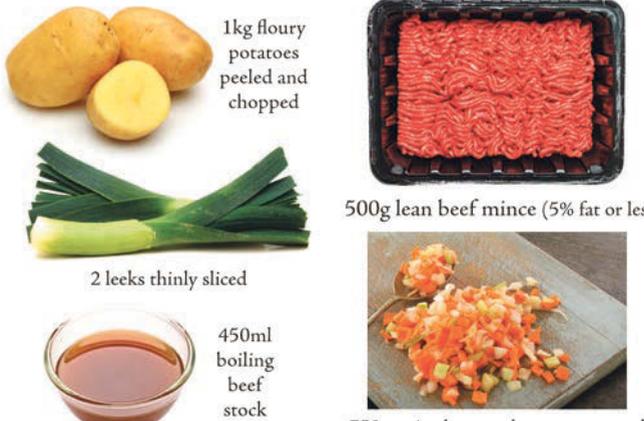
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-  500g lean beef mince (5% fat or less)
-  750g mixed casserole veg or veg pack



**Method:** Brown the beef for about 5 minutes add the casserole veg along with the stock, simmer for 30 minutes. Cooked the potatoes for 12 minutes and add the leeks. After 5 minutes drain well, mash and season to taste. Spoon the mash over the mince mixture in a square oven dish, place under the grill for a nice crispy top.

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# Scouts take on the snowdrop challenge



Over the weekend of February 22 to 24, 15 Scouts from the 19th in Lochgilphead and 26th in Sandbank groups took on and completed the 20-mile Snowdrop Challenge.

This two-day expedition takes in some of the most iconic locations in Mid Argyll including Dunadd, Kilmartin Glen and finishes at Carnasserie Castle. The Scouts had to be self-sufficient and carry all their kit to camp, cook and navigate over the weekend.

The event was based at Kilmartin Museum. Ruth Bolwell of the museum said: 'We are so glad the Scouts had a successful stay and that we were able to assist by offering them Kilmartin Museum facilities, garden and grounds. They were a delight to have on site.'

David Smart of the 19th Argyll Scouts said: 'We have been trying for some time



Scouts who took on the Snowdrop Challenge.

to come up with an event in Mid Argyll that allowed us to bring other Scouts here to showcase the area.

'The Snowdrop Challenge requires Scouts to use skills we teach them. It also requires the young people to

show resilience, stamina and determination.

'We have already set the date for next year and had a commitment from more units across Argyll to attend.'

The 19th Argyll Scouts meet in Lochgilphead on Tuesday

evenings in term time. The group is open to boys and girls and runs Beavers (six to 8 years old), Cubs (eight to 10 years old), Scouts (10 to 14 years old) and Explorers (14 to 18 years old). Email 19thargyllscouts@gmail.com



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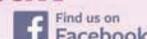
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# Spring Property REVIEW



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## Cash? That will do nicely!

*Half of Argyll and Bute house sales are to cash buyers.*

NA h-Eileanan Siar and Argyll and Bute had the highest proportion of house cash sales of all local authority areas in 2017-18, where more than 50 per cent of residential sales were cash sales; 50.3 and 50.1 per cent respectively.

In 2017-18, cash sales accounted for an average 31.7 per cent of the 102,430 residential sales across Scotland. This was the highest proportion of cash sales recorded over the reporting period; 10 years ago the figure was 15.5 per cent (2007-08).

A total 69,983 residential sales were registered with a mortgage in 2017-18, a fall of 44.5 per cent over 10 years.

The latest Monthly House Price Index, for December 2018, has been published by the Registers of Scotland and the volume of sales is down but prices are up.

The average price of a property in Scotland in December 2018 was £148,711 – an increase of 2.4 per cent on December in the previous year and a decrease of 0.9 per cent when compared to the previous month. This compares to a UK average of £230,776,

which was an increase of 2.5 per cent on December in the previous year and an increase of 0.2 per cent when compared to the previous month.

‘Average prices in Scotland continued their upward trend in December with an increase of 2.4 per cent when compared to December 2017. While the average price has increased each month since March 2016, when compared with the same month of the previous year, the trend in sales volume has not been as positive,’ said Janet Egdell, Registers of Scotland operations director and accountable officer.

‘The volume of residential sales in Scotland increased in October, but has decreased in most months since November 2017, when compared with the same month of the previous year. This downward trend is also reflected in the cumulative volume of sales for Scotland for the financial year to date.

‘From April to October 2018, the cumulative sales volume was 63,033. This is a decrease of 2.5 per cent on the equivalent year to date position in the previous financial year 2017/18.’



## Caring for your stove

Although many of us in the West Highlands use our stove all year round it's important to find time to carry out annual maintenance. Giving your stove regular TLC will reward you in the long term by prolonging its life and costing less in spares. Here's what you need to do:

### Check over your stove for problems.

The internal parts are most prone to damage. Pay special attention to the door and glass seals, baffle/throat plate which sits above the fire, grate bars, and glass for cracks. Externally fire cement round the flue pipe may require replacing if it has disintegrated over time.

### Clean your stove inside.

If you burn wood, retain at least an inch of ash to cover the grate bars. Wood and peat should be burnt on an ash bed so don't remove your ash daily as this traps embers which hold the 'heart' of the fire in place and also helps protect the grate bars. Clear any debris that may have settled on top of the baffle plate as this can prevent heat from dissipating properly causing it to buckle. Replace fire-bricks if they are badly worn or disintegrating.



### Clean the glass and external body.

Any cracked glass should be replaced. Glass can be cleaned using a little ash on a damp piece of kitchen paper and then wiped off with a clean cloth. Alternatively use a specialised stove-glass cleaning product. A paint scraper blade is useful for stubborn tarry marks. Regular glass cleaning helps prevent acids in the tar from etching the glass causing permanent damage. The stove's external body can be cleaned with a lint free cloth or soft shoe brush to wipe away dust and soot. Stove paint will revive any tired looking paintwork.

### Clean your chimney and use the correct fuel.

Your chimney should be swept at least once a year. To ensure that it is kept safe and clear, we recommend professional chimney cleaning. Most importantly, burn the correct fuel in the first place and you will avoid many common problems.

We can supply spare parts for the following stove manufacturers: Woodwarm, Morsø, Charnwood, Jetmaster, Rutland. Please call 01631 720539 for further information.



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**Larchwood, Kilduskland Rd, Ardrishaig  
3 BED DETACHED VILLA**



**Offers Over £220,000**

Bespoke family home with elevated views of Loch Fyne located close to all the towns amenities and the Crinan Canal. Large open plan first floor lounge/family room, kitchen/diner, utility room, 3 bedrooms, en suite, family bathroom and conservatory. The property further benefits from oil central heating, off street parking, double glazing, excellent storage throughout, patio and BBQ areas. High speed broadband 4G reception and digital television are available.

- Loch views
- Oil central heating
- Conservatory
- Double glazing
- Driveway
- Approx 150 sq.m of living space
- Surveyed at £240,000
- Home report all 1's
- Bespoke design
- High speed broadband

**Ladyfield Farm, Glen Aray, Inveraray  
7 ACRES OF LAND**



**Offers Over £220,000**

A rare sale of approximately 7 acres of land with planning permission in place for 2 different styles and budget of property. Planning ref 16/00267/PP and 18/01415/P. Visit Argyll and Bute planning or email for full details. Derelict 2 bed stone built cottage now demolished and site cleared. The site benefits from a large stone built stable/barn (prime for conversion (subject to usual consents and planning permission)). Entry is by a private track over newly upgraded and widened bridge, with paddock for horses or livestock, large hard standing and pond. Agricultural registration completed for livestock.

- Approx 7 acres
- Private rural setting
- Services on site
- Full planning in place for 2 styles of home
- 10 minutes to town
- Stunning views
- Stone stable bock
- Agricultural reg in place for livestock
- Rare opportunity
- On site static accommodation included if required

**Waternish, The Bay, Strachur  
5 BED DETACHED VILLA**



**Guide Price £399,995**

Spacious, bespoke family home on the banks of Loch Fyne. Finished to a high standard throughout combined with a stunning elevated location affording fantastic views of the loch and surrounding countryside. The village of Strachur is ideally located for those looking for a rural lifestyle yet not too far away from local amenities and essential services. Nearby pontoon and sailing club have added to the thriving local community. The flexible accommodation could be formed to create a separate ground floor annex if desired. Open plan lounge with dining space, 2nd lounge, breakfasting kitchen, utility room, 5 king size bedrooms, 3 with en suite, family bathroom.

- Home report all 1's
- 270 sq.m of living space
- Stunning loch views
- Mooring close by
- Completed 2016
- Off street parking
- Multi fuel stove central heating
- EPC rating C
- Surveyed at £400,000
- Sundeck with glass balustrade



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- Fully Double Glazed & Oil Fired Underfloor Heating
- Spacious Garden
- Summer House
- Detached Double Garage
- EPC Rating: C 71

**Price Guide £395,000**



### 7E Quarry Road, Oban, PA34 4DP

- Attractive Top Floor Apartment
- Convenient Location
- In Very Good Order
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- Bathroom
- LPG Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Shared Garden
- EPC Rating: D 63

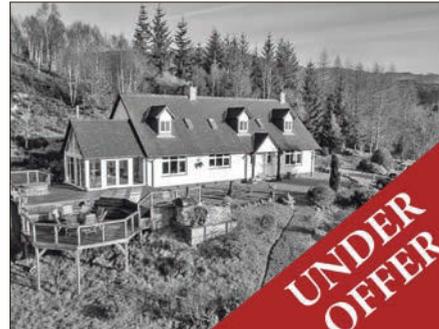
**Price Guide £85,000**



### 27 Main Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6NU

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- EPC Rating: E 47

**Price Guide: £475,000**



### Leacan Dubha, Invergarry, PH35 4HR

- Superior Detached Villa with Outstanding Loch Views
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**Price Guide: £550,000**

## Development Land, River View Park, Spean Bridge, PH34 4EU

- Stunning Mountain Views
- Prime Development Opportunity
- Desirable Village Location
- Full Planning Permission for 9 Properties and a Retail Unit
- Around 1.1035 ha / 2.72 acres
- Services available for Connection Close by



An opportunity has arisen to purchase development land, River View Park, located in the heart of Spean Bridge with views towards the River Spean and the Grey Corrie mountains. The land, which has Full Planning Permission for a development of 9 properties and a retail unit, extends to around 1.1035 ha/ 2.72 acres.

River View Park is located directly across from the highly regarded Spean Bridge Primary School and is only a short walk to the local facilities. Spean Bridge is a very desirable location offering a wide range of amenities for a village, including a local Spar shop, hotels, cafes, bistro, restaurant and golf course. The village connects to the rest of The Highlands through its own train station, bus links and main "A" road.

**Price On Application**

## Tigh Na Geal, Kingie, By Invergarry, PH35 4HS

- Charming Detached Cottage
- Stunning Countryside Views
- In Very Good Order
- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Oil Fired Central Heating
- Garden
- Wooden Garage
- EPC Rating: E 51



Enjoying an idyllic rural location with uninterrupted views over Kingie Pool to the surrounding hills and countryside, the subjects of sale form a deceptively spacious, wooden cottage. In very good order throughout, Tigh Na Geal offers comfortable accommodation in a convenient layout. The property benefits from oil fired central heating and double glazing, while the bright lounge/diner features a most attractive wood-burning stove.

The property is situated within the small hamlet of Kingie, forming one of a cluster of cottages in this remote part of the West Highlands. The nearest main village is Invergarry, some 15 miles distant, which offers a range of local amenities (Primary School, Filling Station/shop, Post Office, Hotel and Community Hall) and Fort Augustus (with its Secondary School) is just 7 miles further. Fort William is some 40 miles to the south, while the Highland capital city of Inverness is approx 60 miles to the north-east. The area provides opportunities for access to an abundance of outdoor activities and an ideal base to explore the West Highlands, or is simply an ideal retreat to 'get away from it all'.

**Price Guide: £125,000**



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## NEW BUILD NEWS

- The average price for a new-build residential property in Scotland in 2017- 8 was £250,904, an increase of 24.2 per cent in the last 10 years.
- New-build sales per annum in Scotland have decreased by 35.4 per cent over the last 10 years
- 11.7 per cent (11,969 sales) of all residential property sales in the £20k to £1million price range in 2017-18 were new builds.
- The value of the new-build residential property market in Scotland increased to £3 billion in 2017-18
- In 2017-18, almost a third of all residential properties sold in Scotland were located within one of the seven cities.
- The average house price in Inverness for 2017-18 was £163,722, the third highest average house price after Edinburgh and Aberdeen. The average price for 2017-18 was 3.1 per cent up on 2016-17.

## Your perfect place? Small is definitely beautiful

The Grant family, David, Judy and Penny the dog, have just spent a cozy first winter in their new Wee House in Contin.

'We have only been in the house since last August but winter was very cosy. The insulation in the house is very good; it is all very sound,' said David.

The couple chose gas central heating for their two-bedroomed cottage-style property from the Wee House Company, adding the bespoke touches of a utility room and a small office to keep both laundry and paperwork firmly in their rightful places.

The Grants had looked at a number of options for their new build, and when on his way to a boat jumble sale in Irvine, David decided to pay a quick call to the Wee House Company offices and show home in Ayrshire.

What he saw impressed him so much that he and Judy came back.

The whole concept appealed and after experiencing the Wee House Company their verdict is 'delighted'.

'Obviously there are always little things that you think you might have done differently but are entirely delighted and our advice would be if you want one - go ahead.

'I really like the look; it looks like an old steading; it sits well within the village. It looks right,' said David. They also liked the choice of interior fittings and fixtures and the choices of bathroom and kitchen ranges.

The couple were also very impressed with the Wee House Company's logistics; everything

that the company said would happen did within the agreed timescale.

'The ground crew arrived and they worked in all weathers,' said David. 'We are on the main road in the village so access was no problem and the lorries and the crane arrived on time.

'The logistics from the office in Ayrshire were fantastic.'



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# Are you ready to refresh, refurb

*It is spring, time to rescue that spider from the paint roller tray and wish you had made a better job of cleaning the mower before you put it away last autumn*

In spring the first thing we all want to do inside is paint, paint, paint – with some papering going on as well. After all, who wants to be decorating indoors during winter when we can't have the windows wide open?

Outside, once the bulbs are in full bloom, we are all in the garden checking to see our favourite perennials starting to come through, and how much moss there is in the lawn. (Relax, it's the West Highlands, everyone has moss in their lawns).

Every year, the first heady days of spring make us all want to throw the windows wide open, scrub, refresh, refurb and recycle; it's like we have come out of hibernation.

Smartening up a property before putting it on the mar-

ket is just plain old common sense.

Make sure your home is not only looking its best but also that the host of tiny jobs have been sorted out. On their own they aren't significant but together, be it a dripping tap, a broken door handle or a scuff in the plaster work, they all conspire to drag down the look and feel of the place.

Even if you are not planning to move it pays to carry out a 'house audit' in the spring; cast a critical eye around and plan your repairs and refurbishments for the coming spring and summer.

Never forget that your home is your family's biggest asset so keeping it in excellent condition makes sound financial sense.

Perhaps you've spent the winter planning a major improvement or extension.

Whatever you are going to do we can help! Just check out all the top trades people, services and suppliers who are advertising here with us – all ready to help keep your home looking smart, in a good repair and turn your improvement ideas into reality.

Estate agents are waiting for your calls and now is the time to make sure appointments with surveyors are booked and removal companies contacted for quotes.

So get cracking! The housing market is looking good at the moment with plenty of interest in properties across the board so make sure your house is looking its best.



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# Highland BlindCraft

**Great night's sleep in a Highland BlindCraft bed 'hand made with a touch more care'**

Wake up refreshed with a spring in your step by updating your bed and giving your bedroom a fresh new look.

Highland BlindCraft makes beds to order in the workshop above its large, bright showroom on Ardconnel Street in Inverness.

And it now has fantastic new ranges of bedroom furniture too – inspired by the latest designs showcased at the Birmingham Furniture Show.

Executive manager Denise Clark said: 'Your sleeping environment can really affect the quality of your rest. If you're not sleeping well or waking up with aches and pains, then chances are you do need a new mattress.'

To find the bed that's just right for you, try out the various choices available in the showroom, including traditional springs, pocket springs and memory foam.

Have a little lie down, take

your time to relax and feel the true support of each mattress, as there are different levels of firmness.

The friendly staff are fully trained in all the different types and fillings, and are dedicated to finding your ideal bed. Because all its mattresses are manufactured on site, you can often see the components of the bed.

A lot of our staff are very experienced and have been creating beds for many years. They love when some of the customers come to see their own mattress being made.

The factory can also make non-standard sizes of beds and mattresses for almost every situation, including caravans or boats.

They're not just the most comfortable beds you'll ever sleep on – as customers are happy to testify on Facebook. They're also elegantly stylish.

Denise said: 'We're working

closely with a local textile manufacturer who produces a range of the most amazing wool and tweed fabrics. Customers can choose the fabric for their headboard and divan base – with perhaps a matching bespoke footstool.

'Our beds work really well with our new furniture ranges.

'And to help customers achieve the complete look we have a large range of inspiring accessories such as mirrors, pictures and bedside lamps, luxurious pillows and beautiful bedspreads.'

Prices are very competitive and because Highland BlindCraft's beds are manufactured in Inverness, they can guarantee delivery dates and ensure excellent high production standards and after sales service.

To find out more visit Highland BlindCraft at 39 Ardconnel Street or [www.highlandblindcraft.co.uk](http://www.highlandblindcraft.co.uk)

## Snap up 2 FREE tickets to The Scottish Homebuilding & Renovating Show

Looking to improve your home in 2019?

Planning to tackle that extension or loft conversion?

Maybe you've been dreaming of building a secure, sustainable home from scratch?

Then snap up 2 FREE tickets to the Scottish Homebuilding & Renovating Show, the essential show for renovators and self-builders, when it returns to the SEC, Glasgow on 1 – 2 June.

Whether you are an experienced renovator or self-builder, or planning your first ever project a visit to the Scottish Homebuilding & Renovating Show will give you practical help to turn your plans into reality.

At the show visitors can -

- Meet over 140 local and national specialist suppliers – see, touch and try 1000s of products.
- Get free advice from architects, designers, legal experts, craftspeople and self-build specialists and suppliers of everything from flooring and roof tiles to windows, doors and heating systems.

- Take along plans, ideas and questions and get free personalised one-to-one advice in a 15-minute consultation with one of the show's experts, architects, planners or builders
- Check out 22 educational masterclasses and 8 in-depth seminars each day offering practical answers to common questions

The show is taking place at the SEC, Glasgow on June 1 - 2. Opening hours: Saturday 10am - 5pm; Sunday 10am - 4.30pm. For more information contact 0844 858 6754\* or <https://glasgow.homebuildingshow.co.uk>

To sign up for 2 free tickets visit [www.homebuildingshow.co.uk/pr8](http://www.homebuildingshow.co.uk/pr8)

\* Transaction fee of £1.50 applies per transaction (not per ticket). Calls cost 7p per minute plus network extras.

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## NEW TO THE MARKET 34 Barrmor View, Kilmartin



This 3-bedroom semi-detached bungalow is located within a small, quiet development in the historic village of Kilmartin. Accommodation comprises of 3-double bedrooms (1 en-suite), lounge, kitchen/dining room, family bathroom and back porch. The property is in genuine walk in condition and early viewing is therefore highly recommended.

Home Report Available

**Offers Over: £160,000**

EPC: C73

## 16 Upper Glenfyne Park Ardrihaig



**3-bedroom, Semi-detached house  
Fixed Price: £115,000**

1330

Home Report Available

EPC: E42

1348

## NEW TO THE MARKET Raslie House, Slockavullin, By Lochgilphead



This 4-bedroom large detached bungalow sits on a generously proportioned plot in the rural village of Slockavullin, only 15 minutes' drive from Lochgilphead. The property has a large living room with log burner, dining room, large dining kitchen, utility room, conservatory, bathroom, 4 bedrooms (2-ensuite) and a converted attic office. Viewing is essential to fully appreciate this property.

Home Report Available

**Offers Over: £240,000**

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# Award-winning Jura gin distillery in high spirits

Three women, who set up their own gin business on the Isle of Jura, are celebrating an award win after less than three years of operation.

Claire Fletcher, Alicia MacInnes and Georgina Kitching founded Lussa Gin in 2016, producing the drink from 15 locally grown and gathered botanicals.

Following unprecedented demand in its first year of business, Lussa Gin renovated and moved into an old stable building to upgrade their still and increase production.

They now produce up to 7,000 bottles of Lussa Gin each year, which are sold online or at one of the 50 retailers across Scotland who stock the unique product.

The trio's hard work and investment has paid off, as Lussa Gin was recently awarded the FSB Small Business Start Up of the Year Award 2019.

Celebrating the award win, co-founder Alicia said: 'We wanted to convey our thanks to Business Gateway, which

has offered us invaluable support whilst navigating our way through a competitive gin marketplace. Our Business Gateway adviser was the very first person outside the three of us that we turned to for help and support.

'From helping us at the very beginning with the advice to 'focus', to grant funding processes, fully-funded workshops, help with cash flow work and business plan writing, we really appreciate Business Gateway's contribution to the success of our business.'

Barbara Halliday, business adviser for Business Gateway Argyll and Bute, added: 'Since we first spoke to Claire, Alicia and Georgina in 2016, they have accessed our one-to-one advice, EU-funded grant support from our Local Growth Accelerator Programme, DigitalBoost support (such as website development, search engine optimisation and social media marketing) and recently moved through the Business Gateway growth pipeline to work with Highlands and Islands Enterprise. Lussa Gin has also been exported to Sweden and Germany and works with six different distributors.'

Lussa Gin, which was recently voted one of Scotland's

top 10 favourite gins in the Scottish Gin Society's consumer survey, is a fresh, zesty and smooth gin with a subtle, aromatic finish. It is made with Jura spring water with all elements of the process including bottling and labelling taking place on the island.

Claire said: 'As we live in a remote part of Scotland, the challenge to get Lussa Gin recognised in the market was initially problematic.

'However, with Business Gateway's support, we attended training events, trade fairs across the country and accessed specialist advice on using social media. As the presence of Lussa Gin grew in the industry and online, we earned our own identity in the market as the Isle of Jura's only gin distillery.

'We wanted to use the place we love as the foundation for our business and to find something that will enable us to stay here. We have had great community support and we love venturing out in our rowing boat or climbing trees to collect ingredients for our product.'

**Georgina, Alicia and Claire are not resting on their laurels after getting help from Business Gateway.**



## Let the council's Business Gateway guide you

Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway service includes a team of experienced business advisers who can offer free and impartial advice, in confidence.

In the last year nearly 600 meetings with business advisers have taken place right across Argyll and Bute, ranging from regular Meet The Adviser sessions hosted in the towns of Dunoon, Helensburgh, Oban, Lochgilphead, Rothesay and Campbeltown, to adviser visits to

the isles of Islay, Lismore, Coll, Mull and Gigha.

Ninety-six per cent of businesses who have met with an adviser in Argyll and Bute say they got what they wanted, with the most common reasons for satisfaction being the relevance and clarity of the advice received and the knowledge and helpfulness of the advisers.

Whether anyone is looking to get a new business off the ground, or expand an existing business,

find out how a Business Gateway adviser could help. Contact the local office for an adviser appointment on 01546 808363.

### **Brexit planning for business**

The 'Prepare for Brexit' campaign is a one-door approach jointly delivered by Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Skills Development Scotland, with a range of other organisations helping to promote the campaign, including Business Gateway. The

aim of the campaign is to encourage businesses to prepare now for the changes that may come.

During this period of uncertainty, preparing a business for Brexit is about developing a flexible planning approach so that it can adapt and be resilient across a range of potential Brexit outcomes.

Business Gateway Argyll and Bute is encouraging business owners to take advantage of the tools and information available to help with

planning at [www.prepareforbrexit.scot](http://www.prepareforbrexit.scot).

This dedicated website hosts a Brexit self-assessment tool to help businesses identify how Brexit might affect them and provide recommendations for action to help preparations.

It is also home to a 12-point checklist of actions businesses need to take now, expert advice, events, workshops and access to financial support.

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

Free, practical advice and support to help grow your business. Call your local office on 01546 808 363 or visit [www.bgateway.com/argyllandbute](http://www.bgateway.com/argyllandbute)

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68	Dacia Sandero SCe	Black	34	£7,750	15	Dacia Stepway AMB TCe	Red	5,400	£6,750
66	Dacia Sandero Laureate DCi	Silver	6,000	£8,950	15	Renault Kangoo	White	65,000	£6,250
66	Renault Captur Dyn Sat Nav TCe	Blue/Black	6,500	£12,500	64	Renault Clio Dyn TCe	Red	16,000	£7,500
66	Renault Clio 1.2 Dyn Nav	White	14,000	£9,750	64	Renault Clio Dyn Nav 1.2	Black	32,000	£7,150
66	Peugeot 208 GTline HDi	Red	14,500	£10,250	14	Skoda Rapid TDi	White	27,000	£6,550
16	Renault Captur DCi Dyn Nav	Cream	13,000	£10,250	13	Renault Megane Dyn DCi Estate	Black	75,000	£5,350
16	Dacia Duster LAU, DCi, 4x2	Black	14,000	£9,950	62	BMW Series SPH 1.6	Black	48,000	£8,650
16	Vauxhall Corsa Design 1.4 petrol	Red	35,000	£6,750	59	Ford Focus Zetec 100 EST	Blue	46,000	£4,150
65	Dacia Stepway LAU DCi	White	14,500	£8,500	59	Mitsubishi Outlander 2l DCi 4x4		70,000	£6,500
15	Nissan Micra Visia 1.2	White	24,600	£5,750	58	Vauxhall Combo Van 1.3 CDTi	Green	68,000	£2,750
15	Peugeot 308 DCi	Blue	41,000	£9,250	08	Renault Koleos 4x4 DCi	Silver	56,000	£4,500

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Argyll and Bute Council

#### PLANNING

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Brae Lochgilthead PA31 8RD. They can also be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and at your Local Customer Service Point (check opening times).

**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 1997**

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
19/00495/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 16/00646/PP (Demolition of farmhouse, outbuildings and industrial buildings and erection of eleven dwellings and means of access)	Bellfield Farm, High Askomil, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute, PA28 6EN
19/00373/PP	Erection of extension to dwellinghouse, terraced area and erection of detached summer house	Ballyshear, Southend, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute, PA28 6RF
18/02508/PP	Erection of replacement dwellinghouse (retrospective)	Sithean, Craobh Haven, Lochgilthead, Argyll And Bute, PA31 8UU
19/00387/PP	Alterations and change of use of dwellinghouse to form bed and breakfast establishment	Ronachan Farmhouse, Clachan, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute, PA29 6XW
19/00010/PP	Formation of vehicular access	Land Approximately 1521 Metres South West Of Lochorodale, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute
19/00432/PP	Erection of agricultural shed	Land South Of Kilmahumaig, Crinan, Lochgilthead, Argyll And Bute
19/00392/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and repositioning of entrance gates to South Park	South Park, Kilkerran Road, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute, PA28 6JN
19/00442/PP	Erection of replacement dwellinghouse and detached garage	Glenavon, Ardnacraig, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute, PA28 6JP
19/00426/PP	Formation of extension to existing bellmouth	Land Approx 70M North East Of Water Works, (Off The A83), Furnace, Argyll And Bute
19/00379/LIB	Erection of extension to dwellinghouse, terraced area and erection of detached summer house	Ballyshear, Southend, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute, PA28 6RF

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 Councils website.

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

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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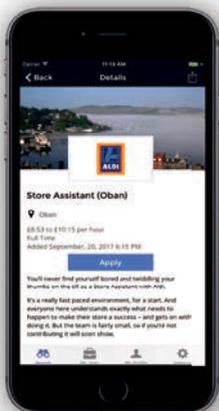
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### Argyll and Bute Council

#### Councillor Alastair Redman (E.W.2 Kintyre and the Islands)

Councillor Redman will be holding a surgery at the **Kilberry Inn, Kilberry** on **Wednesday 27th March 2019** from 1.00pm - 2.00pm.

Councillor Redman can also be contacted by email - [Alastair.Redman@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Alastair.Redman@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

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## Baby Equipment

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## Computers and Games

10" TABLET BUSH SPIRA B2 32GB Storage Space. Good condition, £50 Telephone 01546 606085.

## Domestic Pets

COLLIE PUPS two females, off working strain, ready now. Lochaber area. Call for more details, 07740 983270.

LABRADOR PUPS 3 Pedigree Black Labrador pups(-male). KC Registered & micro-chipped. Ready to go 1st April. Please call Raymond Fletcher for more details, Isle of Islay, £550 Telephone 07508 338197/01496 840568.

PUPPIES FOR SALE Collie Spaniel x Collie Spaniel, 10 weeks old, brought up in family home with children and other dogs, very happy, playful puppies, Telephone 01631 740331 Duror.

## Furniture

IKEA LIGHT ASH COLOUR TABLE new table with detachable steel legs, seats 6, can be used as desk, selling as need space, can email pics, width 32" length 63", £50 Telephone 01631 720369.

ROUND GLASS COFFEE TABLE 30" diameter x 18" high, £10 Telephone 01852 300320.

WALNUT COFFEE TABLE with two drawers and enough space for books, magazines in very good condition, £65 Telephone 01631 566811.

## Garden

SHED BASE Unused eco friendly shed base system for 8ftx6ft garden shed with

instructions in 2 cardboard boxes. Cost £114, £40 Telephone 01546 600458.

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KILMARTIN

Pupils from Kilmartin Primary School visited The Ocean Explorer Centre in Dunbeg to find out about microplastics and pollution in the oceans.

They participated in four different workshops including 'microplastic detectives', the bio-accumulation game, microscope activities and the marine pollution game.

They were educated by PhD students Lola and Solene, microbiologist Elaine, and outreach officer Helen, all from The Scottish Association for Marine Science. The pupils have been working hard in their school on a topic about plastics and 'they impressed us very much with their knowledge and enthusiasm', Helen said.

KINTYRE

The former frontman of the band founded by Stone Roses guitarist John Squire will headline this year's Kintyre Songwriters' Festival.

Chris Helme, who usually travels to his shows by train, is making an exception to perform at the 12th annual celebration of singing and songwriting, from Friday May 3 to Sunday May 5.

The Seahorses have supported The Rolling Stones and U2, and enjoyed four UK top-20 hits and a Scottish number one in the late 1990s.

Kintyre acts performing at the town hall on Sunday include Gullion, Judith Jones, Under Smoke, Thomas Jordan and Jenni Martin. Discounted early bird weekend tickets are available for £35 from Campbeltown Town Hall and AP Taylor, and online from Ticketweb.



Abbie Wood, left, and Christiana Cameron were among the protesters at Oban High School.

Photograph: Jack MacGregor.

## Pupils continue campaign to stop Argyll youth services' decimation

OBAN

Two Oban teenagers are continuing to fight for Argyll and Bute's youth services, weeks after the sector was 'decimated'.

Oban High School students Dante Lopez and Rachel Lawlor are asking for the service to be made statutory.

Speaking about the service, Dante said: 'Argyll and Bute already falls behind on youth services compared to other parts of Scotland, such as Stirling.

If local people, councillors, MSPs and MPs want young people to be more engaged in their local area then having a good quality service like ABYS is paramount.'

As part of their campaign, the teenagers travelled to Glasgow on Tuesday March 12 to discuss the cuts with CLD Standards Council Scotland – a professional body for people who work or volunteer in community learning and development.

While they await the six-month deadline to see if the

council will revisit its decision, Dante and Rachel intend to push the topic locally, aiming to increase the interest in Argyll, as well as on a national level.

They will do this by having meetings with committees such as the community council, area committees, as well as councillors.

To stay up to date with the campaign to save the service, search #saveABYS, #noBSforYS, or #youthworkchangeslives on social media.

## Thought for the Week with Marilyn Shedden

As a very enthusiastic, though amateur, photographer, I had treated myself to a new and rather expensive camera lens.

Usually I purchase an inexpensive skylight filter to protect the lens from scratches or damage.

The theory being that it is far easier and less expensive to replace an inexpensive filter than a very expensive lens.

However I was intrigued when I began to research the best filter for my requirements.

I was being offered a completely clear glass filter for way more than I would normally pay for a simple skylight filter.

At first I thought: 'Why on earth would I pay such a lot of money for something which is just a piece of clear glass?'

However when I read the reasons given to purchase this clear piece of glass, I was convinced.

The logic was this – why pay a lot of money for a top-class lens, and then put a cheap filter on it?

Why not let the lens do the job you have paid it to do, and simply protect it with the finest clearest glass you can get.

I thought of the words of St Paul who said: 'For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.'

Somehow my clear glass filter gives me the best image reproduction I can have.

In our earthly life, we see Jesus as best we can, perhaps through a skylight filter, but just think that in time there will be nothing to dull our vision and we will see him in all his glory – crystal clear and face to face.

## CONTACTUS

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**TEXT FOR THE WEEK**

'... Commit yourself to the Lord and serve him only, and he will deliver you ...'  
(1 Samuel 7:3).

**BIRTHS**



**ANDERSON**  
Craig and Megan (née Hill) are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Willow Elizabeth Rose, on February 26, 2019, at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital. Third grandchild for Jimmy and Shona Anderson, and fourth grandchild for John and Elizabeth Hill.

**ENGAGEMENTS**



**LANG - BROWN**  
Both families are delighted to announce the engagement, on March 9, 2019, of Craig, son of Dougie and Mandy, and Cheryl, daughter of Kenny and Andrea.



**MCARTHUR - ROSS**  
Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Shona, daughter of Anne and Archie McArthur, Tiretigan Farm, Kilberry, to Alexander, son of Lady Provost Hanna and RH Lord Lieutenant and Lord Provost Frank Ross, Corstorphine, Edinburgh, on Saturday, February 23, 2019, at Fonab Castle.

**DEATHS**

**ANDERSON** - It is with heavy hearts that we have to let people know that Mr Alasdair Anderson, formerly of 1 An Croit, Carradale, passed away, peacefully in his sleep, on Sunday, March 10, 2019. He was a very much loved dad, papa and grandfather, who will be sorely missed. His funeral is on Monday, March 25, 2019, at South Lanarkshire Crematorium, at 12.30pm, and thereafter the funeral tea will take place at the Masonic Hall, Green Street, Stonehouse.

**BLACK** - Suddenly, on February 20, 2019, Archibald Black (Archie), in his 63rd year, Mistral, Knockscalbert Way, Campbeltown, dearly beloved son of the late Lachie and Christina, much loved brother of Gus and Lachie, loving partner of Roy, much loved brother-in-law of Eileen and Lesley, and an adored uncle of Kirsty, Sandy, Laura and Hannah.

**MCIVOR** - Suddenly, on March 13, 2019, Margaret McIvor, in her 69th year, 54c Longrow, Campbeltown, dearly beloved daughter of the late James and Margaret McIvor, much loved sister of Janet and Jim, dearly loved aunt and great aunt and a much loved friend.

**MCMURCHY** - Peacefully, after a short illness, surrounded by his family, on March 16, 2019, Bruce McMurphy, in his 85th year, previously of 50 Calton Avenue, Campbeltown, dearly beloved husband of Marion, much loved dad of Bruce, Douglas, Catherine and Neil, much loved father-in-law of Jean, Wilma, Stephen and Denise and a loving granda and great granda. A funeral service will take place in the Highland Parish Church, on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 2.00pm, thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. Family flowers only please. A retiral collection will be held in aid of the British Heart Foundation and Alzheimer Scotland.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**BLACK** - Gus, Lachie and their families would like to sincerely thank friends and family for the many expressions of sympathy and support, flowers, cards, messages and calls received following the sad and sudden loss of their dear brother, Archie. Special thanks to the police and CID officers for their compassion and professionalism at this very difficult time. Grateful thanks to T A Blair Funeral Directors, to Reverend Steve Fulcher and Mr David McEwan for the lovely funeral service, and to the Glen Restaurant, Carradale for the excellent catering. Finally, we would like to thank everyone who paid their respects and offered their support at the church and graveside, it was a great comfort to the family. The retiral collection raised £507.07, to be divided between Saddell and Carradale Parish Church and Diabetes Kintyre Locality.

**SARGENT** - Senga, Roger and families would like to thank everyone for the many kind expressions of sympathy, cards, flowers and phone calls received following the sudden loss of their dad, Roger. Special thanks to Dr C

Millar and staff at Ward B HDU, Oban Hospital for the care of their dad. Thanks to Rev W Crossan for the comforting service, to Kenneth and Rhys Blair for the caring and efficient arrangements, and to Elaine and James at the Kilbrannan Bar for the excellent purvey. Our thanks are extended to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside, and donated to Ward B HDU, Oban Hospital. The amount raised was £420.

**IN MEMORIAMs**

**BLACKBURN** - In loving memory of my mum, Mary Blackburn.

You will live through me, you will live through Shayla,

I believe your strong fighting spirit will live for generations to come. Shayla says, nousey, nousey, blow a kiss and keep it in your heart forever. I miss my two nannies in the sky. - Love from your daughter and granddaughter xx.

**GILMOUR** - In loving memory of Sheena Mary, who died March 25, 2015. Close to our hearts you will always stay, Loved and remembered every day. - Love from all the family xx.

**HUNTER-SWIFT** - In loving memory of Rosemarie (Rosie), mum, nanny, great nanny, daughter, sister, aunt, wife, who died March 20, 2018. "Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal." - Loved and missed from all the family.

**MACKINNON** - In remembrance of my husband and our dad, Hector, who passed away on March 21, 2015.

We never part from those we love  
No distance can divide in memory's garden  
Day by day we still walk by your side.  
- Mary and family.

**MCDUGALL** - Fond memories of Iain, who died March 27, 2016. - From family home and away.

**MCLAUGHLIN** - Remembering Maureen, a dearly loved wife of 54 years, mum, grandma and great grandma, who is always in our hearts and thoughts. - Andrew and family. - From family, home and away.

**MCMILLAN** - In loving memory of Mary McMillan, died on March 22, 2018.

"Remembering you is easy, I do it every day, but missing you is a heartache that never goes away." - Loved and missed by all the family.

**O'MAY** - Malcolm, remembering with love and special memories, a dear dad and grampa. Simply the best! - Love from all the family xxxxxx.

**PATERSON** (McCallum). In loving memory of my dearest sister/auntie, Flora, passed away March 2016.

I/we miss you so much xx  
You're the missing link xx. - Love you always and forever 1212-21, Joan, Derek, Stuart, Lauren, Amelia-J ♥♥.

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY**  
Church of Scotland  
**Sunday 24th March 2019**  
Skipness service 10am  
Marilyn Sheddou  
**Tarbert service 11.30am**  
Douglas Allan  
**Kilberry service - 2pm**  
Douglas Allan  
Everyone very welcome  
Tarbert & Kilberry SCO02622  
Skipness SCO04280  
For all church enquiries and pastoral care: Contact DCarruthers@churchofscotland.org.uk

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND WEST LOCHFYNESIDE**  
**Sunday 24th March 2019**  
Cumlodden and Lochgair  
Charity No. SC016097  
**Cumlodden Church - 10.00am**  
Service will be taken by Mrs Margaret Sinclair  
**Glenaray and Inveraray**  
Charity No. SC016665  
**Inveraray Church - 11.30am**  
Service will be taken by Mrs Margaret Sinclair  
ALL WELCOME

**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 (SCO002876)

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GLASSARY KILMARTIN and FORD PARISH CHURCH**  
**Kilmartin**  
**Sunday 24th March 2019 11.30am**  
Service will be taken by Rev Robert MacLeod  
All welcome  
(SCO 02121)

**NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH**  
Charity Number SC001002  
**Sunday 24th March**  
10am Morning Worship  
Tayvallich Church followed at 11.15am  
by choir practice  
**Saturday 23rd March**  
Achnamara Hall  
Cafe Connect  
10.30am - 12.30pm  
**Wednesday 27th March**  
Tayvallich Church - 7.30pm  
Kirk Session  
**Thursday 28th March**  
Tayvallich Hall - 4-6pm  
Messy Church  
All welcome  
www.northknapdale.org

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**CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**Sunday 24th March**  
11.00am Family Service  
Speaker - Ken Watson  
with Sunday school and refreshments after the service  
**The Ark**  
Our Baby and Toddler Group is currently on a short term break. Please visit The Ark's Facebook page for up-to-date information.  
**South Kintyre Youth**  
Every Friday at 7.30 pm  
Visit our Facebook page for details of venue.  
**This will be our last service at Kinloch Hall, Kinloch Road**  
New venue to be confirmed  
www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk

**Argyll Street, Campbeltown**  
St Kieran Episcopal Church:  
Campbeltown  
Scottish Charity No SC023277  
**Sunday 24th March**  
Third Sunday of Lent  
Holy Communion 10.45am  
**Enquiries Tel: 01586 551141**  
The Scottish Episcopal Church is a Province of the Worldwide Anglican Communion

**SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH**  
**75 Longrow, Campbeltown**  
**Friday 22nd March**  
SKY Youth Group  
7.30pm  
**Sunday 24th March**  
Family Communion Service  
11.00am  
Pastor Steve Davies  
All welcome  
**Wednesday 27th March**  
Bible study  
7.30pm at the manse  
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 Services In**  
Ardrishaig at 11.00am 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, Lochgilphead**  
(SC013787)  
**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

**Highland Parish Church**  
**Sunday 24th March 2019**  
Session Meeting in James Angus Room at 10.30am  
The service will be conducted by Rev David Carruthers and will be held in the church at 11.15am  
The Annual Stated Meeting will be held at the close of service  
All welcome.

**LORNE AND LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH**  
Scottish Charity Number SC011686  
**Sunday 24th March**  
Morning Worship 11.15am  
Creche, Triple C, Gen 1  
Rev W Crossan  
**Tuesday 26th March**  
Tiny Tot's 9.45am  
New Hall  
Anchor Boys 6.00pm  
Junior Section 7.15pm  
Church Hall  
**Wednesday 27th March**  
Board Meeting  
Session Room 7.30pm  
**Thursday 28th March**  
Choir Practice  
**Friday 29th March**  
Lunch Club 12.00 noon

**Campbeltown Corps Church and Community Centre**  
Registered Charity No. 214779 and in Scotland SC009399  
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

**free church of Scotland**  
George Street, Campbeltown  
**Sunday 24th March**  
11.15am Worship Service  
Rev Rodger Crooks  
11.15am Sunday School  
3.00pm Christianity Explored  
**Wednesday 27th March**  
12 noon Bible Study & Prayer  
2.00pm - 4.00pm  
Water of Life Cafe  
**Sunday 31st March**  
3.00pm Christianity Explored  
All Welcome  
All Rodger Crooks' sermons can be found through our website:  
www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk  
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

**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)

## Craft of shinty stick making in danger of dying out

The traditional craft of shinty stick making is in danger of dying out.

New research by the Heritage Crafts Association has unearthed dozens more traditional craft skills on the verge of extinction in the UK, in the first major update of its pioneering project, the Red List of Endangered Crafts.

Sixteen new crafts have been added to the 'critically endangered' category of the Red List, meaning they are at serious risk of dying out in the next generation. These include shinty stick making.

Critically endangered crafts include those with very few practitioners, few, if any, trainees and a lack of viable training routes by which the skills can be passed on. Often they serve niche markets and craftspeople cannot afford to step away from production to train their successors.

It's not all bad news, however, as the craft of sieve and riddle making, which was listed as extinct in 2017, has been revived by two new makers devoted to bringing it back, both of whom are now beginning commercial production. In addition, the Heritage Crafts Association has, with funding from The Dulverton Trust, employed an endangered crafts officer to look for practical ways to safeguard these crafts skills.

Daniel Carpenter, who led the research on behalf of the Heritage Crafts Association, said: "The Red List of Endangered Crafts is vital in drawing our attention to parts of our shared cultural heritage we are at greatest risk of losing. What we as a society decide to do with that knowledge is up to us, but at the Heritage Crafts Association we believe the country's skills can be just as valuable as its historic artefacts and monuments, perhaps even more so as they may offer opportunities for future generations to create their own sustainable livelihoods in ways we cannot yet imagine. If we allow these crafts to disappear, we seriously diminish these opportunities."

## Carpet bowling club winds up for season

Inveraray Carpet Bowling Club held its final night of the season on Thursday March 14.

Trophy winners are as follows: The ladies' cup was won by Greta Stevenson. The John Owen Memorial trophy for doubles went to D Roberston and D Duff. The single's shield went to D Robertson. The winning team for the Skips cup was made up of D Robertson, D McColl and N Campbell. The Loch Fyne Side League was won by Furnace, with Inveraray runners up. The League Skips Cup was won by D Wilson from Cairndow.

# Lochgilphead gymnast dazzles in Liverpool

Lochgilphead gymnast Louise Pendreigh has been wowing the crowds with her display team in front of some of Britain's top gymnasts at the British Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Liverpool.

Louise, aged 11, a primary seven pupil at Lochgilphead Primary School, joined Dynamite Rockets Display Team in August 2018 and has been training hard with the team at Dynamite Gymnastics Club in Clydebank every Sunday to perfect a routine themed around the film 'Sister Act'.

The routine was unveiled the previous week at the Derbyshire Festival of Gymnastics, where the team won the award for best costume, and will continue to be performed at festivals around the UK in 2019.

The Rockets won the British Gymnastics Innovation Award at Gym For Life 2018, which gave them the honour of performing at the 2019 British Championships from March 14 to 17.

Louise said: "I loved performing our routine on the same floor where Claudia Fragapane, Ellie Downie, Max Whitlock and all the top gymnasts had just competed and being filmed by the BBC. It was so exciting to meet Claudia Fragapane in warm-up. She said she liked our lipstick. It was also brilliant to meet Ellie Downie after she had won gold medals on vault and floor."



Dynamite Rockets display team with Ellie Downie, 2019 British all-around, floor and vault gold medallist. Louise is front row, second right.



Above: Ballachulish's Duncan Macdonald challenges Andrew MacVicar.

Left: Ballachulish's Lewis Bryson is tackled by Col Glen half back, Murray McClymont.

Photographs: Iain Ferguson.

## Shinty games washed out

The shinty schedule was weather-ravaged for a third successive weekend with only three men's and one women's games going ahead.

The Lochaber v Kyles Athletic, Caberfeidh v Inveraray and Aberdour v Inveraray games were all postponed.

### Mowi South Division 1

#### Ballachulish 2 Col Glen 1

Ballachulish came from a goal down to beat Col Glen 2-1 at Jubilee Park.

Ballachulish lost new signing Jack Dignan early in the first half when a stick caught him on the head and he had to be substituted.

Not long after, Duncan Macdonald also had to leave the field of play with a head injury, although he and Dignan returned to start the second half.

The first half looked as if it would end goalless but when a ball over the top was missed by the Ballachulish defence a minute before the break, Neil McKirdy fired a shot low past Marcus Spence in the home goal to give the visitors a 1-0 lead at the interval. A quick start to the second

half saw the hosts threaten the Col Glen goal with three or four chances created inside the 'D', but the ball was cleared to safety on each occasion. A home goal was coming and it arrived on the hour.

A ball in from the middle of the park found Dougie Rankin, who rejoined the club in the close season, and his shot was pushed wide by keeper Ewan Harrison.

However, Duncan Macdonald collected possession and he rifled a shot into the roof of the net to make it 1-1.

Ballachulish continued to press and Col Glen goalie Harrison made a string of saves to keep his side level. The home side took the lead on 62 minutes as Dougie Rankin found himself in front of goal with the ball at his feet and he pinged a shot low past the keeper to make it 2-1.

There was a stoppage five minutes from time when Jack Maclean went to clear from defence but the ball caught on-coming Col Glen full centre Niven MacVicar in the face and he required treatment.

The win means Ballachulish are early league leaders.



The winners with their medals.

## Argyll and Bute schools badminton championships

The Argyll and Bute Badminton Championships were held on Wednesday March 13 at Lochgilphead Joint Campus.

Around 50 players from schools across Argyll participated including Tayvallich, Oban, Mull, and Campbeltown.

The boys' competitions were dominated by Malik Clowes and Joris Hutton from Mull both of whom have rankings at Scottish level and will be going forward to represent Argyll at the SSBU Championships in Perth in May. Players from Kintyre featured in the girls' and mixed doubles competitions. Kirstie Renton and Violet Campbell last year's runners-up, won the girls' doubles and Imogen Todd and Daniel Semple retained the mixed doubles title.

Full results as follows:

Boys' singles: Winner – Malik Clowes, runner-up – Joris Hutton both from Dervaig.

Girls' singles: Winner – Violet Campbell, runner-up – Kirstie Renton, both from Castlehill.

Girls' Doubles: Winners - Violet Campbell and Kirstie Renton both from Castlehill. Runners-up – Imogen Todd and Emily McMurchy both from Dalintober.

Boys' Doubles: Winners – Malik Clowes and Joris Hutton, both from Dervaig. Runners-up – David Simpson and George Pagan, Rockfield.

Mixed Doubles: Winners – Imogen Todd from Dalintober and Daniel Semple from Castlehill. Runners-up – Violet Campbell and Daniel McEachran both from Castlehill.

## Robert is a record breaker

Oban European Tour golfer Robert MacIntyre signed off a marathon nine weeks on the road with a brilliant course record 63 on the final day of the Magical Kenya Open in Nairobi.

He said: 'I'm absolutely delighted. I didn't really expect that after the way I've been playing but I just went out with complete freedom and managed to get it round in eight

under. I'm still not striking my irons great but I managed it well. I started holing some putts which is a key, I've been really struggling.'

The Glencruitten golfer graduated off the European Challenge Tour in 2018 and just 18 days after the season ending Ras Al Khaimah Challenge Tour Grand Final, he teed up in the season opening Honma Hong Kong Open.

## Sports club lotteries

Drawn on Monday March 18, Kilmory Camanachd Club's lottery numbers were 2, 14, and 18. There were no winners so next week's jackpot will be £300.

Also drawn on Monday, Tarbert Football Club's lottery numbers

were 3, 14 and 19. There were no winners so next week's jackpot will be £700.

Inveraray Shinty Club's lottery numbers were 6, 8 and 16. There were no winners, so next week's jackpot will be £200.

## SAFL – results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: West of Scotland Cup, quarter final - Oban Saints 3, Cambria 1; Premier Division One – Lochgilphead Red Star no game, Campbeltown Pupils no game; Premier Division Two – Duncanrig v Tarbert, postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division – Alba Thistle v Oban Saints; Premier Division One – FC Argyle v Campbeltown Pupils; Lochgilphead Red Star v Claremont; Premier Division Two – Tarbert v Houston United.

# new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

Win!

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2200

PLEASE NOTE NEW DEADLINE 2PM TUESDAY AND REMEMBER YOU NOW GET 20 CROSSES FOR £1

We have removed the shinty ball 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 20 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 £500 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 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 2pm Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into any of our offices - The Oban Times, Lochavullin, Oban; The Lochaber Times, High Street, Fort William; The Campbeltown Courier, Main Street, Campbeltown; The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead or the Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran 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 home towns 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 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, 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. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB or hand in to any of our offices as detailed above.

Name .....

Address .....

Tel No.....

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

### RECENT WINNERS:

T Campbell Sept '18 £2500  
S Campbell Sept '18 £2550  
L Currie Nov '18 £800  
L Nicolson Dec '18 £3900

### LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:

M Wotherspoon  
Oban  
A Livingstone  
Isle of Islay



**INSIDE THIS WEEK:**  
 Lochgilphead gymnast  
 dazzles in Liverpool

# Disappointment for Red Star youngsters

Lochgilphead Red Star 1  
 St Peter's 2  
 2004s Regional Cup

A terrific display from Red Star 2004s saw them just fall short of making it through to the west region cup semi-finals. Facing current west region cup holders and 2016/17 Scottish Cup winners St Peter's FC, the boys from Lochgilphead pushed the Paisley side all the way but were just edged out 1-2.

St Peter's had the best of the opening exchanges putting Star under pressure but their defence held out. Star began to settle and were just getting into the game when St Peter's fired in a shot from outside the box to take the lead. This galvanised Star into action and they proceeded to take control of the game pressing St Peter's all over the park.



Gregor Brown. 51\_a12RedStar07

After creating a few chances including hitting the post the Lochgilphead youngsters equalised with McLean planting a loose ball in the net. More chances followed including a great strike from outside the box which was heading for the top corner only for the St Peter's keeper to get a hand to it and push it out for a corner. Playing against the wind a half time score of 1-1 was the least the Star youngsters deserved.

The second half was finely balanced with fewer clear cut chances for either team. Star struggled to get the most out of the strong wind behind them but probably edged possession. Unfortunately with around 20 mins to go St Peter's broke upfield and in the middle of some close play on the edge of the penalty box their striker controlled the ball and drilled it into the net to restore their lead. The Lochgilphead boys didn't give up and in a frantic end to the game threw everything at St Peter's but their defence held firm. The final was score 1-2 for St Peter's, who progress to the west region cup semi-finals. Whilst the Star youngsters will be disappointed to bow out they do so with their heads held high, pushing one of Scotland's top teams in that age group all the way.

Craig Aitken with Conner McMurphy trying to keep control of the ball.

51\_a12RedStar03



The Red Star 2004 team. 51\_a12RedStar02



## Atlantis to host Argyll athletics final

Atlantis Leisure in Oban is the venue this Sunday, March 24, for the Argyll Sports Hall Athletics final. The competition starts at 12pm in the large games hall at Atlantis with young athletes from most parts of Argyll taking part in various running, jumping and throwing events.

The final on Sunday is the last of a series of competitions held in the district this winter starting with events in Lochgilphead, Mull, Oban and finally the Kintyre area event on Sunday March 3.

Successful qualifiers from the contests will now come together in Oban on Sunday with as many as 110 young athletes, from five years to 16 years, participating in what should be an enthralling competition.

Athletes are reminded to register between 11am and 12pm on Sunday with the first events starting just after 12pm.

Trophies will be awarded to first, second and third overall in each age group.

The Argyll Sports Hall competitions are promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club.



# The Courier Centre

Main and Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6AE  
 Tel: 01586 554646 [www.facebook.com/couriercentre](http://www.facebook.com/couriercentre)

## Mother's Day

### Sunday 31st March

Treat your mum to a fabulous card and gift from the Courier Centre, this Mother's Day.

Pop in to browse the full range.