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# Challenges aplenty on rocky road to Morocco

by Rachel Carruthers  
[editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)

Despite a 'stowaway', cancelled ferries, broken down vehicles and being refused entry to Morocco, Challenge 4000 team members are still smiling on their mammoth journey to The Gambia.

The volunteers are driving more than 4,000 miles from Inveraray to deliver emergency vehicles to the west African country.

The convoy includes a road rescue and emergency trauma care unit for the Gambian Fire and Rescue Service; two ambulances to be used as mobile clinics; a 4 x 4 to be used as a sea rescue unit for the Gambian Fire and Sea Rescue Unit; and an ambulance to serve the Foni region.

Leaving Inveraray Jail on December 15, Fiona Nelson, Finlay Hutton, Charlie Denny, Vicky Lang, Jillian McCreery, Doug and Rose Hamlen, Grahame Ross, Dougie Feltham, June

Eades, Becky Headley, Dan Maddocks, Donald Stewart, Jacqueline Bottomley, Maggie Styche and Kim Bowskill ended up with a stowaway.

The infamous Inveraray gin thief escaped from the jail and hitched a ride.

The escapee was captured at Penrith from where the team pressed on through the Eurotunnel to France and onwards through Spain, into Morocco and Mauritania. On the way, the group has celebrated Finlay's 14th birthday, had Christmas in the desert and encountered more than their fair share of difficulties.

A technical issue with an air filter needed to be repaired before the group arrived in Africa and wild winds left its scheduled ferry from Algeciras to Tangier cancelled, resulting in a mad dash to the Moroccan border when group members finally made it across the Strait of Gibraltar.

At the time of writing, despite all the complications and setbacks, the team was back on track to reach its destination today, Friday January 3.

turned back by border control. Contacting the Moroccan Embassy, members hoped to be given special clearance – but no such luck on a Friday. Plan B was implemented: make the vehicles look more like campervans by inflating airbeds and hanging up washing.

Unfortunately, one of the vehicles was recognised and they were again refused entry, meaning it was a return ferry trip to Algeciras until the Gambian Foreign Office and the Moroccan Embassy sorted it out.

Emergency funding appeals have been launched as they are en route, helping to cover unexpected costs of additional ferry crossings and the support the group has received has encouraged them to keep going.

Thinking they had made it through, the group was



## New Year honour for Fiona

Mid Argyll Youth Development Services manager Fiona Kalache has received an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours List. Fiona said she was 'shocked but delighted' at the news. Full story on page three. 51\_a01FionaKalache05

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# Bute meets Ayrshire in memory of Calum



**'The families have been blown away by their stays at Dumfries House'**

Louis MacCallum presents a fund-raising cheque to Caroline Speirs.

An Argyll and Bute charity has joined forces with the Prince's Foundation to offer families living with cancer short getaways at a five-star, self-catering cottage at Dumfries House estate, East Ayrshire.

Caroline Speirs co-founded Calum's Cabin with her husband Duncan and daughter Jenna to provide holiday homes on the Isle of Bute for children suffering from cancer or a cancer-related disease.

Caroline and Duncan were parents to Calum, who sadly passed away aged 12 after being diagnosed with a brain tumour.

Knowing he and his family lived in a beautiful part of the world, Calum wanted children suffering from cancer to come to Bute for special getaways where the entire family could cherish quality time together and recharge their batteries for what may lie ahead.

The charity now runs several holiday homes on Bute and private flats in Glasgow for families travelling to the city for treatments at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Care and Royal Hospital for Children.

Dumfries House Lodge is a 22-room, five-star country guest house with two self-catering cottages, all staffed round the clock.

Eight families have been referred through the children's charity so far to enjoy a four-night stay free of charge.

Caroline said: 'To allow Calum's Cabin families to be helped in such a special way is an absolute honour. For many of the families who have had this opportunity, their conditions would have been too severe to get away on holiday, or to come to Bute, so Dumfries House is perfect. Sadly, for some, it has been their final holiday together.'

'The families have been blown away by their stays at Dumfries House. The peace and tranquillity of the estate make it an ideal getaway and the staff could not have done more.'

'Our families have come away from each break with unforgettable memories and a renewed energy and focus for whatever may come next.'

Louis MacCallum, director of commercial for the Prince's Foundation at Dumfries House, said: 'Anyone who has met Caroline and Duncan cannot fail to be inspired into helping their charity in any way they can. Being a Bute man myself, I was already aware of the wonderful work of Calum's Cabin on Bute and in Glasgow and was delighted to help.'

For more information on Calum's Cabin, visit [www.calumscabin.com](http://www.calumscabin.com)

## POLICE FILES

### Witness appeal

At about 10am on Thursday December 19, a white or grey van was reported being driven dangerously while overtaking on the A83, near the junction with the A815 leading to Dunoon. The van was travelling towards Inveraray and two oncoming vehicles collided as a result of having to take evasive action to avoid hitting the van.

Police are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with dashcam footage to contact PC Jack Baker at Campbeltown Police Station on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

### Sheep attacked

Around midday on Sunday December 29, in a field at Gartnagrenoch Farm, Lochgilphead, a dog allegedly attacked and injured a sheep which required treatment by a vet. The dog's owner, a 58-year-old man, will be the subject of a report to the procurator fiscal.

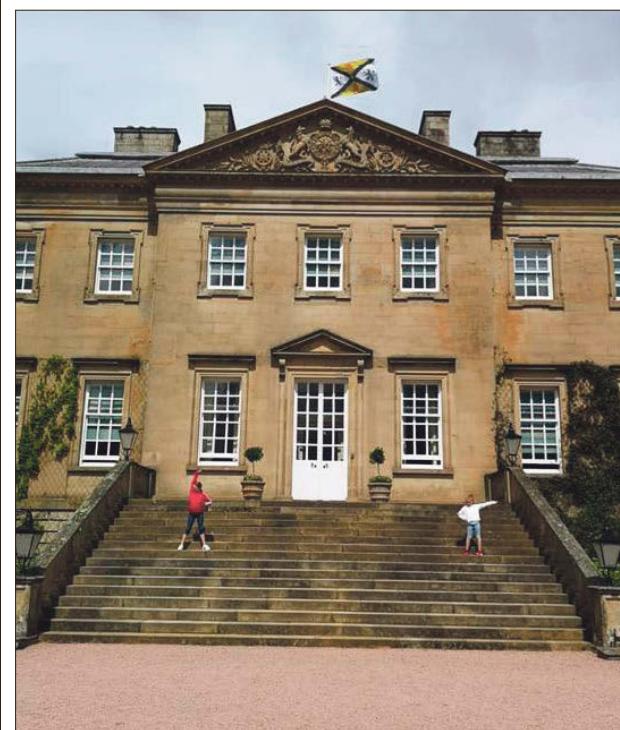
### Window damaged

The hinges of a window in a house at Balvicar Road, Balvicar, Isle of Seil, were broken off sometime between 12.45am and 9am on Saturday December 21. Officers are appealing for witnesses or anyone with information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

### Drugs and drug driving

A vehicle was stopped at 11.05pm on Friday December 27 on the A83 near Campbeltown. The vehicle and driver, a 49-year-old man, were searched. The man was found in possession of cannabis and issued with a recorded police warning. The man was then arrested for allegedly failing a roadside drug test and a blood sample was taken for analysis.

**Anyone with information in relation to the above, or to any incident, should contact police on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.**



The Dean family enjoyed their stay at Dumfries House.

# Youth champion Fiona honoured with MBE

## Lochgilphead-based centre manager 'shocked but delighted'

The manager of a Lochgilphead-based youth group has been recognised in the Queen's 2020 New Year Honours List.

Fiona Kalache, manager of Mid Argyll Youth Development Services (MAYDS), will receive a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to young people in Mid Argyll.

Fiona, 41, said she was 'shocked but delighted' when she heard about the MBE.

She added: 'This is an award for all the people at MAYDS, from staff, committee, volunteers, funders and partner agencies to the children,

young people and their families who have helped shape a service that has made a real difference across the area.'

MAYDS activities provide a safe and welcoming environment for up to 300 children and young people each week who have fun with peers and participate in a wide variety of activities.

She became manager of Mid Argyll Youth Project in January 2008, then a two-nights-a-week youth club. Rapid growth followed with Fiona at the helm and, over time, funds brought in have exceeded £1 million.

In 2011, the unincorporated club was converted into Mid Argyll Development Services, a community company limited by guarantee. Today MAYDS works with young people aged up to 25 and offers a number of services including a cyber cafe, meeting rooms, trips, community cinema and swimming.

The company works with a range of young people including young carers, young parents, young people with disabilities and those looking for fun activities.

Support is given for those who have difficulties with drugs and alcohol abuse and training is provided to improve their job opportunities.



Fiona Kalache.

51\_a01FionaKalache02

Fiona has worked with social services providing support for youngsters from disadvantaged backgrounds and with some who lead chaotic lives. Working with the NHS, she has delivered regular sessions in schools in Mid Argyll and on Islay dealing with issues relating to alcohol, drugs, substance misuse and sexual health.

MAYDS is continuing to raise money for a planned new centre beside its current hall on Union Street, Lochgilphead.

Asked for a particular mem-

ory of her time at MAYDS, Fiona replied: 'There's been so much over the years. But when you see the people we have helped, from young carers to young people who are struggling, making a success of their lives, that's what stands out for me.'

Wildlife cameraman Gordon Buchanan, originally from Mull, also receives an MBE. Elsewhere in Argyll, head of mathematics at Oban High School Nan Johnstone and accordion player Alasdair Macdonald from Connel will each receive a British Empire Medal (BEM), while Patrick Stewart MBE, Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, has been appointed a Companion of the Royal Victorian Order, recognising distinguished personal service to the Queen or the monarchy.



Inveraray Senior Citizens' Club hosted a busy Christmas lunch.

## Plenty of Christmas room at the inn

Inveraray Senior Citizens' committee hosted its annual Christmas lunch in the Inveraray Inn.

The event, on Sunday December 15 for senior citizens of Inveraray, was well attended with everyone enjoying a delicious meal and musical entertainment provided by Lochgilphead's Easy Club.

During the festivities, the committee presented flowers to Diane MacDonald, who is retiring from the committee after nine years.



Diane MacDonald was presented with flowers to mark her retirement from the committee.

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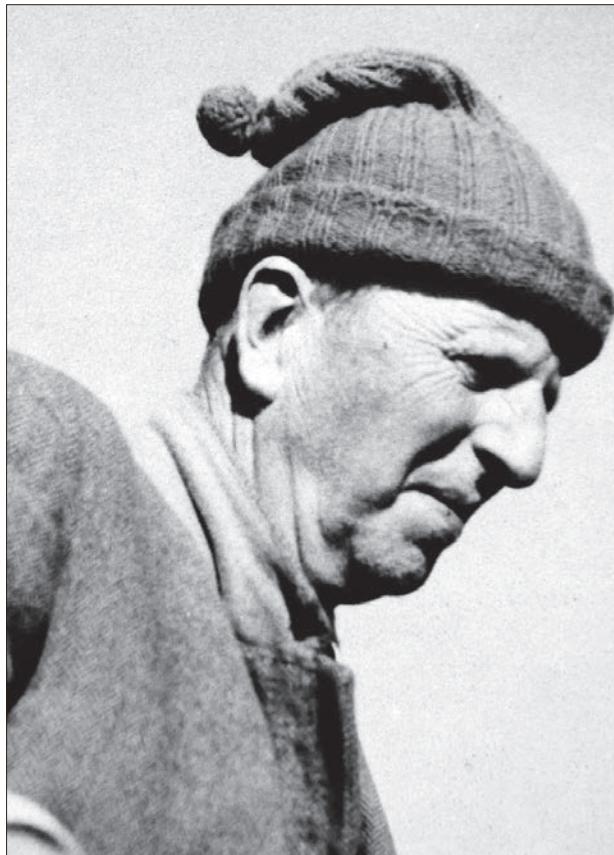
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# Meet RG Mowat – owner of the Fulmar



From the log book and captioned only as 'Skipper' – but is this Commander Ralph G Mowat, RN (Rtd)? 51\_a48Fulmar06

by Colin Cameron  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

At the end of November, we asked readers for help to unravel the mystery of a yacht log book which was posted to the paper with no clues as to its origin.

And, not for the first time, the Argyllshire Advertiser's readers have come up trumps and we now know a little



The Fulmar. 51\_a48Fulmar01

more about the boat's owner, named only as RG Mowat in the log book.

The log book gives an account of the 1956 voyages of the 41-foot gaff cutter Fulmar and the adventures of her colourful crew. Its dog-eared pages contain neatly-typed records, precise drawings and fascinating photographs.

The log's mystery is deepened by the fact no names

are given other than the nicknames 'Tanky', 'Bosun', 'Skipper' and 'Pilot'. The only crew member named is pet dachshund Major.

The log does record the Fulmar's home port was Tighnabruaich and the owner was RG Mowat, but few details on Mr Mowat could be found.

Lord Weir of Lochhead, Achahoish, contacted the newspaper to pass on information on Commander Ralph G Mowat.

During the Second World War, Commander Mowat was a Royal Navy captain, latterly in command of a cruiser. At the end of the war, he and his ship entered Copenhagen, where he took the surrender of the German troops.

Clive Brown from Ardfern added some post-war detail.

#### Distinguished

He revealed: 'Commander Ralph G Mowat, RN (Rtd), was a distinguished member of Clyde Cruising Club (CCC) best known as being, for 23 years, the honorary editor of the CCC Sailing Directions (1947-1970). These were – and indeed remain – a must have for everyone who navigates their way among the many lochs and islands of Scotland's west coast.'

'They were colloquially known as the Blue Book and published at that time as a hardback. He also served as CCC Rear Commodore 1947-1950.'

Mr Brown also provided an extract from the book Clyde Cruising Club, The First One Hundred Years 1909-2009, which states Ralph Mowat received an RYA Award for services to yachting in 1969 but refused to accept honorary membership of the club. In recompense, his widow Mary was elected an

honorary member in 1974, following his death.

Tighnabruaich man Alan Wilson contacted Clyde sailing legend Ian Nicolson, who was fairly sure he recalled racing against the Fulmar in the 1960s.

Mr Nicolson said: 'Old Man Mowat, as I remember him, was a typical ex-Royal Navy officer. He treated me as a young upstart, which I was, but we got on well because I wrote a bit for Clyde Cruising Club publications. He lived in Clarkston on the edge of Glasgow.'

Clyde Cruising Club itself cannot help with information on the Fulmar.

Club secretary Jennifer Rollands contacted the Advertiser and confirmed CCC sadly lost all its records when the Carrick, moored on the River Clyde, sank in 1977. At the time, the club's office was aboard her.

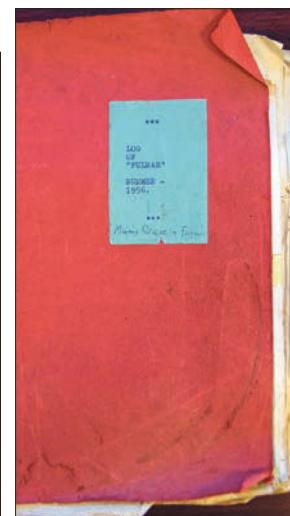
Closer to home, Ardriishaig man Billy Paterson called into the Advertiser offices to say his father, Ardriishaig Primary School headmaster Gilbert Paterson, had crewed the yacht Fulmar.

Mr Paterson still has mementoes from his father's trips in the form of gifts from Commander Mowat, including a paperweight from 1951, a copper and brass barrel ashtray dated 1953 and a brass model yacht with Fulmar 1954 engraved on it.

Thanks to everyone who contacted the Advertiser with their memories.

We now know a little more about Commander Ralph G Mowat, RN (Rtd), owner of the Fulmar.

Details about the crew of 'Tanky', 'Bosun' and 'Pilot' remain, however, sketchy, so if anyone out there knows any more...



The mysterious log book dating from 1956. 51\_a48Fulmar02



Three mementoes dating between 1951 and 1954 from Gilbert Paterson's time crewing the Fulmar. 51\_a01FulmarObjects02

## TAX RETURN DEADLINE 31 JANUARY 2020

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Around 7,000 people in the UK are currently waiting for organ transplantation.

All have end-stage organ failure, be it kidney, liver, lung or heart, and require a life-saving transplant.

Organs for transplant usually come from bodies of people who agreed to donate before death. But as this does not produce enough organs, Scotland and England plan to bring in an 'opt out' system, meaning that on death a person's agreement to organ donation is assumed unless they had actively opted out.

Live donation is an alternative to awaiting a cadaveric organ. As people can live happily with one kidney or half a liver, family members or altruistic individuals sometimes offer to donate these organs. Since matching donor and recipient tissue-type, however, is generally required these donations are not always acceptable.

Now groups of tissue-type incompatible donor/recipient pairs are getting together to mix and match, producing duos who are tissue-type-compatible. Let's say Annie is rejected as a kidney donor for her sister Jean for incompatibility reasons and, similarly, Arthur is rejected as a kidney donor for Jim. But pairing donor

## Science matters

### DOROTHY H CRAWFORD



## The future for organ donation



Annie with recipient Jim and Arthur with Jean could lead to two successful transplants. A recent report from the US describes the first bi-organ exchange involving a liver-kidney swap\*. In this case, a daughter wished to donate a kidney to her mother with renal failure

but was rejected because she might later develop the same kidney problem. So she offered half of her liver in exchange for a kidney for her mother. Another donor was eventually identified who wanted to donate half her liver to her sister with liver failure but was rejected because her liver was too small. But she was cleared for kidney donation. So on the day of the swap, four operations took place and two needy people received life-giving new organs.

Although not presently being considered in the UK, with the ethical issues sorted, this multi-swap procedure opens the way for extended chains of donors and many more lives saved.

\*Torres et al Am J transplant. 2019;00:1-4.

## Measures to improve island communities

Scotland's first National Islands Plan to improve the quality of life for island communities has been launched.

The plan sets out 13 objectives and more than 100 measures to support achieving them to address population decline, tackle climate change and improve transport, housing, the delivery of public services and digital connectivity.

It follows an extensive consultation which included 61 events and meetings on 40 islands across Scotland, attended by almost 1,000 people of all ages and backgrounds. The online consultation received 400 responses.

Scotland's Islands Minister Paul Wheelhouse said: 'I am proud to introduce Scotland's first National Islands Plan, an historic milestone that began with the passing of the Islands (Scotland) Act last year.'

'The plan has been created with the input of many islanders and those with a stake in our islands' future and I am extremely grateful for all their contributions and ideas.'

'Since spring this year,

we have visited 40 islands, engaged online and consulted with stakeholders. I hope those who took part will recognise this unparalleled level of engagement with islanders has been captured in the final plan and that the plan reflects the priorities identified by those who live and work in these communities.'

'The plan is a key milestone, but it cannot be allowed to sit on a shelf. I look forward to working with colleagues and partner organisations to put the plan into action.'



Scotland's Islands Minister Paul Wheelhouse.

## A+ night for Inveraray Accordion and Fiddle Club



Left to right: the three 'A's - Alastair Murray, Alex MacAllister and Archie MacAllister.

Inveraray Accordion and Fiddle Club chairman Niall Iain MacLean welcomed a good crowd to the December club night at the Inveraray Inn.

Supporting players included stalwarts Fyne Folk, with Sally Hall, Alex John MacLeod and Jake MacKay on fiddles and Agnes Liddell on keyboard. Also playing were young Calum MacDonald on accordion and Dalriada Ceilidh Sound; Margaret Kemp on 'moothie', accompanied by Jimmy MacDonald on keyboard and Jake on 'moothie' with Agnes on keyboard. All their selections were much enjoyed.

Guest artists were the Archie MacAllister

Trio, with Archie on fiddle, brother Alex on accordion and Alastair Murray on drums - the three 'A's.

They delighted the audience with a great west coast sound, including superb fiddle solos from Archie.

### Great night

All too soon it was time for the final set of jigs but not before the chairman thanked the players and guest artists for a great night and wished everyone the compliments of the season.

The club kicks off the New Year on Wednesday January 8 when the Ross MacPherson Trio make a welcome return.

**Happy New Year to all our customers**

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# LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk or The Editor, 44 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8NB

## A comedy it ain't

Readers of a certain vintage will remember the film The Road to Morocco starring Bing Crosby, Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour.

The comedy followed the misadventures of two wise-cracking stowaways who find themselves marooned in North Africa.

We're not sure about the wise-cracking, but the challenges faced by the team trying to transport vehicles to help the people of The Gambia are no comedy.

Well done to them for persevering and we wish them well in the rest of their trip.

## Well deserved

Congratulations to Fiona Kalache on being given an MBE. Whether you agree or disagree with the honours system, if anyone should be recognised, it surely must be those unsung community heroes such as Fiona.

The tradition of cronyism and the old boy network among politicians and millionaire business people has no place in civilised society. Real people deserve recognition, so good on Fiona and to those who suggested her for the honour.

## The Fulmar is flying

Thanks to everyone who contacted us about the Fulmar and the (formerly) mysterious RG Mowat.

We hope to serialise the log book in the near future – so look out for that.

## Election déjà vu response

Sir,

What a sad, sarcastic letter from Anne Baird, published December 20 2019.

She insults three of the candidates who put forward their different views in a civilised and respectful campaign. The 72.4 per cent turnout in Argyll in the middle of winter suggests the overwhelming majority of voters do not share her cynical views.

As Anne Baird seems to dislike all the candidates and their policies, she should stand as a candidate herself. All she has to do is develop some policies, round up a group of volunteers to help, put in the effort and hard work and cover the expense involved. Who knows, she might be successful.

David Hay, Minard.

## King George V park

Sir,

Some folk may have noticed the panels of the King George V playing field fence in Ardrishaig have been taken down. This is because Argyll and Bute Council believe some of the posts are not secure enough and pose an unacceptable risk to the public, particularly at a time when the weather may be stormy.

The fence posts will be inspected early in the New Year and it is possible remedial work will have to be done before the fence panels can be put back in place.

Mary MacCallum Sullivan,  
Convener, Ardrishaig Community  
Council.

## Government needs training

Sir,

I hope you enjoyed a good Christmas with fine presents. Those in the local media certainly deserve them. Unlike many of your colleagues in national broadcasting and media, locally-based journalists have displayed fairness, respect and even-handedness to communities.

Over recent Christmases my wife decided I needed training to become a more interesting person. Her first present was to send me on a day's wine tasting course. An excellent choice, about which I remember little having consumed 15 wine samples over an extended lunch.

Another Christmas, I attended a weekend course on stained glass. Excellent and enjoyable training, even although I returned with plasters on each finger.

There is a real problem for people leading organisations to be given or even willing to undergo training. When you're top of the pinnacle it's assumed you know it all. From the leader's point of view, any hint or indication that she/he could benefit from tutoring may be seen as a weakness.

Not having depth of knowledge in leadership can be very costly to an organisation or even country. Mistakes in defence issues; health provision; pension policy; welfare benefits have and are costing lives.

I am hoping Christmas presents will continue into New Year Resolutions. It would be good if generous highly knowledgeable specialists, trainers and coaches offer their

services at no cost. And that Nicola Sturgeon, the First Minister, and her senior Ministers and Secretaries of State will drop their 'know it all' approach and undergo appropriate and significant training.

Hopefully that would save us, the tax payers, having to spend unnecessary millions of pounds on ferries, unopened new hospitals and IT systems that don't work.

Finlay Craig, Cove.

## Thank you Scout volunteers

Sir,

The last decade in Scouts has seen big achievements. We welcomed new members every year. We committed to tackling the biggest social issues facing our country including protecting our environment. We encourage young people to do more, learn more and be more. That's thanks to the amazing volunteers who make it happen.

As we head into the new year, I want to thank those who gave their time, from the minibus driver, to the tea makers and the den builders. Every single person is playing their part to give young people aged 6 to 25 years the skills they need for school, college, university, the job interview, the important speech, the tricky challenge and the big dreams: the skills they need for life.

Thank you all. Scouting couldn't happen without you.

Andrew Sharkey, Chief Commissioner,  
Scouts Scotland.

## Press policy

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### Single transferable vote needed

December 12's General Election results reveal the votes of many Argyllshire Advertiser readers counted for nothing, thanks to continued use of our antiquated 'first-past-the-post' voting system.

Signing away your democratic rights with the mark of illiteracy in single member constituencies enables MPs to be elected on a small fraction of the vote. More than three quarters of the Scottish MPs were elected on a minority of their constituency vote. Consequently, seats won by a party do not necessarily reflect the level of support nationwide for that party, nor are outcomes consistent or certain. On December 12, Boris Johnson's so-called landslide was achieved on just 44 per cent of the vote. Fifty-six per cent of those who voted did not support his party.

More worrying for those who support the Union is the fact the Scottish Nationalists took 81 per cent of the seats for just 45 per cent of the Scottish vote, while in Northern Ireland, Unionists were awarded fewer seats than the Nationalists, even though they had polled more votes. It seems our Victorian voting system is undermining the Union.

If your readers want to know more, [www.knackered.org.uk](http://www.knackered.org.uk) sets out the deficiencies of our current voting system and advocates its replacement with the Single Transferable Vote.

David Green, 33 Hartwood Road,  
Southport.

## YOUR PICTURES



Regular contributor Cheryl Ratcliffe-Nye supplied this week's image - a stunning view up Loch Fyne from Inveraray on a cold, clear December day, with snowy peaks in the distance. Send your favourite photographs for publication to [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)



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# A Fyne festive cuppa, mince pie and music



Fyne  
H O M E S  
L T D



Kari Maxwell and Moira Young in festive mood at the afternoon of entertainment. 51\_a01FyneHomesCuppa02



Fiona MacDonald on piano with Colin Clark with guitar and Johnny Fisher on the accordion  
51\_a01FyneHomesCuppa03

Social housing provider Fyne Homes laid on a social event for all just before Christmas.

Johnny Fisher was there to entertain with his accordion, accompanied by Colin Clark on guitar and Fiona MacDonald playing the piano.

Fyne Homes staff and other volunteers enticed passers-by to come into Lochgilphead Parish Church Hall on December 19 for a free mince pie and cuppa.



Eve Maxwell, Holly Renton and Ruby Bosomworth had a great time inviting people to come in for a free cuppa and mince pie. Eve and Holly also performed some beautiful songs to attract passers-by. 51\_a01FyneHomesCuppa01

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## Campbeltown cinema's Jane nominated for BAFTA

by Hannah O'Hanlon  
[editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)

The chairman of Campbeltown Community Business is 'thrilled' and 'staggered' that she's in with a chance of winning BAFTA's second annual For the Love of Film competition.

Jane Mayo, who chairs the community trust which operates Campbeltown Picture House, is one of nine people shortlisted by a special BAFTA jury, having been nominated by the British public for their exceptional contributions to their communities through film.

Nearly 300 applications and testimonials were considered by a panel of industry experts including BAFTA-winning director Amma Asante, broadcaster Edith Bowman, four-time BAFTA-winning writer/director Paul Greengrass, filmmaker and content creator Jack Howard, and Andrew Orr of BAFTA's Film Committee.

Jane was chosen as a finalist not only because she led the community to raise more than £6 million to save the historic gem – the UK's

oldest continually operating cinema – but also because she generated a sustainable programme of self-funding activity to ensure the unique cinematic and architectural treasure will endure, serving the community as well as attracting visitors from all over the globe.

Jane's citation reads: 'Inspired by the power film has to motivate, educate, inspire and entertain an entire community, not only in the town itself but the wider Kintyre diaspora, Jane's passion, commitment and dedication to making this project a reality has seen the community's "wee picture house" brought back from

the brink of dereliction to be once more at the heart of the community.'

Jane said: 'I'm staggered by this nomination! I'm so pleased that the Picture House should get this national coverage, which is so important to help put both it and Campbeltown on the map.'

'As for myself, of course I'm thrilled, just to be nominated in such an impressive field of other contenders.'

The category's two winners, to be announced later this month, will be invited to attend the nation's biggest celebration of film, the EE British Academy Film Awards, on Sunday February 2.



Jane Mayo was 'thrilled' to be nominated.  
25\_c45totebag01JaneMayo01

# Ardrishaig Social Club's Christmas lunch a cracker

There was laughter and cracker jokes aplenty at the Ardrishaig Social Club's annual senior citizens' Christmas lunch.

Around 60 members in their festive glad rags turned out for the lunch held at The Grey Gull Hotel, Ardrishaig, on Friday December 20.

Reverend David Carruthers joined the group, sharing festive-themed poetry including a humorous poem by Timothy Tocher called Help Wanted. In jest, the Ardrishaig Parish Church minister told the poem about Santa needing new reindeer, which included lines about

Dasher's arthritis and Prancer being 'sick of staring at Dancer's big behind,' much to the amusement of the group.

The three-course meal was enjoyed by all before the raffle, which was full of bottles that would make for a perfect Christmas dram, was drawn.



Derek Meredith shares a cracker joke with Ivy Campbell and Jim Ballantine. 06\_a01ArdLunch01



Elma MacGuinness, left, and Val Mackenzie enjoyed the Christmas lunch. 06\_a01ArdLunch02



Jean Cowan, left, and Aileen Meikle were up for some festive fun. 06\_a01ArdLunch03



Kenneth Johnson and Donald MacLachlan were looking forward to the lunch. 06\_a01ArdLunch04



Sat by the Christmas tree: Myra Neil with Robbie and Faye Livingston. 06\_a01ArdLunch07



Getting into the Christmas spirit were Jeanette and Ian Rowatt with Mary Stirling (right). 06\_a01ArdLunch05



Cheesy cracker jokes give Helen Gray and Julia Thorgrimsson a giggle. 06\_a01ArdLunch04



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# Nature in Argyll is helping combat climate change

by Rachel Carruthers  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Nature-based solutions to help combat climate change are a big part of Scottish Natural Heritage's (SNH) work in Argyll and Bute.

The region has a good track record with the lowest current rate of carbon dioxide emissions per head of population in the UK. SNH staff, who are part of west coast community planning partnerships, have been helping partners understand how to make the most of natural habitats which have the greatest capacity to absorb and lock up carbon emissions.

Argyll and Bute has large areas of peatland and a huge area of woodland which is actively locking in carbon.

The seas surrounding the islands of Argyll also absorb carbon dioxide, thanks to the action of marine algae.

In 2019, there was interest in the Sea Eagle Management Scheme, including areas which sea eagles have recently moved into.

The scheme is designed to support crofters and farmers to mitigate the impacts sea eagles can have on sheep flock. SNH and its partners have been developing new approaches on trial farms and plan to roll out some of the techniques that may reduce impacts on sheep



flocks. For updates on the scheme see [www.nature.scot](http://www.nature.scot)

Now in its eleventh year, the Snapberry project uses photography to connect students with the astonishing natural landscape of Taynish nature reserve. It is a collaboration between SNH and Lochgilphead High School, with digital imagery allowing partici-

pants to express what they see and feel about their environment.

Through the years, the groups have been made up of mixed ability groups.

However, 2019 was the first year the entire group of pupils who took part in the Snapberry Project had additional support needs.

Organisers have seen remarkable

responses from these pupils in previous years, when they get out of the classroom and into nature. One year, a boy whose responses were fairly limited in school, interacted with his peers in a way never before seen by teachers.

Some pupils have also discovered a natural talent for photography that they never knew they had.

**Lochgilphead High School pupils participate in the SNH Snapberry project.** Photograph: Scottish Natural Heritage.

As part of a parliamentary event celebrating national nature reserves, the Snapberry Project was chosen to highlight the work done at Taynish and how SNH connect people, especially young people, with nature.

Some of the young people who took part in the project in 2019 were invited, along with two of their teachers and a parent helper, to attend the event.

This was no mean feat when their additional needs are considered, however, although challenging at times, the pupils enjoyed their visit. They met two senior MSPs, Mike Russell, a long-time supporter of Snapberry, and Brian Whittle.

They also enjoyed a tour of the chamber where they were allowed to sit in the First Minister's chair.

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# Santa's visit to Tarbert Fire Station warms folks' hearts

by Rachel Carruthers  
[editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)

We all know Santa likes to travel in style, but when he visits Tarbert he likes to swap his reindeer and sleigh for the comfort of his custom-made grotto at Tarbert Community Fire Station.

On Saturday December 14, Santa made his annual trip to the village to meet all the good boys and girls and give them an early Christmas present. He also took some time out to find out what they'd like to find under their Christmas tree this year, before heading back to the North Pole to get his presents ready.

Santa has been visiting Tarbert for a number of years, but it's only been in the last five years he's had his own grotto.

Tarbert's Station Commander Aggie Dennis explained the importance of inviting young people to the fire station.

He said: 'Tarbert Fire Station is very much at the heart of the community.'

'We get involved in events and festivals throughout the year, but at



Tarbert Community Fire Station was the venue of choice for Santa's custom-made grotto when he took time out of his busy schedule to visit children in Tarbert.

and how it helps keep our community safe.' Aggie thanked Tarbert Co-op for its help with selection boxes and oranges, making sure all children received an early Christmas present, and to the members of the fire brigade for donations of home baking which ensured everyone visiting the station received a sweet treat.

And when asked what he'd asked Santa for he replied: 'Every year I ask that every member of our community enjoys a safe Christmas.'

To find out more about the work of Tarbert Community Fire Station, or find out how you can become a member of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, please go along on a Thursday evening between 7 and 10pm during drill night.



Christmas we like to open our doors to show as many people as possible what we do.

Some children's only experience of the fire brigade is when we're attending an incident so events like Santa's visit gives young people the chance to learn more about what the fire brigade does



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# My New Year resolution is...

Just for a bit of New Year fun, we asked well-known Mid Argyll people what their resolution might be for 2020.



Mid Argyll singing sensation Eve Maxwell: 'I'd say my New Year resolution is to keep challenging myself in every aspect of my life, especially my singing.'



Marian Pallister, writer and (among many other roles) founder of Zambian aid charity ZamScoEd: 'To work for a fairer society, remembering always that my ecological footprint impacts on people around the globe.'



Pete Creech, environmental interpretation officer at the Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation: 'To reduce our use of new materials wherever we can and re-use or re-purpose as many things as possible.'

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David Renwick, Mid Argyll Agricultural Society president, said: 'To further improve the Mid Argyll Show field and encourage younger members of the committee to put their ideas into practice.'



Karen McCurry, manager of the Multiple Sclerosis Centre Argyll in Lochgilphead, right: 'In 2020, I aim to take positive steps towards being the change I want to see in our society ... and take more actual steps in the great outdoors with the aim of climbing Ben Lomond in the spring before I reach the Big 5-0.'



Above, convener of Inveraray Community Council, Linda Divers: 'To appreciate what I have as I've a good family and friends who support me whenever I need it – and to get something done with that #\*\*#!# community hall!'

Lochgilphead Baptist Church pastor Ryan Taylor, right: 'I want to show kindness and love to people on the streets by simply saying "hello, how are you doing today".'



Rowan Aitchison, wildlife cameraman and member of Time for Change Argyll: 'My New Year's resolution is to calculate and offset my carbon footprint for the coming year.'



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# It's a dog's life for Alan...

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Off-road adventurer Alan Stewart is coming to the end of the latest chapter of his action-packed life story, but you can bet his very worn boots there will be something else on the horizon.

Raised in Ardrishaig, Alan, and his wife Fiona, are currently based in Aviemore, at the foot of the Cairngorm mountain range, where together they run the Cairngorm Sleddog Centre.

Climate change, however, has thrown up new challenges for the sport in this country and the 63-year-old, who now has to travel to Europe to train and run his dogs in competitions, has decided to call it a day.

'Sled-dogging is unlike any other outdoor adventure you can experience in the UK but the dogs require cool conditions when they are out on a run,' he said.

'That's not so easy to do now and dog welfare is paramount, so I will keep the 19 working Alaskan huskies but once they come to their



**Alan and Fiona Stewart with one of their 19 working Alaskan huskies.**

For Alan, there are no limits. Having spent his youth shellfish diving with diver Sandy Munro, he trained as a commercial deep saturation diver while living in Sydney, Australia.

His offshore work took him to the Middle East, India, China, Norway and the North Sea.

In 1982, he returned to Scotland where he completed a saturation course at Fort William and became a member of the 'Broady Bunch', a deep dive team led by superintendent Chris Broady.

Alan continues to work as a dive rep during the summer season. When he's not working, Alan enjoys off-road safari racing and remote motor bike trips in crazy places.

A keen motocross and safari buggy enthusiast, one of Alan's ambitions is to bring a safari racing championship to Kilmartin, where he spent many happy years racing with Mid Argyll Motocross Club.

natural end, I won't be replacing them.'

For the Stewarts dog-sledding is not just a hobby. It's a way of life,' said Alan, who never raises his voice to his canine friends. Instead he whispers instructions

into a mini radio, the other end of which is attached to his lead dog's harness.

I will miss the daily routine we have established over the 18 years or so, not to mention the dogs, but maybe it's time to slow down a bit

and treat Fiona to a bit of a break.'

Fiona, however, is not holding her breath. 'We ended up here because I said I thought it would be nice to have a dog,' she said. 'I dread to think what is coming next. My request was for an extended holiday!'

  
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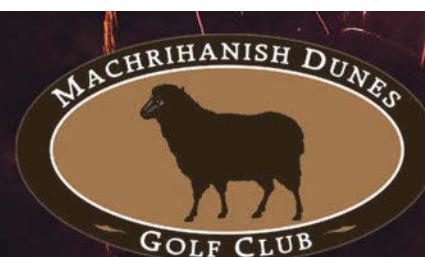
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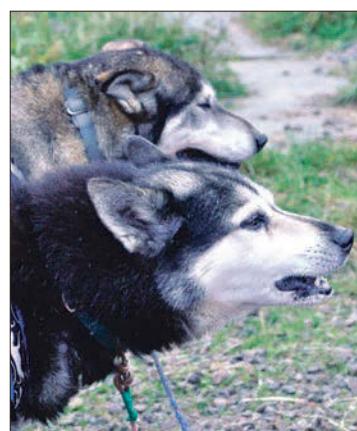
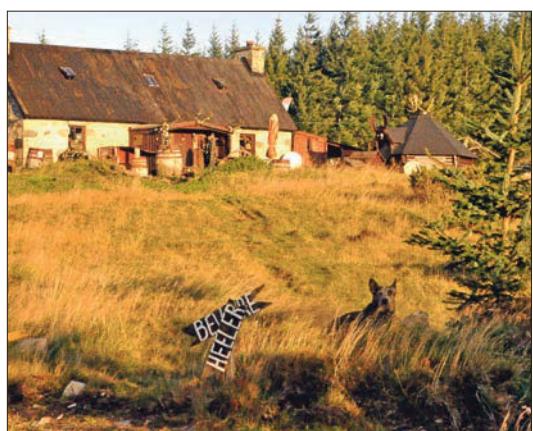
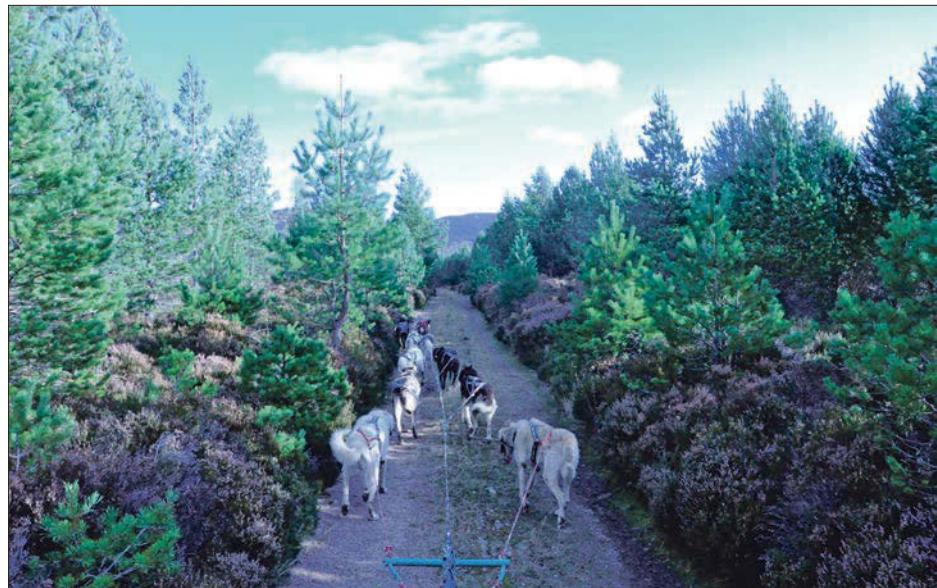
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Clockwise from top left:  
Alan built all the trails on the Rothiemurchus estate; among his 'mushing' memorabilia, Alan has a corner dedicated to Alexander 'Scotty' Allan whose racing exploits inspired Jack London for the main character of Call of the Wild; all hooked up and raring to go; Alan uses his 6x6 side by side offroad ATV and 12 dogs for training sessions; Arnold, the Stewart's Australian Blue Heeler – 80 per cent Dingo – guards their home.



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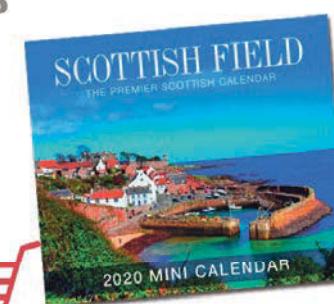
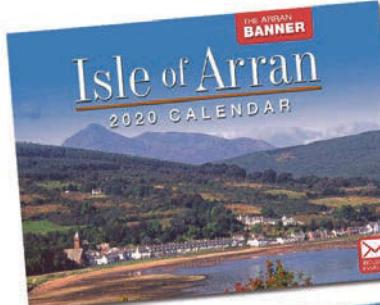
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# NFUS president's New Year message

In his New Year message, NFU Scotland president Andrew McCornick has set out his wish list for not only the New Year but the new decade.

Heralding a new world for Scottish farming and crofting, Andrew considers the move away from Europe and the CAP after almost 47 years as one that will bring a massive change in how we look at our markets, our support and our people and will require significant negotiating skills and resolve to get the right outcome.

But will the politics make that more difficult? Andrew reminds readers that: 'NFU Scotland's role is not to get involved in political machinations. It is purely to get on with fighting for the best future for farming and crofting in Scotland regardless of the politics.'

Andrew's wish list for 2020 and beyond is based on the old adage: 'Plan like you'll live forever and live like you'll die tomorrow.' It includes avoidance of a 'no deal'



Brexit, access to EU markets, political engagement on new parliamentary bills, cast-iron guarantees on future funding, access to labour, a Standards Commission, and finally – sooner rather than later – a new agricultural policy for Scotland that allows the nation's farmers and crofters to play their part in meeting both the 2030 target for food and drink exports

and our obligation to reducing emissions.

As he enters the final year of his presidency, he writes: 'Over the past three and a half years, I have been deeply frustrated by the rhetoric and intransigence that has been pervading our political landscape. There has been too much focus on polarisation and not enough time delivering for the electorate. It is

NFUS president Andrew McCornick.

the season of goodwill. Our politicians need to take time out from politicking and bickering, get on with the day job, and deliver for the greater good across all parliaments in these challenging times.

'I truly believe we have more that brings us together than divides us and NFUS is a template to follow. Our members are a coalition of views that come together to fight for the greater common good. We have members in the highest hills; the remotest of islands; on the best of land and everything in-between. They all have different challenges and ambitions and yet, as an industry, we are interdependent on each other. In many ways, this is our strength and something that the political process can learn from.'

Andrew McCornick's full New Year message can be read at: [www.nfus.org.uk/news/blog/presidents-blog-24-december-2019](http://www.nfus.org.uk/news/blog/presidents-blog-24-december-2019)

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## AGM to focus on next generation

A discussion panel at the forthcoming Argyll and the Islands regional annual general meeting (AGM) will focus on the views of the next generation of farmers and crofters.

The AGM will take place on Friday January 10, starting at 11am in Tarbert Bowling Club. The morning session will see the regional AGM and the presentation of the Argyll and the Islands Stalwart Award.

The highlight of the afternoon will be a panel session chaired by the region's Next Generation Committee representative Ian Dickson from Scalpsie Farm, Bute.

Panel members include: Jenny Baillie, regional manager, Scottish Association

## Around the markets

**Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd, December 17** sold 12 prime cattle.

Prime heifers (12) averaged 196.6p (-0.9p) and sold to 204.0p per kg for a 565kg Limousin cross selling to Messrs John M Munro Ltd, Dingwall and £1,254.00 gross for a 660kg Limousin cross both from Bridgend Farm, Dingwall.

**Other leading prices per kg:**  
Heifers: Bridgend Farm, (LimX), 200.0p, (CharX), 199.0p.

Other leading prices per head:  
Heifers: Bridgend Farm, (LimX), £1,218.75, (CharX), £1,213.90.

New season lambs (290) averaged 186.2p (-7.5p) and sold to 211.1p per kg and £95.00 gross for a pen of 45kg Beltex crosses from Torgorm, Conon Bridge, selling to Messrs Fraser Brothers, Butchers, Dingwall.

SQQ 36.5kg to 45.5kg (204) averaged 186.7p (-6.6p) per kg

Feeding sheep (42) sold to £96 gross for a Texel ram from Teanluick, Beauly.

**Other leading prices per head and per kg:**

New season lambs: SuffX – Torgorm, £89, 193.5p; Chev – Torgorm, £88, 200.0p; TexX – The Meadows, Culreach, £88, Dunain Mains, Inverness, 193.2p; Cross – Shewglie, Glenurquhart, £88, The Meadows, 188.9p; BF – Shewglie, £85.50; CHM – Dunain Mains, £84, 186.7p; Mule – Old Spittal Farm, Glenshee, £82.50.

Feeding sheep: Tex ram – Strathaird Farms, Broadford, £88; TexX – 5c Balnabeen, Conon Bridge, £88; Chev – Shewglie, £80; TexX – The

Dell of Killiehuntly, Kingussie, £70.

**Caledonian Marts Ltd, December 17**, sold 2105 Prime Lambs, Ewes and Tups.

All lambs keenly bid for especially 39.1kg-52kg which averaged 190ppkg for 1225 sold. Overall average for 1522 sold was 196.5p (+13p on the week) which resulted in the dearest trade of the season so far. Top price of the day went to J Guthrie, Cuitburn for a 50kg Beltex at £113.

Top price per kg went to R A Campbell & Sons, Meikle Seggie for a pen of 3 Beltex X Lambs at 41.3kg fetching 235ppkg.

**Leading Prices:**

Prime Lambs Per Head:-  
Beltex £112 Cuitburn  
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Clash; Suffolk £94.50 Green-craig; Mule £85.50 Ditch; BF

(Tups) £74 Culcreuch  
BF Lambs £73 Glenturret Estates

Prime Lambs Per Kg:-  
Beltex x 229p & 227p Meikle

Seggie  
Beltex 224p Borlick

Texel X 221p & 220p Ditch

Texel 221p Borlick  
Continental 220p & 219p

Meikle Seggie  
Suffolk 207p Candy  
Cheviot 206p Borlick

Mule 191p Innieshewan  
BF 188p Glenturret Estates

Also forward were 583 Cast Ewes and Tups.

A good show of Ewes again met a great trade.

A highlight of the sale was a tremendous run of Ewes and Rams from P J & C Wood, Knockhill, Strathkinnes averaging £137.66 for 32 sold.

of Young Farmers' Clubs (SAYFC); Jenny Brunton, policy manager, NFU Scotland; Ian Davidson, national adviser, Scottish Land Matching Service; Colin Ferguson, chairman, NFU Scotland Next Generation Committee; and John McCulloch, chairman, SAYFC West Rural and Agri Affairs Committee.

Regional board chairman John Dickson said: 'As an industry, we need to focus on how we support the next generation of farmers and crofters to get them into the sector.'

'We want to ensure young people have a bright future in the sector and want them to become involved in agri-affairs, policy lobbying and NFU Scotland.'

'To help get the next generation involved, NFUS farming or crofting membership now entitles family members to be signed up at no extra cost.'

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These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead 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).

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| Ref. No.     | Proposal   | Site Address   |
|--------------|--|--|
| 19/02557/PP  | Alterations and installation of external ramp and steps  | Bank Of Scotland, Harbour Street, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute, PA29 6TZ |
| 19/02581/LIB | Alterations to ruinous watermill to form Artists Retreat | Ardailly Mill, Isle Of Gigha, Argyll And Bute, PA41 7AA              |

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at All Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

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Children who attain the age of five years between 1 March 2020 and 28 February 2021 should be registered for education during the week commencing 13 January 2020.

Parents should take their children to the appropriate local primary school on one of the school days during the above week between the hours of 10.00am and 3.00pm.

A list of all schools can be found on the Council's website <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools>, this includes:-

- Gaelic Medium Education • Denominational Schools
- Non-denominational Schools

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ANNE PATERSON/LOUISE CONNOR,  
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## TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

### NOTICE OF DETERMINATION A83 INVERARAY SEAWALL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION BY THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS UNDER SECTION 55A OF THE ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984

The Scottish Ministers hereby give notice that they have determined that the project to carry out structural repairs to the seawall adjacent to the A83 in the Newtown area of Inveraray within the Argyll and Bute Council area is -

- (a) not a project which falls within Annex I of Council Directive No. 2011/92/EU ("the Directive") on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by Council Directive No. 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and Council;
- (b) a relevant project within the meaning of section 55A of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, and falls within Annex II of the Directive, but that having regard to -

- (i) the selection criteria contained in Annex III of the Directive,
- (ii) the results of the Environmental Screening Assessment and consultation with relevant Statutory Bodies: Marine Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and Argyll and Bute Council,
- (iii) the following information as detailed in section 55A(4):

The project is located adjacent to the A83 in the Newtown area of Inveraray. Over time, the condition of the seawall within the scheme extents has deteriorated as a result of scour action. Recent surveys have identified a number of areas of failure within the structure, consisting of voids of varying sizes. The proposed works will see all voids identified within the seawall being shuttered and backfilled with foam concrete. Existing masonry units will be recovered/retained for re-use and be re-set with mortar on the facing of the seawall. The works will also construct an armour stone toe revetment along the length of the seawall, ranging in height between one and two metres. The works are located on the shores of Loch Fyne, which below the Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS), is designated as a Marine Protection Area (MPA). The works are also partially within the Inveraray Conservation Area and the Inveraray Castle Garden and Designed Landscapes. A Marine Licence will be obtained from Marine Scotland prior to the works starting. The Environmental Screening Assessment concluded that there would be no likely significant effects on the environment from the works.

It should not be made subject to an environmental impact assessment in accordance with the Directive, and accordingly the project does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment. In accordance with section 55A(5) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 -

- (a) the criteria set out in Annex III that are relevant to the project are:
- (i) the size and design of the whole project;
- (ii) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;
- (iii) the production of waste;
- (iv) pollution and nuisances;
- (v) the risk of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge;
- (vi) coastal zones and the marine environment.

(b) the main reasons for the conclusion that no Environmental Impact Assessment is required are:

- (i) Potential construction impacts on local biodiversity, water, air, and noise will be minimised through good practice and environmental management measures;
- (ii) No increase in traffic volume is anticipated and no changes to noise levels generated from traffic are anticipated;
- (iii) During construction, there will be delays to vehicle travellers and non-motorised road users but this will be controlled through appropriate traffic management;
- (iv) Residual impacts to the local landscape and land use are negligible/minor in magnitude;
- (v) Works will be scheduled to exclusively operate at periods of low tide.

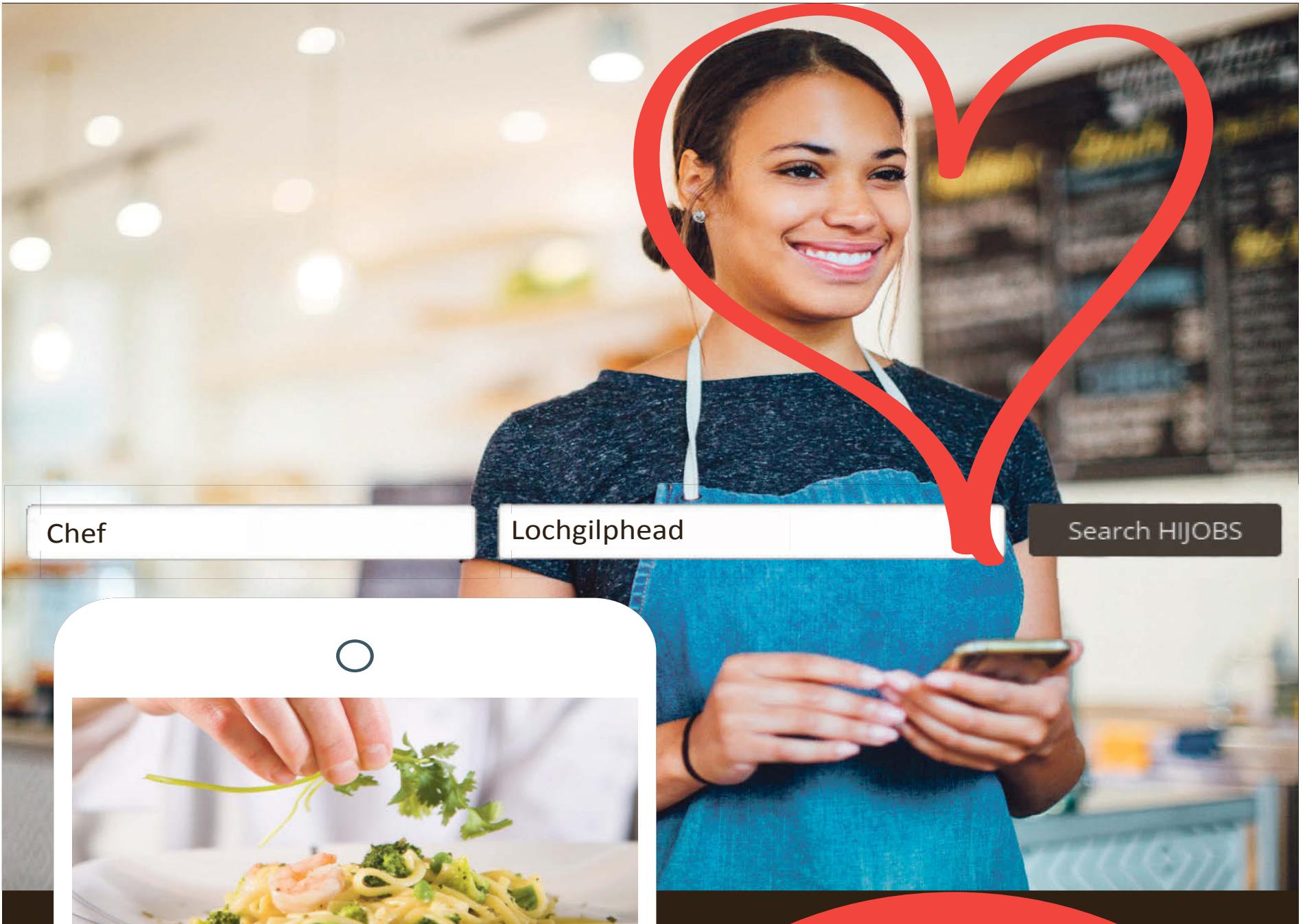
(c) the following features of the project which are envisaged to avoid or prevent significant adverse effects on the environment are:

- (i) Works will primarily be focussed on restoring an existing seawall;
- (ii) While the works are located adjacent to it, no works will take place within the boundaries of the Upper Loch Fyne and Loch Goil MPA or within the waters of Loch Fyne;
- (iii) No significant cultural heritage features are noted within the footprint of the scheme;
- (iv) The works are not located within an Air Quality Management Area or a Candidate Noise Management Area.

- M. POLLARD**  
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers

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Please give your name, address, postcode & phone number.

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## DUNOON

## Club funds boosted

The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) has boosted Cowal Badminton Association's funds for new equipment following the firm's latest round of Community Fund awards.

Cowal Badminton Association received £250 to cover the cost of rackets and shuttlecocks for its new practice nights.

The association was founded almost 100 years ago and plays a vital role in bringing the community of Dunoon together by offering weekly social events inclusive to everyone.

## TARBERT

## Tree planting

Volunteers are being offered the chance to work off seasonal over eating at a Tarbert Castle work party.

Meeting at 10am tomorrow (Saturday January 4), the group will plant trees and remove brambles until around lunchtime.

This is the perfect opportunity to catch up following the festivities and everyone willing to help will be made welcome. Tea and coffee will be on offer to volunteers.

## CRAIGNISH

## Gritting

A 'Scandinavian' approach to self-sufficiency is being proposed by Craignish Community Council.

With Argyll and Bute Council unable to extend its gritting areas, community council members picked up bags of grit from the council depot.

Four bags have been placed

## Sponsored by your local Citizens Advice team - They need you!

Volunteers now required in Mid Argyll. Call 01546 60 5550 or email [info@abcab.org.uk](mailto:info@abcab.org.uk) to find out more.



## STRACHUR



Players all smiles after an entertaining match which blew away the festive cobwebs.

## Boxing Day shinty match at Strachurmore draws a crowd

The weather was chilly but dry for the Boxing Day shinty match in Strachur which attracted a good number of spectators.

In the annual under-30s versus over-30s clash, the old boys won 3-2 after an exciting match at Strachurmore Sports Centre. Veteran Ally Mirrlees opened the scoring with a

well-taken goal five minutes into the match. Ten minutes later, Lewis Montgomery levelled before another from Montgomery beat over-30s keeper Ross MacDonald to give the youngsters a half-time lead slimmer than most of the waists in the opposition ranks.

The game was to turn in the second half, as Neil Nicolson

scored twice for the old boys and the victory was theirs, despite goalie Willie McGladdery pulling off some good saves for the under-30s.

The Niall Campbell Memorial Trophy was presented to winning captain Ross MacDonald by Mr Campbell's son John and a sociable evening followed in Strachurmore pavilion.

by the Glebe houses, five on Ardlarach Road on the pavement nearer the top and three for the steeper bits on the road up to Lunga.

Empty bags can be handed into Ardfearn Shop and they will be re-filled.

In a Facebook post, Craignish Community Council said: 'It

seems in future we may be best taking the Scandinavian approach of managing it ourselves for those areas beyond council gritting.'

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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

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

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the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

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## DEATHS

### HENDERSON

Peacefully at home, 74 Smith Drive, Campbeltown on December 24, 2019, Flora Henderson, in her 94th year, dearly beloved daughter of the late Arthur and Flora, much loved sister of the late Michael and Maurice, a loving auntie of Lorna and a much loved great aunt and great great aunt. Funeral service in the Lorne and Lowland Parish Church on Monday January 6, 2020 at 1.00pm, 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 Lorne and Lowland Parish Church.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**DOCHERTY** - Karen, Peter and George would like to thank family, friends and neighbours and all who sent cards, flowers and messages of condolence following the sad loss of our dad, Peter McPhee Docherty. Thanks to Kenneth and Rhys Blair for professional services and to the Rev William Crossan for a lovely service. Thanks to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside. Thanks to the Ardshiel Hotel for the purvey. Finally, thanks to the community nurses and staff at Campbeltown surgery. The retiral collection raised £240 for the British Heart and Lung foundation.

### MACDONALD

Malcolm and all the family would like to thank all relatives, neighbours and his many friends for their kindness, sympathy and support before, during and after their recent sad loss of George. Grateful thanks to Doctors, staff and ambulance crew of the Mid Argyll Community Hospital; to the Rev Hilda Smith for her comforting and fitting service; to Donald MacDonald, Funeral Directors for their compassionate arrangements; to Stag Hotel for catering and Morna's for lovely flowers. Finally, sincere thanks to all who paid their last respects and their generous donations which will be divided between Heart Foundation and Mid Argyll Community Hospital. A life well lived and will be sorely missed.

### WALLACE

The family of the late Jessie Wallace would like to sincerely thank all friends and neighbours for their sympathy and support at this sad time. Special thanks to all at Southend Surgery and Campbeltown Hospital for their care and kindness shown to Jessie. Grateful thanks to the Rev Steve Fulcher for his comforting graveside service, and to Kenneth Blair for his professional services. Thank you to all who came to the Argyll Arms Hotel, Southend after the service. Finally, our deep-felt thanks to all who paid their kind respects to Jessie at the graveside.

## IN MEMORIAMS

**MCCALLUM** - In loving memory of Muriel, who passed away January 7, 2018.

Those we love don't go away,  
They walk beside us everyday.  
Unseen, unheard but always near,  
Still loved, still missed and held so dear.  
- Richard, Sharon and Wullie.

### SELFRIFFE

Remembering our dad and grandad, Fred, who left us December 26, 2013. Always in our thoughts. Miss you so much.

- Love Carol, Ali, Colin, Siobhan and families xx

**TAYLOR** - In memory of my dad Tommy who passed away December 30, 1998, also my brother Nick who passed away December 26, 2014. Missed but not forgotten.

- David

## CHURCH NOTICES

### HIGHLAND PARISH CHURCH



SC002493

**Sunday 5th January**  
The service will be held in Kirk Street Hall  
All welcome

### LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity Number SC 11686

**Sunday 5th January**  
11.15 am Morning Worship

Rev. W Crossan

**Monday 6th January**  
Guild 2.00pm

New Hall

**Tuesday 7th January**  
Tiny Tots 9.45 am

New Hall

BB Anchor Boys 6.00pm

Junior Section 7.15pm

Church Hall

**Thursday 9th January**  
Choir Practice 7.00pm

**Friday 10th January**  
Lunch Club 12.00 noon

New Hall

### SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



75 Longrow,

Campbeltown

**Sunday 5th January**  
Songs of Praise Service

11.00am

Pastor Steve Davies

All welcome

**Wednesday 8th January**  
Bible Study 7.30pm

Pastor Steve Davies

Enquiries 01586 551200

[www.springbankchurch.org.uk](http://www.springbankchurch.org.uk)  
SCO14646

### ST KIARAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**Sunday 5th January**  
THE EPIPHANY

Holy Communion

10.45am

Enquiries tel:

01586 551141

The Scottish Episcopal Church is a Province of the Worldwide Anglican Communion

### ST KIERAN RC CHURCH

St. John Street,  
Campbeltown  
01586 552160  
Rev Tony Wood  
[stkiernansrc.org](http://stkiernansrc.org)

**Vigil Mass**  
Saturday 6.00pm  
(except 1st Saturday of the month)

**Sundays, Holy Mass 10.00am**  
All welcome  
(SC002876)

### SALVATION ARMY



**Sunday 5th January**  
10.30am Morning Service

6.30pm Evening Service  
Major Ruth Russell

**Wednesday 8th January**  
Lunch Club 12.15pm

CAMEO 1.30pm

Make 'n' Munch Craft

Group 7.00pm

Major Ruth Russell

All welcome

Scottish Charity

Number SCO09359

# A bumper year for rallying

Continued from page 28

MK2 Escort of Martin Murray. Smiling ear to ear all day, with Bill eagerly awaiting his return to the service area for the stage report, they finished 27th overall.

Ian was out with Greg Inglis, Montrose, in his fluorescent Orange Lotus Exige and it was eyes on the prize for STRC points for Greg. A clean day saw Greg getting to grips with the car on some surprisingly fast stages, including a tickle of the limiter in the fifth which saw the pair finish third overall.

## Scottish Rally, Dumfries/Galloway

Back together and with the small repairs from the Speyside done, it was time for the Furnace MK2 to return to the woods. A steady run over the opening two stages, Dougie and Ian found their feet after the 'off' at the Speyside sent them into service lying 44th. From seeing their overall position, they knew they had to get back into it on the next stage, however, on the road section to start stage three there was issues selecting gear and the pair decided to call it a day - damage limitation was the right call, as the input shaft was on its last legs.

## Crail Summer Stages, Fife

Jamie was back on the pace for this one, setting a 16th fastest stage time on the opening test. Sitting 13th overall heading into stage five was impressive given the competition on the day. Bad luck, however, was to return.

Eoghan was again out with Martin in the MK2 for a blast. Sadly it was an early bath, retired after stage two but again, as always, enjoying every minute.

## Argyll Rally, Dunoon

The Argyll rally had been known to have rough and challenging stages the previous two years. Not



Euan Thorburn won a drama-filled Argyll Rally, adding to his 2017 event win.

Photograph: Eddie Kelly Motorsport Photography.

this time. Ian and Dougie couldn't believe how good the stages were in comparison to previous years, an absolute joy of an event with the Escort not missing a beat all day on its 'shakedown' for the big one. Valuable class points added to the scorecard too, with them ending the event 22nd overall. The rally had struggled with entries this year and will now run in 2020 as a closed road rally, run by Mull Car Club.

ing himself and the car a shakedown before Mull. The freshly rebuilt 'blue bullet' was looking superb and finished looking just as sweet. A couple of teething problems were sorted on the day and the new main focus was to have power steering fitted before Mull. Poor Dochy lost about a stone over two days with the effort needed to swing the wee pug around the 90's and chicanes.

wee C2 on in the blistering heat netted Jamie and co-driver Ian McCulloch, Glasgow, 23rd overall. He must have been relaxed in the heat as in between stages he was off with the overalls and on with the baby lotion, topping up the tan.

Ian was back out with Greg in the Lotus. Another fantastic drive from Greg, finishing ninth with the championship title race firmly the primary goal.

## Mach1 Stages, Campbeltown

Team Mochrie were back together for this one in the Mighty Metro again and Innes was cutting some questionable shapes in the garage, performing his annual Mach1 rain dance. Taking chunks of time from his first passes of the stages would see them ring the Metro's neck and clinch 25th.

Jamie's luck had finally turned, the C2 singing all weekend and netting him a topper of 17th overall and 14th fastest over the final stage.

Duncan Maclean was back in the driving seat with Ian alongside, giv-

## Vetomies Rally Finland, Jyvaskyla

In August, Dougie and Ian competed in the Vetomies Rally, a national grade event run alongside the WRC Rally Finland event. Three other crews from Scotland also headed over to sample 'the fastest rally in the world'. The stages were unbelievable. Fast, cresty, wide, flowing with a brilliantly smooth surface. The event was surreal.

The duo finished the event 39th overall and, more importantly, the fastest Scottish crew.

## Grampian Forest Rally, Aberdeen

Once the car had returned from Finland, it was jacked up, checked and loaded onto the trailer the same day for the journey north.

Following two Did Not Finishes (DNFs) on the Speyside and Scottish, Dougie and Ian had to make the trip to be in with any chance of regaining their class lead in the SRC. Ending the day first in class meant they were heading into the final round with the lead.

## Pendragon Stages, Warcop

Jamie was back out for another counting round of the STRC. Enjoying his day and pushing the

45th overall after two years out of the seat.

Dochy and Ian were back out in the 'blue bullet'. Everything was going well until they had a spin coming over a crest into a square left, losing the bumper and damaging the gear linkage. They managed to get the car back to the end of the Saturday afternoon leg to repair the gear linkage and almost stole the yellow bumper from the recce car until some legends appeared with the duo's bumper in the back of their Land Rover. Back out onto the 21 mile 'long one' on Saturday night and they had an issue. After a heavy landing over a crest, the rear shocker bolt broke, making the car a handful to keep in a straight line. They had to finish another two stages before they could make it back to service, so a finish was all they wanted at this point. Sixty fourth overall and Dochy's fourth finish in a row on Mull.

Without doubt the driver to watch was Innes and his newly-acquired co-driver Lewis Griffiths, Wales. The Mighty Metro was spotted airborne at any chance, with the hydro can suspension screaming for a break at each service halt. It was almost all over as the nearside cv joint sheared and the car took a wild turn to the left. Both Innes and Lewis thought they would end up in the Belachroy pub, but they made it over the Lochs to the end of the final stage, claiming 41st overall.

## Kingdom Stages, Crail

Eoghan was back out with Martin to settle the score from the DNF at the summer stages. Sadly, a stage maximum time on stage two scuppered their chances of the overall result they were hoping for, however, they did set impressive times, clocking a 16th fastest time on the final stage.

Jamie, back out for the final round of the STRC, was looking to continue his good run from the Pendragon and set a seventh fastest time on stage three in extremely wet and tricky conditions. Trying to get his money's worth from his entry fee, Jamie, took on an extra couple of miles on the penultimate stage. The C2 ran well all day and conditions suited the car perfectly.

Ian was back out with Greg and this time he was aiming to become the Scottish Tarmac Rally Champion for 2019. They set off with five cars in the same class and had to win the class to get Greg the honours. Setting the pace early, they were leading throughout the event. Finishing the event first in their class and third overall meant the job was done and Greg claimed the championship win.

## MSN Knockhill Stages

The last event of the year saw Kirsty back in the co-driver's seat, gaining even more experience on her path to upgrading her licence.



Innes Mochrie, Lochgilphead, and Lewis Griffiths finished Mull Rally 41st overall. Photograph: West Coast Photography.



Father and son duo Craig and Ross Callendar finished this year's Mull Rally 44th overall. Photograph: West Coast Photography.

Typical Knockhill weather was in store as Kirsty had her first taste of RWD rallying in the Mazda MX5 of Paul Sheard. Kirsty guided Paul around the wet stages to claim 27th overall and valuable points on the board for Paul's Motorsport News Championship campaign.

Special thanks to Alasdair MacConnell who has travelled many miles to don an orange bib and stand in the rain, wind and heat, all to show his support and play a vital part in any event. And to Gavin 'Top

Tog' Brown, who has been an avid rally man for years and continued to watch everyone through the lens, capturing some of our most heroic moments.

2019 was a busy year, with a few of us still tinkering away in sheds. 2020 will hopefully see the return of Ally and Del Galbraith in their 'new' MK2 Escort and Donald Bowness in the giant killing Nova making a return after time out.

By Ian Parker

## New Year football fixtures

Football fixtures for Saturday January 11: Scottish Amateur Cup, fifth round - Oban Saints v Renfrew Town; Jimmy Marshall Cup, first round - Claremont v Dunoon; Glenburn Athletic v Lochgilphead Red Star; Neilston v Tarbert; St Conval's v Campbeltown Pupils.

Saturday January 18: Premier Division One - Lochgilphead Red Star v Campbeltown Pupils; Premier Division Two - Cardross v Tarbert.

Saturday January 25: Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils v Parkhall; Easthall Star v Lochgilphead Red Star; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v FRC Argyle.

## Bob gets ready for action



Bob with the Challenge Tour Graduate of the Year trophy and the Henry Cotton European Tour Rookie of the Year shield.

European Tour golfing sensation Bob MacIntyre, Oban, is getting ready to get back into the swing of things after a few weeks' rest and recuperation from his hectic life on the world golfing stage.

In his first season on the European Tour, Robert 'Bob' MacIntyre played 30 events, making 25 cuts, with seven top 10 finishes, ending the year ranked 64th in the world.

But the cherry on the cake for Bob was when he was crowned European Tour Rookie of the Year.

'You can only challenge for that once in your life so that is something I will remember forever and something that can never be taken away from me.'

'I never thought playing a sport that I love, doing what I love, would have an impact on other people the way it has. I try to reply to everyone who contacts me, whether it is kids or older people. It is just the way I am. If someone says hello to me on the street, I will say hello back. It is just who I am.'

The Oban golfer is home until January 7, before his season restarts, and he has been nursing a bruised hand.

'I have needed time off,' he told our reporter David McPhee. 'If most people take a week off work, or two weeks off work, they might go on holiday at certain times of the year. My holiday is getting back home to Oban.'

Speaking about his achievements, Neil Armour, a junior golf coach at Glencruitten Golf Club said: 'I just think it is absolutely fantastic.'

'I look back and think of the wee junior boy who could hardly cross two burns here and now he is playing golf at the top table in the world. It is just amazing.'

'He has made me interested in golf again.'

# new ~~SPOT THE SHINTY BALL~~ WIN A GUARANTEED £2K

IF NO ONE WINS THE JACKPOT FROM THIS GAME WE WILL GIVE THE CLOSEST ENTRY A GUARANTEED £2000 FROM THE JACKPOT FUND

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.

This game has a jackpot of £4150. If no one wins the jackpot outright then £2000 will be awarded to the person closest to the exact centre of the ball. The £2000 nearest prize will be taken from the jackpot fund. The competition will continue as normal from the issue dated 16th January 2020 with a jackpot fund of £2150. No other near miss prizes will be awarded for this game. In the event of a tie the prize money will be split evenly between all winning entries. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

TO ALLOW FOR DISRUPTION TO THE POSTAL SERVICE / HOLIDAYS THIS GAME WILL RUN OVER 4 WEEKS - CLOSING DATE 2PM MONDAY 13TH JANUARY 2020

#### 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 Monday 13th January 2020. 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 or The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead 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)

**INSIDE THIS WEEK:**

New Year football fixtures | Bob gets ready for action



Dougie Watt and Ian Parker flying in Finland before winning in Aberdeen. Photograph: Jii Pihlaja.

# A bumper year for rallying

2019 was destined to be a big year for Argyll with the much-anticipated return of one of the biggest events in Scotland, Mull Rally, and the continued running of the Mach 1 Stages and Argyll Stages in Dunoon, three events all within a stone's throw of Mid Argyll.

tricky as Knockhill has its own micro-climate consisting of rain, wind, snow, ice, wind and wind! Sadly it wasn't to be at Knockhill for the team with mechanical failure ending their day after stage two.

## North West Stages, Garstang

The first closed road event to take place in England, after the approval of closed road rallying for the UK, was the first event for the famous Metro GTi. Unfortunately for Kirsty Mochrie, her licence can only be upgraded to stage events from single venue use when she turns 16, so it was the return of the pairing of Innes Mochrie and Paul

Hunter to represent Mid Argyll south of the border.

The pair, finding the conditions tricky in the narrow lanes after the top seed cars had been pulling mud from verges and ditches, bounced the wee metro over the first loop of four stages until the gearbox had enough on the fifth test.

## Border Counties Rally, Jedburgh

Following the cancelling of the Inverness Snowman Rally earlier in the year, this was now the first round of the Scottish Rally Championship (SRC) for Dougie Watt and Ian Parker, and it was interesting to say the least. A glance outside in the morning

to see about four inches of snow lying on the roof of the MK2 Escort was a surprise for a start. A wet and muddy day saw the pair make it to the finish in one piece, which is more than can be said for the clutch cable that snapped about a mile into the final stage. However, clinching their first class win of the season was the best start to the championship.

## DCC Stages, Inglinton

With Kirsty 'Wee Mo' Mochrie in the co-driver's seat in the rapid Corsa of Steven Hay, Fife, a fair pace was set by the pair throughout the day. They sat as high as 17th until they unfortunately

had to take a split early to save damaging the car. Back out on the next stage, they still set a blistering top 20 pace in the Corsa, including some hang time on both the jumps.

Jamie, back out in the fit C2, had bad luck once again. This time an overshoot on a square right and a struggle to get the car started again after a stall earned him a stage max on stage two. Still setting top 20 times on the day, he finished 32nd which was a fair effort when you include a stage maximum time.

Ian was out this time with Fraser 'Flat oot Fraz' Smith, Houston, after winning an entry to the rally at the STRC Awards in January.

Flying out the gates and onto their second lap on the first stage, then pop,

driveshaft burst. Towed in and sorted, both covered in CV Grease, they made it back out for a skid around and on a mission to tear up some old tarmac tyres.

## Granite Stages, Leuchars

The Granite Stages, now held at RAF Leuchars would see Eoghan Anderson make a return to the passenger seat for a hurl in the immaculate

Continued on pages 26 and 27



# The Ideal Gift

## Scottish Calendars 2020

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