

SPORT RELIEF **IT'S GAME ON** children from **Lochgilphead after school club** display their artistic skills and help raise money for **SPORT RELIEF 2020**



Station front desk cuts free up police officers

by Colin Cameron
 editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

A decision to cut opening hours at police stations across Argyll and Bute has freed up officers to carry out regular duties – despite concerns police cover would be reduced.

Four months after Police Scotland brought in reduced front counter opening hours with revised custody arrangements, the area commander has revealed this has had knock-on benefits to community police work.

The Advertiser was, however, contacted by a health worker recently raising concerns about the new arrangements for transferring patients to either Oban or Clydebank stations after 6pm.

The Argyll-based healthcare worker said: "The police on the streets do their best to assist health staff but if they were transferring a prisoner at night, this affects public safety if fewer police are on the streets," adding that the

Community policing 'maximised' following review changes

decision 'has the potential to affect healthcare workers having to deal with a person who may be violent due to having taken drink or drugs who then appears at the local hospital'.

The changes were introduced by Police Scotland on November 11 last year after a seven-year review of custody and front counter demand across Argyll and Bute which revealed custody numbers fell by 50 per cent in the area during that period. Face-to-face engagement with the public at front counters was found to represent a relatively small part of the duties of front counter staff, particularly during the evening and at night.

Rothesay, Campbeltown, Dunoon and Lochgilphead police stations now operate from 7am to 6pm, seven days a week.

Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie, area commander for Mid Argyll and Kintyre, said: "While front counter hours have changed at some locations in Argyll and Bute, the stations themselves remain fully operational and officers continue to work from them 24/7. Custody facilities at each station are also available and can be activated any time they are required.

"The majority of people arrested are held locally but sometimes for healthcare reasons or court appearance

Continued on page 2.



The MacGilp family in their new Lochgilphead Fyne Tackle shop. From left: Murrans, Jill, Archie junior and Archie senior. 51_a10FyneTackle_newshop17

A family affair as Lochgilphead's newest shop opens

The business may have been in existence since 1995, but new modern premises just up the road from their old shop has given the MacGilp family business a new lease of life. More on page 10.



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Argyll and Bute MSP will not stand for re-election

Michael Russell says it is time for 'someone younger' to take on the role of MSP for Argyll Bute as he contemplates retirement from frontline politics.

Mr Russell, also the Scottish Government's cabinet secretary for the constitution, Europe and external affairs, told members of his SNP constituency association he does not intend to stand in the May 2021 Scottish Parliament elections.

Previously a regional member for the South of Scotland from 1999-2003 and 2007-2011, Mr Russell has been the Argyll and Bute constituency MSP for almost a decade.

Speaking at the constituency association meeting in Tarbert on Sunday March 1, Mr Russell said: 'I have been the MSP for Argyll and Bute since 2011 and it has been an enormous privilege as well as a greatly enjoyable task.

'However, I will be 67 this

summer and 72 at the end of the next parliament. Argyll and Bute is a massive area to cover with 23 inhabited islands and a large swathe of the mainland and I am getting to the stage of thinking that someone younger would be better able to fulfil all the demands of the constituency.

'I am proud of the work the SNP in government has done in Argyll and Bute, securing much new investment, supporting individuals and communities through many difficulties and promoting the many advantages of the place to the rest of Scotland and the world.

'I fully intend to go on working hard on those tasks for as long as I am in post. In so doing, I will be giving every inch of backing to Nicola Sturgeon, who is the best first minister Scotland could have, and to her talented team as they prepare to put our case for the future to the

people of Scotland next May. I also hope over the year or so I have still to serve that I will get to thank personally many individual constituents and SNP members across Argyll and Bute for their support and friendship.

'I am particularly grateful to my office team – Marie-Claire, Heather and Keir – to whom this decision wasn't a complete shock but will be nonetheless unsettling. I know they too over the next 12 months will remain fully focused on our biggest privilege of all – serving and supporting the people who live in this huge, wonderful constituency.

'After next May I still intend to be active in the political sphere. I think of my decision as stepping back from some current roles, not stepping away from my commitment to our country and the better future it can have and should choose.'



Michael Russell MSP. 06_a18hustings_russell01

POLICE FILES

Contempt of court

On Tuesday February 25 around noon, in the Lochgilphead Court Annex, a 29-year-old man allegedly took photographs within the court room and was subsequently arrested for contempt of court. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Vandalism

Sometime between midnight on Sunday February 9 and Friday February 28, a caravan was vandalised at Argyll Caravan Park, Inveraray. Electricity cables were cut and the caravan's door locks were damaged. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them.

Man assaulted

The driver of a red Ford Fiesta allegedly assaulted another male on Main Street, Inveraray, at 7.40pm on Friday February 28. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for witnesses.

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.

Front desk cuts free up police officers

Continued from page one. dates, their needs and those of the community are better served by transferring them to another custody centre.

'There has been a very small increase in time spent transferring prisoners outwith Mid Argyll, however, overall the new arrangements have seen police officer abstractions for front counter and custody duties fall by almost 70 per cent. This is allowing us to maximise community policing. We engage regularly with our partners and to date there has been no approach from NHS managers regarding any concerns about the safety of their staff or patients as a result of this new operating model.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, incorporating the region's NHS Highland services, said: 'This is an operational decision for Police Scotland. We work closely with them and, indeed, with all our stakeholders and will continue to do so.'



Davaar Island Safe Walking Times

	Morning Safe Walking Times			Afternoon Safe Walking Times		
	Low Tide	From	Til	Low Tide	From	Til
Sun, 1 Mar 2020	09:05	06:05	11:35			
Mon, 2 Mar 2020	09:51	06:51	12:21			
Tue, 3 Mar 2020	10:47	07:47	13:17			
Wed, 4 Mar 2020	11:55	08:55	14:25			
Thu, 5 Mar 2020				13:17	10:17	15:47
Fri, 6 Mar 2020				14:36	11:36	17:06
Sat, 7 Mar 2020				15:33	12:33	18:03
Sun, 8 Mar 2020				16:20	13:20	18:50
Mon, 9 Mar 2020				17:03	14:03	19:33
Tue, 10 Mar 2020				17:45	14:45	20:15
Wed, 11 Mar 2020				18:28	15:28	20:58
Thu, 12 Mar 2020						
Fri, 13 Mar 2020	07:41	04:41	10:11			
Sat, 14 Mar 2020	08:28	05:28	10:58			
Sun, 15 Mar 2020	09:19	06:19	11:49			
Mon, 16 Mar 2020	10:18	07:18	12:48			
Tue, 17 Mar 2020	11:36	08:36	14:06			
Wed, 18 Mar 2020				13:01	10:01	15:31
Thu, 19 Mar 2020				14:11	11:11	16:41
Fri, 20 Mar 2020				15:07	12:07	17:37
Sat, 21 Mar 2020				15:54	12:54	18:24
Sun, 22 Mar 2020				16:34	13:34	19:04
Mon, 23 Mar 2020				17:09	14:09	19:39
Tue, 24 Mar 2020				17:40	14:40	20:10
Wed, 25 Mar 2020				18:08	15:08	20:38
Thu, 26 Mar 2020				18:36	15:36	21:06
Fri, 27 Mar 2020	06:43	03:43	09:13	19:06	16:06	21:36
Sat, 28 Mar 2020	07:16	04:16	09:46			
Sun, 29 Mar 2020	08:52	05:52	11:22			
Mon, 30 Mar 2020	09:34	06:34	12:04			
Tue, 31 Mar 2020	10:21	07:21	12:51			

Stay safe: Check weather conditions and hours of daylight as well as tide times before you go.



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Road works worth £1.5m planned

Roadworks with a total estimated cost of more than £1.5million are proposed for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands in the 2020/21 financial year, a report has revealed.

Thirteen different locations are earmarked, the most expensive being a geogrid and overlay at Auchenmeach Farm, Kintyre, with an estimated cost of £220,000.

A £216,000 plan of regulating and surface dressing is also scheduled for Barnluasgan to Castle Sween in Mid Argyll, while four locations on the A816 on Islay are planned to have £500,000 of roadworks taking place.

The report, which details £4.9million of roadworks across Argyll and Bute, was to be discussed by the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee yesterday (Thursday March 5).

The document, by executive director with responsibility for roads and infrastructure Kirsty Flanagan, said: 'The roads reconstruction programme has been structured in line with the roads asset management and maintenance

strategy. The focus has been to arrest the rate of decline and provide an overall improvement in condition as has been demonstrated in the annual status and options report.

'In previous years this has been achieved through the delivery of a mix of carriageway resurfacing, edge strengthening, patching/surface dressing and in-situ road surface recycling.

'These treatments have been designed to seal the road to stop the ingress of water, improve ride quality and reduce the amount of reactive repairs.

'This has resulted in an overall improvement in road condition.

'Without these works and investment there would have been a significant deterioration in condition.'

Ms Flanagan added: 'The proposed capital works programme as presented is based on carriageway condition in late autumn/early winter.

'With the effect of winter this programme may need to be adjusted to ensure that any investment is targeted accordingly.'

Marching to save dementia care in Argyll and Bute

Trade union steps up fight to save Knapdale Ward from closure

A march and rally will be held in Lochgilphead later this month as the region's only specialist inpatient dementia assessment unit faces closure.

Behind the protest is trade union UNISON, which will hold the march and rally on Saturday March 21 to save Knapdale Ward, situated in Mid Argyll Hospital.

The body governing health and social care in the area, Argyll and Bute Integration Joint Board (IJB) is to make a decision on the ward's future at its next meeting on March 25.

On January 29 the IJB gave the go-ahead for an alternative model of dementia care which would involve enhanced dementia care teams, with patients being cared for in a home setting for as long as possible.

For more severe cases, dementia sufferers would be assessed and looked after in facilities in the Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS area. Knapdale Ward would be closed.

Consultation

A public consultation exercise was announced on February 24 by health bosses, involving three public meetings in Lochgilphead (March 10, Baptist Church Hall); Oban (March 11, Oban Fire Station); and Dunoon (March 12, Queen's Hall).

UNISON is urging the people of Argyll and Bute to participate in the consultation and to argue in favour of its proposed 'option four' – the development of an enhanced community team alongside the upgrading of Knapdale Ward to provide inpatient assessment along with respite, day care, outpatient



services, an information hub and a base for the enhanced community teams.

Dawn Macdonald, UNISON NHS Highland convenor for Argyll and Bute, said: 'It is a sad day when finance comes before patient care.'

'Option four, for me, is truly patient-centred and will support keeping our loved ones with dementia who need hospital care, for however long, in our community. Not miles and hours away from family and friends.'

Belinda Braithwaite, whose husband was cared for on Knapdale Ward for almost four years at the end of his life, added: 'Undoubtedly, the best place for most of us to be is at home; the provision of planned respite, day care, home carers and emergency respite can be a lifeline as families, often elderly themselves, manage increasing issues, as best they can at home.'

'There is a relentlessness in caring for a loved one with dementia, all day, every day, adapting to the "new normal" as the disease progresses.'

Inpatient care

'Some dementia patients – a minority, but in human rights terms, a number for consideration – develop more complex needs such as aggressive outbursts, delusions and hallucinations – some of which can be ameliorated with medication. Thus, some patients will need specialist inpatient care either short or long term.'

'My husband was cared for with skill, dignity and compassion on Knapdale, 12 miles from home and I was able to visit daily.'

She continued: 'Currently,



Protesters ignore atrocious weather to make their point at the last IJB meeting on January 29. 51_a05KnapdaleWardProtest01

Mid Argyll and Kintyre and the Islands have no day care provision, no specialist dementia care home provision, limited respite provision and no 'very sheltered' housing. And if the IJB goes ahead we will have no specialist inpatient provision either.

'Its Community Dementia Team proposal does not address the need for infrastructure. This is a retrograde step.'

Petition

'More than 3,000 people have signed a petition supporting the Argyll and Bute HSCP retaining Knapdale Ward,' said Simon Macfarlane, UNISON regional organiser.

'We are calling on people to go along to the consultation and argue for the retention of inpatient services and the enhanced community service which our proposed option four represents.'

'People should also contact their councillors and MSP to call on them to make representations to the IJB to save Knapdale Ward.'

The Save Knapdale Ward march and rally will be held on Saturday March 21.

Front green

The plan is to assemble from 10.30am outside the Comraich Centre (Old Succoth Ward – Argyll and Bute Hospital), Blarbuie Road, Lochgilphead and march from there at 11am through the town to a rally on Lochgilphead front green.

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Council tax bills to rise in budget 'for the future'



Councillor Sandy Taylor.

51_a10SandyTaylor01

Council tax bills in Argyll and Bute will go up by 4.5 per cent in April – but some of the authority's most controversial cost-cutting proposals will not be going ahead.

School crossing patrollers, pupil support assistants and educational psychologists have all been spared the axe after spending plans put forward by the authority's ruling Liberal Democrat, Conservative and independent administration were voted through.

But spending on community-based learning activities for young people and adults will be cut by £184,000, and schools will no longer have the funding to hire halls for

Plans voted through by ruling administration

PE lessons after funding of £73,000 for that purpose was cut entirely.

The administration also decided not to go ahead with all of a proposal to make savings by closing public toilets.

The administration's spending plans, and council tax increase, were backed by 18 of the 31 councillors who attended the authority's annual budget meeting in Lochgilphead on Thursday February 27.

The agreed budget also includes investment in roads

maintenance, footway and cycle path maintenance and education involving digital learning.

An amended budget tabled by the opposition SNP group, which got 11 votes, sought to save the community learning development, PE facilities and public conveniences in full.

SNP group leader Sandy Taylor said that the administration's budget had 'departed' from what the council was trying to achieve.

His group also proposed introducing the maximum possible council tax increase of 4.84 per cent, rather than the 4.5 per cent agreed by the authority's administration.

Councillor Taylor said: 'I accept that when you look at the administration budget, and probably the Argyll and Bute First budget, there will not be a great difference between them.'

'We are rejecting some of these savings options, but the important thing to say is that the council needs to be focused on its strategic objectives. That is why we are doing it.'

A second amendment, proposed by Councillor George Freeman and seconded by Councillor Douglas Philand as Argyll and Bute First, asked that the meeting be ad-



Council leader Aileen Morton.

journing in order to consider prospective further funding announced by the Scottish Government the previous day.

Addressing the meeting, council leader Aileen Morton said: 'This is the third budget in the life of this council and takes place in unusual circumstances.'

'Some savings choices have been in front of us before, and this current budget is harder due to familiarity. We have heard the same story again and again – cuts to budgets across the country are hitting Argyll and Bute harder than almost every other area.'

'We are looking to the future and supporting a broader curriculum across our schools, and economic growth and connectivity supporting our businesses, which are vital to our future.'

'One council service is waste disposal, and if we can deliver our solutions, we

could reduce CO2 emissions by around 19 per cent.

'Our decision is not just for today, or this year, but it will affect next year and the years to come.'

'We share a belief that Argyll and Bute deserves a bright future, despite the challenges.'

'It is important that – preferably together – we keep fighting, striving for and believing in Argyll and Bute, so that in the future, the story in this chamber will be the positive one it deserves.'

Depute leader Gary Mulvaney added: 'None of these decisions have been taken in isolation; all have been deliberated over in the context of what is to come in the next few years.'

'It is easy to leave it all to another day, but that heads-in-the-sand approach only leads to more pain for the future. We have a budget that focuses on the future as well as today.'

Subsidy stays to keep swimming pools afloat

Amid the swathe of cost-cutting measures agreed by Argyll and Bute Council for 2020/21, one part of the policy savings proposals was spared the axe.

Among the plans, a subsidy of £19,300 given annually to swimming pools in Mid Argyll and Islay and Jura was to have been cut entirely. This sparked protest and a petition on Islay and Jura in February, as reported in the Advertiser.

Councillors, in the end, decided at their

budget meeting on February 27 to retain the subsidy.

Kim Ritchie, chair of Mid Argyll Community Enterprises Limited which owns and operates Mid Argyll Community Pool, said: 'Everyone at MACPool is delighted that the council has managed to maintain our school swimming subsidy in such a difficult budget. It means we'll be able to carry on supporting schools in teaching kids to swim and keeping them safe around water.'

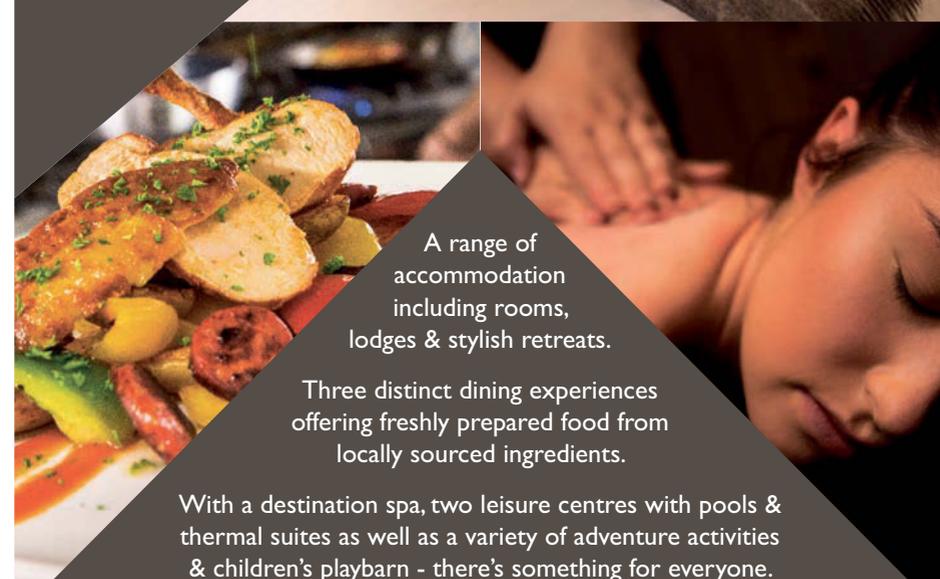


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Council reassures staff as coronavirus reaches Scotland

Argyll and Bute Council staff will be granted paid leave if they feel they need to self-isolate due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Three cases of the virus, which originated in China during the winter, had been confirmed in Scotland by Wednesday, March 4 – one each in Tayside, Ayrshire and Grampian.

People are advised to stay at home if they have travelled to an affected area, including Northern Italy or parts of Asia – or have been in close contact with a person known to be infected – and call their GP or NHS24 on the number 111.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has confirmed that anybody affected will receive statutory sick pay from the first day of their absence from work, instead of the fourth.

An Argyll and Bute spokesperson said: 'Argyll and Bute

Paid leave to be granted if self-isolation required

Council has a flexible working policy, so self-isolating does not necessarily mean being unable to work – a great many staff are able to work from home.

'Employees who have been instructed to self-isolate, who can't work from home, will be granted paid leave for the duration of self-isolation, or until they develop symptoms.'

Sick leave

'If the employee becomes unwell, normal sick leave provisions will apply until the employee is able to return to work. This is in line with national guidance.'

According to the NHS, people who self-isolate may need to do so for around two weeks, staying at home and avoiding public places.

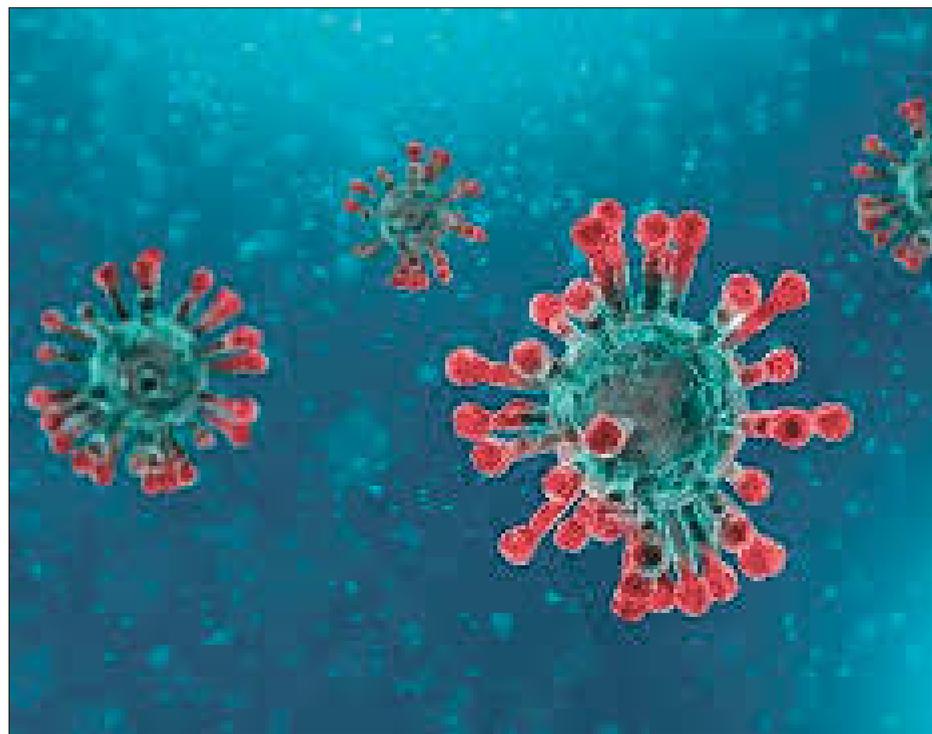
The NHS has also advised that people wash their hands often for at least 20 seconds to protect themselves against coronavirus.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline

If people do not have symptoms and are looking for general information, a free helpline has been set up on: 0800 028 2816.

The helpline is open:
Monday to Friday, 8am to 10pm;
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More information on coronavirus is available on the nhsinform.scot website.



Coronavirus.



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More positive news
than negative

Between council budget cuts, police limiting front desk opening hours and health services at risk, there is plenty going on at the moment that is prompted by a shortage of public funding.

Then there is the Tarbert pylon row, with the area's MSP taking up the cudgels in this edition's letters page. More on that in next week's paper.

And coronavirus has arrived in Scotland.

All in all there is plenty of depressing news – but there is even more positive stuff going on.

Look at this week's edition. We have young people leading the way in all sorts of ways – from athletics to health initiatives and shinty.

The frustration felt by many over plans to close Knapdale Ward might also fuel positive developments, provided enough people turn up to voice their opinions at the planned consultation events, and, of course, at the UNISON march and rally.

Surely by now the IJB board members must be getting the message that experienced and knowledgeable people believe the ward has to be retained and improved, rather than being scrapped?

A letter sent on February 27 to project manager Ian Clark of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc from Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell.

The letter concerns the planned route for new electricity transmission pylons close to Tarbert as part of the Inveraray-Crossaig upgrade project.

Dear Ian,
Many thanks for your recent letter regarding the pylons in Tarbert.

I am copying this letter to Paul Wheelhouse [Scottish Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands].

As I indicated when we met, I do not regard the issue as being closed and neither does the community in Tarbert.

To recap on our meeting, I am not attributing blame but the community was blindsided on the issue of the pylons and their impact on the landscape at Tarbert.

It is simply unacceptable for the pylons and the line to be erected where proposed as this will destroy the landscape of the village and the view of the village from west and east Loch Tarbert.

The community is entirely united in this view and there needs to be a solution found that does not have the line where presently planned.

You argue there would require to be a completely new Section 37 Order, but even if that were the case that would be preferable to destroying an important landscape and going against the wishes of an entire community.

I hope Mr Wheelhouse can look at this issue again and, working with you, find a way to resolve the issue.

But I must make it clear that I do not expect the community view to change and my own view will not change either. It would be utterly unacceptable for the plan to continue as presently agreed by yourselves and the regulators – but not by the community.

I shall communicate these views to the community and I shall be copying them your letter. I shall also make it clear I have made Mr Wheelhouse aware of these issues and I hope his good offices can make a difference.

Yours sincerely, Michael Russell.
Editor's note: The letter above is published with the agreement of Mr Russell.

Show we are a civilised
society: keep ward open

Sir,
According to statistics from Alzheimer Scotland, an estimated 90,000 people had dementia last year, 3,000 of whom were under 65 years of age.

Dementia and alzheimer's disease was the leading cause of death for females in Scotland in 2018 (17.8 per cent). In males, dementia and alzheimer's was the second highest cause of death. Data from National Records of Scotland.

Given these facts, and the views from relatives who have lost loved ones to dementia, surely the Integration Joint Board (IJB) must

realise that Knapdale Ward must remain as a place to provide inpatient assessment/respite/day care/outpatient services, as outlined in Option Four of the option appraisal. The public has overwhelmingly supported UNISON's campaign for Knapdale to remain open in some capacity.

For the ward not to function in the future would be terrible and a major loss of yet another public service, not just for the current staff and patients but for future generations who need proper round-the-clock care.

Care in the community may be suitable for some people who have developed dementia, but for many sufferers three visits per day is nowhere near enough, despite the best efforts of carers.

A secure environment, allowing patients to be treated with dignity and respect, will be lost to the public if the right decision is not made on March 25.

More than 3,000 people have called for option four to be backed by the IJB. The area's councillors also supported option four.

I'm asking for the right choice to be made by the IJB to show we remain a caring society.

Peter Laing, UNISON representative, Mid Argyll Hospital.

Paying for Rothesay Pavilion

Sir,
It was with dismay that I viewed the council's administration agreeing to increase the council tax for everyone across Argyll and Bute by 4.5 per cent at last week's council budget

Press policy

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



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CONTACTUS

The Argyllshire Advertiser 44
Argyll Street, Lochgilphead
PA31 8NB
Phone: 01546 602345

Chief Reporter:
Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Reporter:
Rachel Carruthers
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Advertising:
June Graham
adverts@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Head office:
Wyvex Media,
Lochavullin
Industrial Estate,
Oban, PA34 4 HB

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meeting, when the increase could have easily been kept to three per cent.

This was an increase promoted by Councillor Aileen Morton as Liberal Democrat leader of the council and Tory councillor Gary Mulvaney, deputy leader, both representing Helensburgh, supported by their administration colleagues from Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands.

Also within their budget is a payment of £750,000 to Rothesay Pavilion from council reserves. I tabled an amendment to refuse this funding request.

The council could have kept the council tax increase to three per cent for everyone across Argyll and Bute if they had not agreed to give this sum to Rothesay Pavilion.

The decision to raise council tax will cost every Band D council tax payer across Argyll and Bute an extra £58-£90.

The decision to give £750,000 to Rothesay Pavilion will cost them an additional £19-£63.

Without agreeing to the Rothesay Pavilion payment, the council tax increase for band D properties could have been kept down to £39-£27.

Councillors Morton and Mulvaney and other administration members will say the £750,000 is coming from the council's reserves.

The money could have been used to cover other revenue costs within the budget which could have kept the council tax increase to just three per cent.

Councillor George Freeman, Independent, Lomond North ward.

YOUR PICTURES



Thanks to Donald Stewart from Cairnbaan who sent us this week's photograph. This snowy scene on Dunardry forest walk above Cairnbaan was taken by Donald in February. Send your favourite photographs for publication to editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Cosy Cottage Pie



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Siri's dream car drives home plastic pollution problem

A pod that takes lonely pensioners for an adventure and nanoscopic 'bumper cars' with healing properties were among the fantastic designs for future mobility entered by UK children in the 2020 Dream Car Art Contest.

Siri Dawton from Tarbert

won bronze in the 8 to 11 years category at the Toyota Dream Car Art 2020 Contest for her Marine, Environment, Recycling Vehicle (MERY).

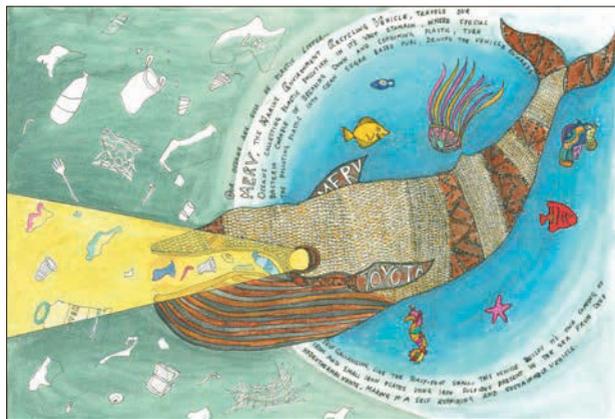
With more than 400 entries received, the competition once again demonstrated the creative talents of young peo-

ple and their ideas on how to make the world a better place through mobility. All the finalists impressed the judges with their desire to help others and the environment and their excellent artistry.

The judges were particularly impressed with the many designs tackling recent global events, such as the Australian bushfires, storms and flooding, imagining ways of reducing their impact on people and wildlife.

The ceremony was hosted at Toyota's UK head office in Surrey on February 28, with gold, silver and bronze prize winners announced in three age categories.

Having reached the final stage in the UK competition, all the finalists now go forward into the global competition and the chance to win the trip of a lifetime to Japan in 2021.



Siri Dawton's entry for the Toyota Dream Car Art 2020 Contest.

The winner in the under-eight category was Nahia Aston, whose climate change dream car can redistribute water from floods to help areas affected by wildfires. Animals and humans can also be airlifted to safety via a rainbow.

First place in the eight to 11 years category went to Isla Millen with the BeeBus, which travels around the world helping the dwindling

bee population to pollinate plants and collect nectar, with honey being distributed for people to enjoy.

The 12 to 15 years category was won by Shayna Gail Velasquez, whose green micro sentinels is composed of miniature drones that can come together to transport water to fight wildfires, blanket and contain volcanic ash and form walls to protect against tsunamis whilst

taking people and wildlife to safety.

The awards were presented by Paul Van Der Burgh, Toyota GB president and managing director, and Chris Hayes, director of people and planning.

Gold award winners were presented with iPads with silver and bronze winners receiving computer tablets. All finalists took home a Toyota goody bag.



Left to right: winners of the eight to 11 years category Isla Millen, gold; Abigail Debenham, silver; and Siri Dawton, bronze, with Paul Van Der Burgh and Chris Hayes.

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Songwriters urged to tune in to Tainish

A new contest has been launched calling on musicians of all genres to show their love of nature by writing music inspired by the coasts and waters of Scotland's beautiful nature reserves.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Fèis Rois have partnered up on this first competition for Scotland to inspire people to connect with nature through music. Entrants are invited to compose a piece of music inspired by one of 10 national nature reserves across Scotland, including Tainish National Nature Reserve.

The In Tune with Nature competition will be judged by a panel of well-known faces from the Scottish music industry including Julie Fowles, Vic Galloway, Gill Maxwell and Karine Polwart and is

part of the celebrations for the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020.

Winners will receive £500 and the chance to take part in live performances throughout the year. Each winner will also make a film on the nature reserve which inspired their music with a professional film-maker.

Entries can be in any style of music and may or may not include lyrics. References to local culture, language and tradition are encouraged. New Gaelic songs are particularly encouraged in the Beinn Eighe and Creag Meagaidh areas, as are songs written in Scots and regional dialects in other areas.

Heather Watkin, SNH's reserve manager at Tainish, said: 'There's so much to be inspired by on our nature

reserves, particularly during the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020. We have such an amazing variety of marine wildlife and seabirds in Scotland, as well as stunning beaches, lochs and rivers. It's hard not to be inspired by such beauty.'

'Music and nature have so much in common. They are both moving and give us so much pleasure. We can't wait to hear what people come up with to make us see these special places in a new light.'

The contest opened March 1 and closes on May 31, with winners announced on June 26. It is one of several special SNH events and projects to celebrate Scottish coasts and waters and their wildlife during the themed year and raise awareness of the importance of healthy freshwater and seas.



Laughing their way through the class: Maggie Dodd and Karen McCurry from Multiple Sclerosis Centre Argyll (front row) with Hazel Whiston and Rebecca Helliwell. 06_a10AquaBikes05



Lochgilhead Medical Centre lead practice nurse Hazel Whiston and Dr Rebecca Helliwell. 06_a10AquaBikes02

MACPool pedal power

by Rachel Carruthers
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

It was with trepidation I arrived at Mid Argyll Community Pool (MACPool) ahead of the aqua bike try-out session.

Exercise classes and I don't often seem like a natural fit but I was excited to give the new craze a go.

Aqua cycling uses stationary bikes immersed in a swimming pool, with water up to participants' waists, making it a non-weight bearing exercise.

Aqua bikes can be used at all abilities and are often used in high intensity classes, giving a vigorous cardiovascular workout in a low impact environment – an ideal way to reduce obesity and prevent ill health.

Stationary cycling and water-based exercises are also frequently recommended for patients suffering with osteoarthritis or recovering from knee and hip surgery or injury, therefore combining both is an obvious step.

MACPool successfully applied for funding through the Argyll and Bute HSCP Self Management Fund to run the All Ability Cycling Project in partnership with Cycling UK and the Ardrishaig Bothy. As part of this project the fund provided MACPool with seven aqua cycles and training from Hydrorider.

Arriving early to take photographs of the others giving these bikes a go, any sense of nervousness was set aside as I watched healthcare professionals and fitness and well-being enthusiasts laugh and chat through their shot.

After some quick adjustments to the bikes June, from our advertising department, and I were raring to go.

Partially submerged, the feeling of being weightless combined with the resistance of the water as we began peddling was initially a bit odd. As we got used to the feeling, we started to speed things up, pretending we were racing the rest of our group to The Cairnbaan for a gin and tonic.

Finding our rhythm, instructor Kathryn Craig began to lead us through arm exercises. Our co-ordination was put to the test as we carried on cycling while doing simple arm movements that felt more impactful due to the water resistance. Then for the real challenge – floating off the back of the bike while continuing to pedal – not an easy task if you are short-legged but a workout that feels like it is doing you the power of good.

For me aqua cycling is everything I hoped it would be – a fun, impactful (without feeling it) and enjoyable way of exercising. And I could still walk after it.

With no aches and pains the next day and still smiling, I signed up for some of the classes.

Classes vary in intensity and are currently running on Tuesdays from 1.15-1.45pm, Wednesday evenings from 6.45-7.15pm and Saturdays from 9.45-10.15am. For more information or to book call MACPool on 01546 606676.

Making a splash

■ Maggie Dodd, Multiple Sclerosis Centre Argyll: 'I found the aqua bikes to be fun and think that they would be very beneficial to many, both for the workout, which would be at various stages, and having a laugh.'

■ Multiple Sclerosis Centre Argyll manager Karen McCurry: 'What a fantastic idea. A fun yet very effective way to exercise especially for people who may have problems with their joints.'

'The majority of the MS Centre users would benefit from exercising in the water. The bikes are safe and steady and you work on at own pace and level. It is also a fun way to exercise with others.'

■ Alec Ohnstad, project coordinator at the Ardrishaig Bothy: 'Thanks to MACPool for inviting the Ardrishaig Bothy along to the aqua bike try-out session. I can see the bikes being a great resource for people seeking low impact, gentle exercise as well as those wanting a serious workout.'

'I really enjoyed the sensation of floating behind the bike while pedalling on the spot.'

'I will be telling all the Bothy participants about this new form of exercise available at MACPool.'

■ June Graham, Argyllshire Advertiser: 'It was a fun way to exercise and great for my knee. There was no impact.'

'It was such a laugh I signed up for the classes.'



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A fine range of sporting rifles on display in the new shop. 51_a10FyneTackle_newshop01



Alfie Campbell was one of the first customers through the door, pictured browsing fishing lures. 51_a10FyneTackle_newshop16

Tackling the future in a Fyne new shop

Archie MacGilp senior and junior are delighted with their new premises. 51_a10FyneTackle_newshop19



A Lochgilphead country pursuits business can stretch its legs after moving into new premises just up the road in Argyll Street.

Fyne Tackle is the new occupier of the former Stables shop, which had lain empty for a number of years. Recent refurbishment has brought it up to date and the bright, spacious shop is ideal for the family business, run

by Archie MacGilp senior and junior. There is a wide range of products for sale in the new, impressive store, including upmarket Aigle wellington boots and country clothing including top brands Ridgeline, Deerhunter and Weirfish.

As the new shop opened on Monday March 2, Archie junior said: 'The new shop is great. It's a bit bigger than

where we were before and it's new.

'We have space for the gun room too and can display things a lot better.'

Fishing permits are available, as well as a wealth of knowledgeable advice on fishing and other country pursuits built up over many years.

Formerly proprietor at the Argyll Hotel in Ardrishaig,

Archie senior noticed a demand for fishing advice from hotel customers. He set up Fyne Tackle almost 25 years ago, starting out selling fishing tackle before adding country clothing to the range.

Shooting products followed when son Archie joined the family firm. Now officially retired, Archie senior still lends a hand – jokingly describing himself as 'a gopher'. He is probably selling himself a

wee bit short given his years of experience.

The new shop, next door to the Mailbox post office and shop, is well worth a browse. It is open from 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday.

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Signing up to save lives

A much-loved Lochgilphead woman was remembered as Lochgilphead High School pupils joined forces with the fire service to support a blood cancer charity.

In the past decade, through its partnership with the charity, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has recruited more than 17,000 potential donors to the Anthony Nolan stem cell register. Of those, 1,200 have been recruited through events in Argyll and Bute, with 300 from Lochgilphead alone.

Sixty of those recruited in Scotland have gone on to provide a potentially lifesaving stem cell donation.

In 2008, Ally Boyle was diagnosed with a blood disorder. He was told his best chance of survival was a stem cell transplant.

As area commander with Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, Ally recognised the synergy between the service and Anthony Nolan, with their shared aims of saving lives.

He contacted Anthony Nolan and soon after this fantastic, life-changing partnership was born.

Most SFRS partnership activity now takes place in schools across Scotland, with 10s of thousands of young people now educated about stem cell donation.

Volunteers

Even after retiring, Ally continues to head up the partnership which has a strong network of SFRS volunteers across the country, with newly-appointed local senior officer for East and West Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute Andy Watt, chairman of the partnership.

'I feel enormously privileged to lead the partnership and I am delighted with what we have achieved.'

'Not only has this partnership allowed us to increase our ability to save lives, but it has also brought huge benefits to us as an organisation.'

'We couldn't be more proud. This partnership is truly life-saving,' said Andy.

Holding a registration clinic at Lochgilphead Joint Campus on Tuesday February 25, the aim of the day was to beat the previous school champions' registration number and they succeeded with the help of Jennifer Nelson and her friends.

The previous record had been set by Alix Nelson, Jennifer's older sister, two years ago.

The girls are the cousins of Joanna MacVicar who sadly

Pupils join forces with fire service to support blood cancer charity



Nicky Sweeney, right, helped Leah Mackenzie with registering.



Anthony Nolan school ambassadors Eilidh Graham and Jessica Nelson.

died after being unable to find a stem cell match.

Laura Campbell, Oban, who has fought cancer three times and received a stem cell transplant in October 2016, was also there to help guide pupils through the process.

Donors

Former pupil and station commander at Oban Community Fire Station John Sweeney had been in the school the previous week speaking with S5/6 pupils about the work of Anthony Nolan and asking senior pupils to consider registering as potential bone marrow donors, giving them the opportunity to think it over

before the registration event. Following the clinic, John said: 'The joint campus has been a fantastic supporter of the partnership and once again pulled out all the stops to make the event a success.'

'A total of 55 people joined the register beating the event held two years ago by one.'

'I'd like to thank everyone involved in making the event such a success, including pupils, staff and volunteers. They once again did Mid Argyll proud.'

Anyone who would like to know more about the partnership or who would like to join the register can do so by visiting www.anthonynolan.org/sfrs



Lochgilphead High School pupils team up with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for Anthony Nolan.



Right: Jessica Nelson, left, with Laura Campbell.

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'Steering by stern' 51_a10Fulmar03_SteeringStem

Voyages of the Fulmar – part seven

The serialisation of a log book from the yacht 'Fulmar', recording her 1956 voyages and the adventures of her crew.

The dog-eared log book was sent to the Argyllshire Advertiser accompanied by an unsigned note saying the log book had been bought among a lot of assorted items at an Edinburgh fleamarket.

The 'Fulmar', a 41-foot gaff cutter built in 1901, was owned by Commander Ralph G Mowat, RN (Rtd). Information on Commander Mowat was unearthed after an appeal by this newspaper, but we would love

to hear from any surviving relatives.

The yacht won her class in the 1956 Tobermory Race from Bute to Tobermory, via the Crinan Canal before setting off on a cruise from Crinan up the west coast, around Mull and back home.

Crew of the Fulmar and their nicknames: RG Mowat, 'Skipper'; Mary R Mowat, 'Mate'; G Paterson, 'Pilot'; S Stanger, 'Doctor'; JM Mowat, 'Bosun'; Chris Paterson, 'Tanky'; Robin G Mowat, 'Tar'; Shena R Mowat, 'Purser' and dachshund Ruddiger von Stoer, 'Major of Marines'.

Onward to Tobermory Monday July 30

We had a wild night of wind and rain but we lay quite comfortably and never pulled on the anchor. At a 7.45am we heard a bad forecast – gales

in Malin, but only force six in Hebrides and we hoped, being close on the border between them, that we would count as being in the latter. In the south the gales were still raging as badly as ever. Our

glass had, however, risen well and we were hopeful of an early improvement.

It was obvious that we were not going to sail this day so we lay abed till late and though the rain took off about 9am



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the squalls continued unabated and it was after 10am before we began to turn out.

It was a bitterly cold morning and when we went on deck we found the dinghy half full of rain water and the Major's dish on deck was brimming over (but it had been catching drips from the forward tent).

We were surging about a lot in the squalls, so to ease the yacht we took down the big tent and thereafter lay easier.

We had a breakfast of bacon and eggs, interrupted twice. The first time to dig out a new pot of marmalade from the locker under the port settee, the second when the Skipper, thinking he was tipping an oatcake out of a drum of them, upended a similar drum that held sugar and poured it all over his hand, his bacon and egg, and the table. During the meal the Mate informed us that the gale was upsetting more than our sailing schedule – it was doing the same to our catering arrangements and something would have to be done about it.

Supplies

We were running short of the three B's – bread, bacon and butter. The Bosun and Skipper had both run out of cigarettes and they were reluctantly compelled to broach the emergency supplies that the Doctor had left aboard.

After breakfast the Bosun bailed the dinghy then he and the Pilot mended the table and Vortex pump both of which were suffering from the same complaint – sheared holding down bolts. These jobs finished the Pilot lit the fire as the rain had come on as hard as ever and we were soon very cosy and comfortable down below.

About noon Guy Clephane came aboard for beer and coffee and, as can be imagined, stories came fast and furious and he told us about his discovery of preserved milk which was indistinguishable from fresh milk and remained good for a month or more. (So far we have not met anyone else who has ever heard of it).

When he left he said he would be going for a walk in the afternoon and would get



'Phew! Force eight in Malin'. 51_a10Fulmar01_Skipper

us some milk at the home farm.

At 1.40pm we heard a forecast only a little better than the previous one which was disappointing as the glass was rising well, the wind was easing, and the clouds definitely lifting.

The Bosun took the Major ashore and returning aboard reported a vast improvement in our gallant soldier's walking and, at last, some concrete results. All but the Mate, Major and Skipper, then went ashore on the west side. They meant to use the outboard and go right to the ferry pier, but the infernal machine would not start despite fitting a new HT lead and drying out the plug – the terrible weather had got the whole contraption thoroughly soaked – and they had to tow so landed only a little way down the loch and walked the rest of the way to the village.

The shop at the ferry pier did not impress and they did not

know of a better one up on the hill road, but they managed to get butter, sugar, bread, papers, some sweets, cakes, Macvita and tomatoes, but failed to get bacon. The little train of sand trolleys running between the tunnel in the sand mine and the Morven pier interested the Tanky and the Tar. Coming off they found the dinghy high and dry and with the foreshore a particularly gluey mud and the water shallow for some distance out, they had not a little difficulty in getting afloat. All the time they were ashore it either rained heavily or drizzled wettingly.

Meanwhile aboard the Skipper had washed and shaved and the Mate had had a real blouse-offer wash after Clephane had called alongside as promised for our milk bottle and after she had peeled a potful of potatoes. After that both had had a snooze.

Sometime during the day Siolta and Caillich came in for shelter and anchored well down the west shore; the latter with one of her dinghies stove in and part of her rails carried away by the heavy seas she had encountered off the mouth of Loch Sunart.

As soon as the Pilot and Bosun had put the shore party aboard they set off to the wooden jetty for water, but failed to find the water pipe reported in the Sailing Directions as being at its head. On the jetty the Pilot found a dead dragon fly – a huge and perfect specimen and completely undamaged as far as we could see and he

brought it off to the Fulmar to take home and we had a job finding a box large enough to take it. An emptied 100

cigarette box couldn't look at it. The Bosun then took the Major ashore but the latter would not do his duties and

the former was most justly indignant when no sooner were they back aboard than the Major flooded the deck. (A thing he had not done since 1948).

At 6pm we heard a distinctly more hopeful forecast and we were glad to see the glass was still rising steadily.

At 6.30pm we had a supper cum dinner of tomato soup, a tinned whole chicken (a really good one – Dutch Glory – and not the usual mess of bones, skin and jelly) with potatoes and carrots, biscuits and cheese and coffee – a fine meal but a big wash up afterwards. During it Clephane came alongside with our milk and apologised for only managing to get half a pint.

Shortly afterwards Allan of Aros came across from the Ormidale and coming below we sat talking about the gale – which had forced him in for shelter yesterday – Tobermory politics, the coming regattas at Oban and Tobermory, and the Queen's visit next week. He had one very amusing yarn arising out of the last named.

It concerned Mrs Bray (the Senior Baillie of Tobermory) who lives in the old hulk Ben Hiant lying at the Old Pier in Tobermory.

Continued on page 14.



'Beating up Sound of Mull. Tai-mo-shan had her motor running.' 51_a10Fulmar05_Sound of Mull



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Voyages of the Fulmar

Continued from page 13. She had gone to the mainland for something (a new hat, some said, as she was going to be presented to the Queen) and old man Bray was left in charge of the hulk. The Ben Hiant leaks like a basket and the usual practice is to drain her every low water by pulling out a big plug. The day Mrs Bray was due back Mr Bray took the plug out as usual then went ashore and, taking advantage of his quite unaccustomed freedom, proceeded 'to look at the sun when it was very red' and forgot all about replacing it before the flood had set in too far.

The result was that when Mrs Bray returned in the late afternoon she found the ship full of water and it took the fire brigade three and a half hours to pump it all out.

During the visit the Mate served refreshments in the shape of tea and cakes.

Mr Allan gone, we soon turned in, hearing the rain still lashing on the decks,

though we were glad to note the wind had gone down to little more than a strong breeze.

Tuesday July 31

We had a quiet night with only a few showers and during it the glass continued its steady climb.

The Skipper rose early (7am) and found a practically windless day with mist hanging low over the water. While leaning on the boom he was straddled by a gull, two huge bombs smacking down about an inch or so on either side of his head.

Weather

The forecast promised us an improvement in the weather for a short spell and it was decided to get on to Tobermory as soon as possible so the Bosun (a notorious won't-go-to-bed-at-night-and-won't-get-up-in-the-morning) had to be hauled out of his bunk by the Pilot. Guy and the Saguenay had the same idea as ourselves and they left for the south at eight.

The big motor boat an-

chored in the centre of the loch had already gone.

At half past eight we had a breakfast of boiled eggs and after Tanky had upset some tea, dropped marmalade on the table, and spilt half her egg onto her lap, we decided she was a 'dirty eater' and would have to be watched. While the dishes were being washed the Bosun scrubbed the decks, which were absolutely filthy, with a combination of Puilladobhrain mud and soot from the stove pipe. At 9.30am we were away under engine in a flat calm with a fine broken up sky and a sea like glass.

We took a turn round Soilta but there was no sign of life aboard her, then, after looking at the damaged rail on Caillich, headed for the narrows. Outside in the Sound of Mull we were surprised to find that quite a sea with lots of white horses was still running. As we came out, the King George V passed us close by north-bound and shortly after the Claymore



'Leaving Loch Aline', 51_a10Fulmar04_Leaving Loch Aline

did the same south-bound. At the Morven Pier we got the sails up, completing the hauling down of the two reefs begun on Sunday as we did so, then stopped the engine and started in on our dead beat to Tobermory very glad that the tide was favourable even if it did, by setting against the wind, make a bit of a mess of the sea. The Ormidale followed us out but passed along the north shore while we were tacking in Fishnish Bay on the south one.

There were some heavy showers sweeping over both Mull and Morven and Salen, as usual, seemed always to be shrouded in rain but we only got the tail end of some of them though one very heavy and very cold one hit us fair and square as we came up to the Green Isle where the

Caillich passed us also bound north.

East of Green Isle some heavy squalls hit us and in one of them the oven broke from its lashings and, crashing on the deck, smashed its glass front.

One unidentified yacht with red sails passed south on the far shore when we were off Aros Castle and we saw a fair sized yawl coming up astern.

Overhauled

She was going very well and quickly overhauled and passed us but as she did this last we recognised the Taimo-shan and realised that she had had her engine running all the time.

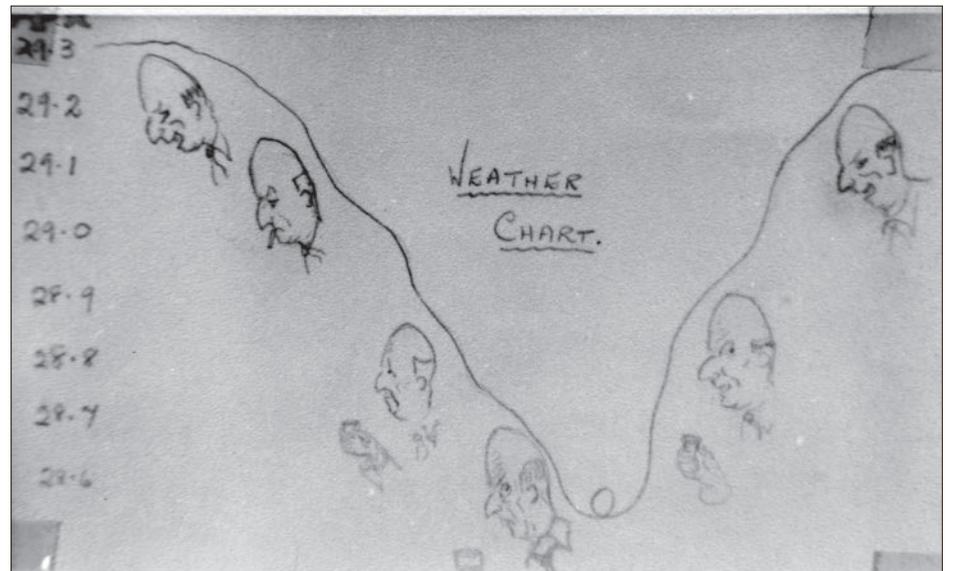
At 3.15pm we reached Tobermory having had to make a most annoying last minute little tack to get through the entrance to the

harbour and we anchored rather far out between the piers just ahead of Taimo-shan whose red ensign intrigued us - it had frayed to half its original size, right back to the jack. The glass was still rising though more slowly now.

A young girl from an old-fashioned, black, converted fishing boat type of yawl came alongside in her dinghy and asked what it was like out in the Sound and whether it would be all right for them to go down it.

We told her they couldn't have it better though there was a bit of a sea running at the Green Isle and they would be able to make Loch Aline in under two hours.

They did not take our advice and must have regretted it later.



'Deep depression in Malin', 51_a10Fulmar02_WeatherChart

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Eight of top 10 wettest months on record occurred in last 20 years

In light of the high level of rainfall recently, statistics from the last 90 years, covering the greatest precipitation records by month and year, have been included in this month's Benmore Botanic Garden weather report.

It may be debateable whether or not the annual total is on a long-term upward trend but it is almost certain the intensity of what falls is increasing, with eight of the top 10 wettest months on record occurring in the last 20 years.

Benmore records precipitation in mms by month and year: January 1993 - total 504.6, average 280.8; February 2020 - total 544.4, average 199.4; March 1994 - total 409.3, average 199.6; April 1949 - total 331, average 136.8; May 2011 - total 358.4, average 122.2; June 2002 - total 250.7, average

125.4; July 2015 - total 296.3, average 146.9; August 1985 - total 415.63, average 173.1; September 1950 - total 484.4, average 218.5; October 1935 - total 481.1, average 258; November 2006 - total 510.3, average 252.9; December 1999 - total 571.1, average 282.5.

Benmore's top 10 wettest months in mms: December 1999 - 571.1; February 2020 - 544.4; December 2011 - 535.4; December 2013 - 531.4; December 2015 - 511.1; November 2006 - 510.3; January 1993 - 504.6; December 1949 - 499.6; January 2008 - 497.9; November 2009 - 495.7.

Benmore's top 10 wettest years in mms: 1948 - 3365; 2011 - 3360.2; 2015 - 3276.7; 1938 - 3149; 1954 - 3109.7; 1999 - 3067.2; 2008 - 3004.9; 2014 - 2959.8; 1995 - 2885; 2012 - 2877.4.

Benmore Garden weather report

February 2020

Highest max air temp: 10.6°C on 21st

Lowest max air temp: 3.5°C on 11th

Average max air temp: 7.7°C

Lowest min air temp: -1.5°C on 13th

Highest min air temp: 6.2°C on 1st

Average min air temp: 2.0°C

Highest min at grass level: 3.3°C on 17th

Lowest min at grass level: -6.4°C on 14

Average min at grass level: -0.9°C

Air min below 0°C on 2 days

Grass level min below 0°C on 15 days

Hail on 11 days

Snow/sleet on 9 days

Thunder on 2 days

Gale on 11 days

Greatest rainfall in one day: 48.2mm on 28th

Rain 0.2mm or more on 27 days

Rain 1.0mm or more on 27 days

Rain 5.0mm or more on 24 days

Trace (between 0.0mm and 0.1mm): 1 day

Total with measureable

rain: 27 days

Average relative humidity: 97.4 per cent

Total rainfall for month: 544.4mm (21.4 inches)

Total rainfall for year: 911.1mm (35.9 inches)

February was the wettest on record. Total precipitation was 168 per cent above normal. This equates to 341.2mm (13.4 inches) more than the average month of February; with around one half of an inch or more falling on 21 days of the month. It is also the wettest combined January/February period on record.

Temperatures

Average maximum and minimum temperatures were generally around the norm, although the average minimum temperature at grass level was up by 0.5°C.

The occurrence of ground frost was around average, however, the number of air frosts was down 74 per cent.

High winds characterised much of the month. This, combined with very wet soils, can lead to root plate failure. The garden at Benmore was fortunate to avoid any major tree losses.



Despite the weather, Benmore Botanic Garden has fortunately avoided any major tree losses.

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Rainfall intensity is increasing. 06_a37BowFest_GenericRain04

Recruitment scheme deadline looms

The deadline is looming for any employers who would like to recruit and train employees through the Argyll and Bute Employer Recruitment and Training Incentive (ABERTI).

ABERTI is run by Argyll

and Bute Council's employability team, under the new No One Left Behind employability delivery model.

Employment

The scheme is aimed at helping people aged 16 to 67 years, who are facing many barriers

to enter into sustainable employment. Employers will receive £3,500 per employee.

There are only a few places left, however, and employees must be in post by Tuesday March 31, so anyone interested in the scheme is urged

to sign up as soon as possible. For further information and to find out eligibility visit www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/contact-employability-team or telephone the Employability Team on 01586 555990.

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Building a bridge

Our regular artistic contributor Ann Thomas this week ponders on the subject of connectivity in and around Argyll and Bute.

Looking at the topical issues of Boris Johnson's recent idea of a bridge between Scotland and Northern Ireland and the ongoing problems on the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful, our regular cartoon family leaves us wondering what else could be achieved if infrastructure and connectivity to the area was improved.



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Eddi Reader and band take to the Tarbert stage.

Perfect way to spend your extra day

It was an unforgettable evening in Tarbert Village Hall when Eddi Reader and her band played a sold out show on Saturday February 29.

The concert showcased songs and stories from Eddi's 40 years in the music business and she wowed the crowd with Fairground Attraction classics Find My Love and Perfect, as well as material from her solo career and smash hit Burns album.

It was a truly beautiful sound to hear the Tarbert

audience singing along to the tracks, a real goosebump feeling on what was a shocking night outside the hall. Eddie ensured a warm and cosy atmosphere inside, as she not only possesses the voice of an angel but is a wonderful storyteller too.

The show was kicked off in spectacular fashion with a special video from magician Billy Reid, who brings his Watch Closely tour to Tarbert at the end of this month and the crowd enjoyed support sets from local rockers FLW

and Loch Fyne Pipe Band, before Eddi and her band took to the stage.

Speaking after her performance Eddi said: 'It's such a pleasure to come round and play here and the audience are always brilliant. We would love to come back again and again. Thanks to everyone who came out to see us and to the organisers for treating us so well.'

The show was the first in a series from new community interest company West Kintyre Promotions CIC.



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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT'S ON IN MID ARGYLL

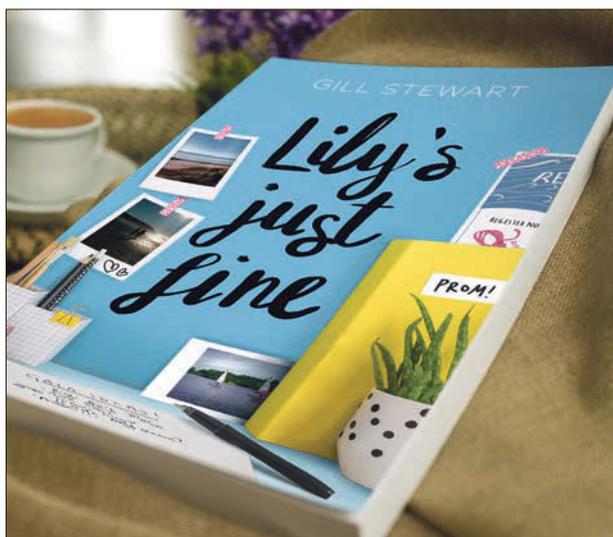
Tayvallich author in finals of national literary competition

An empowering young adult novel, written by an Argyll author, has been listed as a finalist in a national competition.

Written by author Gill Stewart, from Tayvallich, Lily's Just Fine was published in July 2019 and even before its publishing date had been nominated for a People's Book Prize.

Celebrating its 11th awards ceremony, the People's Book Prize is a literary competition aimed at finding, supporting and promoting new and undiscovered works. Winners are decided exclusively by the public.

Set in Dumfries and Galloway, Lily's Just Fine is a novel dealing with many issues including mental health, LGBT+ prejudice and chronic illness. Lily Hildebrand can deal with anything



life throws at her... almost. Lily's Just Fine is the first in the Galloway Girls series published by Sweet Cherry Publishing.

Gill Stewart was born in England but has lived in South Africa, France and Zimbabwe.

Now a full-time writer, she

Lily's Just Fine is a finalist in the 2019/20 People's Book Prize.

lives in Tayvallich overlooking the beautiful west coast which inspires the settings in her other stories.

Gill said: 'I was shocked and delighted to hear I was a finalist in this competition.'

'The book has had lots of great reviews but I never imagined anything like this.'

'The winner is chosen by votes from the public so I would be very grateful if anyone wanted to vote for Lily's Just Fine.'

Vote for Lily's Just Fine at peoplesbookprize.com/summer-2019/lilys-just-fine.

Voting is open until Wednesday April 15.



Author Gill Stewart.

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SPORT RELIEF IT'S GAME ON



Lochgilphead/After School Club

It's time for Sport Relief again, it begins on Monday March 9 ending on Friday March 13, so pull up those shorts, lace up those trainers and boots, get your swimming cozzie on and join in.

You'll feel great, have fun, and you will help people along the way.

The money raised by Sport Relief supports people living incredibly tough lives in the UK and around the world by tackling issues such as homelessness, domestic abuse, mental health stigma and child poverty.

Did you know that Comic Relief created the first ever Sport Relief in 2002, and since then eight Sport Relief campaigns have raised more than £378 million?

And, since it began in 1985, Comic Relief has raised and invested more than £1billion.



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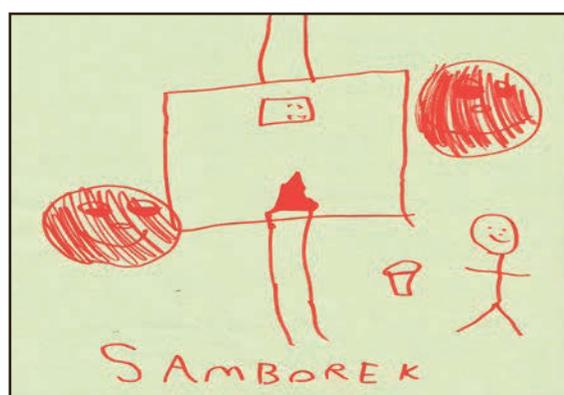
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Mental Health has been a priority for Comic Relief's funding in the UK for more than a decade by investing in therapeutic services; services for young people; campaigning and policy change work; anti-stigma and discrimination work; and maternal mental health. In the UK, and in some of the world's poorest communities, £11.7million has been spent on supporting people with mental health difficulties and tackling stigma and discrimination.

Achievements over the last three years thanks to Comic Relief and Sport Relief:

- helped to vaccinate 538,400 children against deadly diseases in Africa.
- £7.1M has been committed to help fight the threat of malaria.

- 5,076 homeless people in the UK have been helped to find safe accommodation and access services.
- £1.3M has gone to anti-trafficking programmes to help prevent the exploitation of vulnerable people across the world, and support the victims.

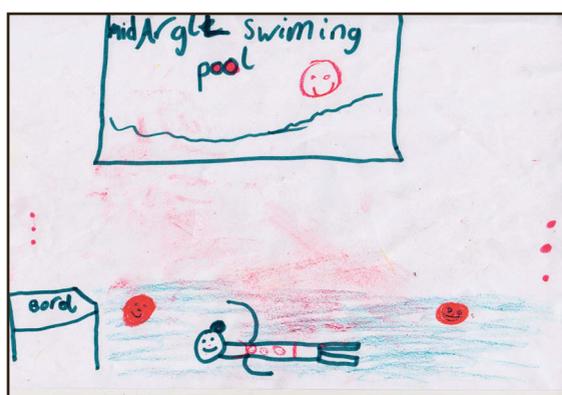
So what are you waiting for?! Join in the Sport Relief fun, like the talented youngsters whose work is seen here. Pupils were set the challenge of creating a Red Nose-themed poster to promote businesses.

Lochgilthead After School Club kids have been drawing and colouring in their entries and children from Primary One to Primary Seven have all been involved.

Lesley Taylor, manager at the club says that 30 families in the area use their services run out of the Community Centre in the town. They have a capacity of 24 places, with spaces still available some days.

'They have all enjoyed taking part in this,' she said.

To find out more about Sport Relief get some inspiration on how to raise funds at www.sportrelief.com/get-involved.



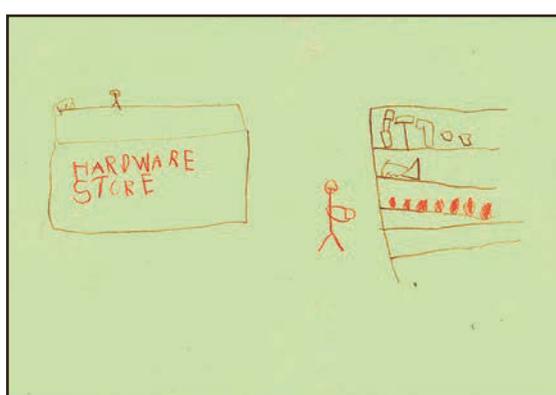
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Inveraray club hits the right note with winter music cheer

A good-sized crowd of music lovers took advantage of a lull in the winter weather to enjoy the latest meeting of Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club.

Club chairman Niall Iain MacLean welcomed everyone to the Inveraray Inn for the February get-together.

Supporting players for the evening were Fyne Folk, with Jake MacKay and Alex John MacLeod on fiddles and Agnes Liddell on keyboard. Also playing were Calum MacDonald, accordion; Janet Graham, accordion, accompanied by Agnes; Stuart McKeown, accordion; Jim McMillan, vocals and guitar; and Jake on 'moochie' accompanied by Agnes. They delighted the audience

with an excellent and varied selection.

Guest artistes were Neil MacMillan and his band, with Neil on lead accordion; Jack Delaney, second accordion; June Meikle, fiddle and Ian Muir, keyboard. They played a well-rehearsed programme with Neil, Jack and Ian swapping roles from time to time and June doing a couple of sets on fiddle. Each artiste is an accomplished musician and a treat to listen to.

The chairman thanked all the guests for a delightful evening.

On Wednesday March 11, the club welcomes well-known band leader Graeme Mitchell from Aberdeenshire and his Scottish Dance Band. This will be their first visit to Inveraray.

It is guaranteed to be a great evening of fun and music.



Neil MacMillan and his band - all fine musicians in their own right.



Right: Club chairman Niall Iain MacLean. 06_a45NiallIainmedal

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March issue



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Plenty to enjoy at Mid Argyll Music Festival



There's always time for fun away from the serious competition. 06_a13MusicFestival_Fun01

The standard of performance is sure to be as high as ever as Lochgilphead looks forward to hosting this year's Mid Argyll Music Festival.

With Ardrishaig Public Hall currently being renovated, this year's musical extravaganza moves to Lochgilphead Parish Church, primarily for daytime competitions, and Lochgilphead Joint Campus for evening events.

The 2020 festival will be held between Monday March 16 and Saturday March 21. Each day's competition begins at 9.15am, unless otherwise shown.

The festival opens on Monday at Lochgilphead Parish Church with school poetry competitions in English and Scots.

Tuesday is again based at the church and will feature junior vocal groups in English, Scots and Gaelic plus recorder competitions and some solo boys' singing events.

Ahead of the highly popular evening of Songs from the Shows, starting at 7pm at the joint campus, a day of primary school song competitions will take place at the church on Wednesday.

Secondary school song contests take centre stage on Thursday March 19, with Scots and English classes at the church. This will be followed by the piano competitions.

Starting at 7pm in the joint campus, Rainbows and Brownies will sing followed by junior and senior vocal duets and the

popular song competition. It's over to brass and wind instruments on Friday at the church, with classes for primary age children along with junior and senior Gaelic song competitions.

At the campus, again starting at 7pm, the audience can enjoy choirs, vocal ensembles and adult solo song classes.

Saturday is the big day for instrumental competitions and it gets under way in the joint campus at 9.30am. A busy day will culminate in the spectacular Bands Bonanza at 6.30pm, followed by the final prizegiving.

Details of solo piping competitions will be available soon.

More details are available on the Mid Argyll Music Festival Facebook page. Any updates will be published in next week's Argyllshire Advertiser.

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Help needed with Picts and Celts event

A colourful Lochgilphead summer festival will take place at a temporary new home and organisers are looking for volunteers.

Run by Lochgilphead Community Council, the popular Celtic and Pictish festival celebrates ancient heritage including music, art, crafts and more warlike traditions.

With a major redevelopment of the festival's home to date – Lochgilphead front

– about to get under way, this year's festival on Saturday August 1 will be held at the town's Ropework Park.

Help

The community council is seeking help from people to carry out various tasks including promotion ahead of the event and setting up/clearing away.

If anyone wants to be part of this exciting project, contact Brian MacLennan by email at bsmac1@gmail.com.



Be ready for plenty of action at the festival in August.

06_a32PictFest17



Fèis an Tairbeirt keeps traditional music alive and thriving in the area. Photograph: Fèis an Tairbeirt.

Tuneful teas for tradition in Tarbert

People attending a Tarbert coffee morning were treated to beautiful music as they enjoyed their scones.

The Fèis an Tairbeirt fundraiser, on Saturday February 29 in the Templar Arts

and Leisure Centre, featured clarsach players giving a fantastic performance.

Thanking the players, Alison McBride of Fèis an Tairbeirt also expressed gratitude to Tarbert Co-op for providing

the supplies and everyone who baked, washed dishes and supported the event.

She added: 'We raised £328, which will help us continue to run our traditional music workshops in Tarbert.'



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Sunday 1.45pm, 4.30pm & 6.45pm

Monday 2.30pm, 5.00pm & 7.30pm

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Farm union president pops up in podcast

President Andrew McCornick is the subject in the first of two podcasts recorded at NFU Scotland's two-day conference, AGM and annual dinner in February.

The OnFarm podcast team, presented by Scene and Herd director Anna Davies, were at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Glasgow's city centre to record not one but two episodes of their increasingly popular Scottish farming podcast.

The first episode – which is out now and can be listened to at www.on-farm.co.uk or downloaded from the Apple Podcast app and Spotify – focuses on the subjects on everyone's lips at this year's AGM including seasonal workers, climate change, veganism, geese and many more.

The next instalment has a one-on-one interview with NFU Scotland President Andrew McCornick, in which he discusses where the industry is now and where he sees its direction of travel.

The next episode, also from the AGM, very much con-

centrates on rural Scotland and the many ways in which farmers are working together and with scientists to tackle climate change.

NFU Scotland director of communications Bob Carruth said: 'It was fantastic to work with an experienced podcaster like Anna for NFU Scotland's first ever venture into this growing area.'

'NFU Scotland is always exploring new ways to engage with our members. This spring saw the launch of the new NFU Scotland phone app and the quality and content of this podcast may see this become a permanent string to our communications bow.'

Climate change

Anna added: 'These episodes provide a taster as to what the union does on behalf of the industry and the importance of speaking up so that they can represent you to the best of their ability.'

'We also take a look at what farming is doing to tackle climate change – the issue of the decade.'

'We were delighted to work

alongside NFUS to produce these episodes of OnFARM. Podcasting is a superb way to get key messages across in a way that is enjoyable to listen to and yet informative at the same time. Podcast

listenership is rising at an incredible rate and a tractor cab or lambing shed are perfect places to listen. It really is easy to download an episode – give it a try, you might like it.'



Anna Davies with NFUS president Andrew McCornick.

Stroneskar bullock tops Dalmally cattle trade

Dalmally

On Saturday February 29 United Auctions sold 177 store cattle, 24 breeding cattle and 264 sheep of all classes. Bullocks averaged £768.19 (+£54) per head to a top price of £1070 for a 490kg, LimX from A McNair & Son, Stroneskar Farm and averaged 228.8p/kg (+12p) to 270.8p/kg for a 240kg, CharX from Laggan Farms. Heifers averaged £638.78 (+£8) per head to £860.00 for a 442kg, Limx from W MacLeod, Lurignish and averaged 221.93p/kg (+4p) to 254.90p/kg for a 255kg, BSx From I & R Malcolm, Poltalloch. In calf heifers sold to £1,220 for a SimX from F Ronald, Duntuim and incalf cows sold to a top price of £880 from Balantyre Farm Partnership. In the sheep section, hogs averaged £63.04

(+£23.54) and ewes averaged £60.28 (+£36.60). An excellent show of quality stock in all sections was presented to a good ringside of buyers resulting in sellers receiving satisfactory returns on the day.

Leading Prices:

Cattle per head:

Bullocks – BSx - £640, Tayvallich Estates. CHx - £830, £810, Barnakill; £740(9), Laggan Farms. LIMx - £1,070, Stroneskar; £950(2), £920, £910, Lurignish; £890(20), £850, Stroneskar; £840(2), Barbreck Farm; £840, Stroneskar. SIMx - £990, Couston Farm Co; £970, £940, Stroneskar, £890(5), Achnacone; £850(6), Stroneskar.

Heifers – BSx - £780, Barnakill. CHx - £780(3), Barnakill; £750, Couston Farm Co; £710, Laggan Farms. LIMx - £860, Lurignish; £840, Ardentraive; £780,

Tullochcan; £760, Barbreck Farm; £750(4), Ardentraive. SIMx - £770(8), £740(2) Achnacone.

Per Kilo:

Bullocks – BSx – 241p, Tayvallich Estates. CHx – 271p(2), 261p(9), Laggan Farms; LIMx – 271p(3), Barbreck Farm; 262p, Tullochcan; 259p, Ardentraive; 250p, Barbreck Farm. SIMx – 244p(5), 241p(5), Achnacone; 236p, Couston Farm Co.

Heifers – BSx – 255p, Poltalloch. CHx – 254p(7), 252p(9), Laggan Farms. LIMx – 255p(2), Poltalloch; 245p(3), Scoor Farm; 234p(4), Ardentraive; 231p(3), Scoor Farm. SIMx – 241p(8), 233p(2), Achnacone.

In calf cows:

AAX - £830, Balantyre Farm Partnership. SALx - £880, £820, Balantyre Farm Partnership.

In calf heifers:

SIMx - £1220.00, Duntuim.

Sheep:

Hogs – Suffx - £67.00, £63.00, Tiraghoil. Cross - £93.00, £89.50, £81.00, Bunlarie. BF - £84.50, Musdale Farm; £76.00, Bragleenmore; £64.00, Musdale Farm; £63.00, Tigh Airidh; £62.00, Musdale Farm.

Ewes – Tex - £98.00, Fidden; £88.00, £80.00, £60.00, Glenshero. ChevX - £97.00, Keppochan; £89.00, 83 Borve, Barra; £86.00, Ardsheal Farm; £85.00, Treshnish Farm; £68.00, Keppochan. Cross - £91.00, Glenshero; £70.00, £67.00, 17 St Brendan Road, Barra. Mule - £92.00, 123 Craigston, Barra. BF - £75.00, 83 Borve, Barra; £72.00, Glenshero; £66.00, Tiraghoil; £66.00, Fidden; £66.00, Bragleenmore; £62.00, 123 Craigston, Barra.

S&S SERVICES



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Spring Farming



This winter seems to have gone on forever and spring cannot come fast enough for us all.

The prolonged wet weather – 2020 had the wettest February since records began – has seen all kinds of delays for crops and livestock, not to mention all the news about Brexit. So it is no wonder everyone is looking forward to the warmer, longer and, hopefully, drier days.

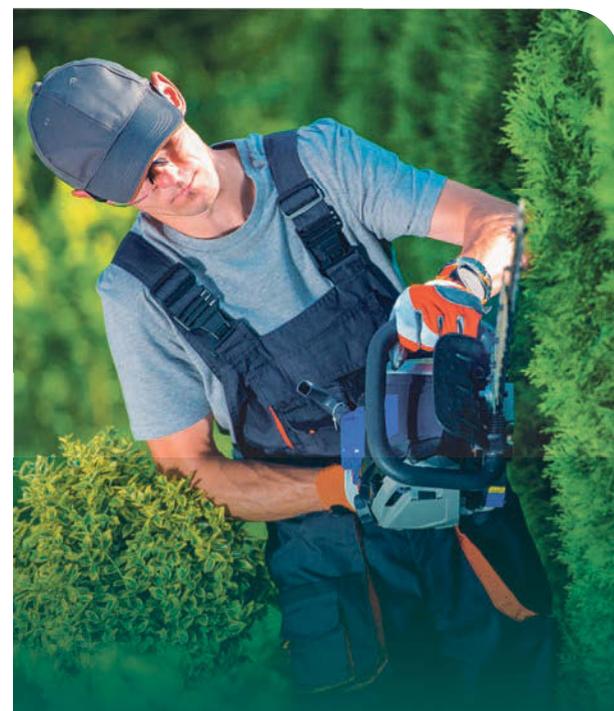
A lot of farms are reporting there is still plenty of ploughing to be done.

Now is the time to be looking forward and preparing for the best possible start for the busiest part of the farming year.

An Argyll customer has just taken delivery of a new Hurlimann Prestige tractor, says David Tunstall of Tunstall Tractors Ltd in Cumbria. The firm has been selling, servicing and repairing new and second-hand tractors since 1984 and now offers Steyr, Hurlimann, Zetor and Solis tractors.

David says that Czech firm Zetor continues to be a customer favourite for the quality finish, low running costs and depreciation, high performance and an interest-free five-year finance offer this spring.

‘As well as an excellent offer like this, we are finding that quality used tractors are becoming very sought after. Premium used tractors continue to sell well; as new tractors are becoming increasingly expensive,’ David added.



Hedge cutting ban reminder

From March 1 as the bird nesting and rearing season begins, until August 31 a closed period comes into force that places a ban on cutting and trimming hedges and trees due to cross-compliance requirements, with exceptions for sowing some crops and road safety.

A Breath of Fresh Air – Ventilation Made Simple



Winter housing brings with it problems – most common of which are pneumonia and reduced feed intakes, which can be caused by many things.



These workshops will address the important areas which farmers should be aware of when housing livestock, primarily ventilation and air flow.



Speaker: Jamie Robertson, Livestock Management Systems Ltd

Thursday 12th March 2020 Ballyreggan Farm, Campbeltown

The meeting will run from 11 am till 3 pm with lunch provided
To book your place please call 01586 552502



Kintyre & District Ayrshire Breeders Club A.G.M.

Monday 9th March 2020 at 8.00pm prompt in the Ardshiel Hotel, Campbeltown
Guest speaker: Mr Arthur Lawrie, Cuthill Towers President, World Federation of Ayrshire Breeders
All welcome

Kintyre Agricultural Society SUMMER LET OF SHOWFILEDS

The fields will be offered for let from 1st April until 30th September 2020
Stock must be removed between 9th July and 9th August
Written or e-mail bids only to the secretary before Friday 20th March
For terms and conditions please contact the secretary:
John Armour (Secretary)
High Tirfergus
Campbeltown
Argyll
PA28 6PW
Or e-mail:
tirfergus01@btconnect.com



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11 reg Proxima Plus 105.....	£22000
09 reg Proxima Power 95, Traclift loader	£25000
67 reg Proxima HS80, as new	£33000

Also new Hurlimann & Solis tractors in stock, view on website

MACHINERY

Now is the time to do a deal on new Grassland machinery, we have new Malone mowers & tedders in stock. Also Galfre rakes & tedders & new 2 drum mowers. Supplies look like being tight this year so best to buy early.
New Marshall MS60, 75 & 90 rota spreaders in stock, keen prices!
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Many other tractors & machinery in stock, view online at
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PUBLIC MEETINGS

NEW ISLAY VESSEL

Public meetings have been arranged to engage with the Islay and Jura communities on the requirements and specification of a new ferry to operate between Kennacraig and Islay. The ferry is the next major vessel to be ordered for the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service.

Communities are invited to attend their local meeting:

Monday 23 March 2020, 5.30pm to 7.30pm
Ionad Chaluum Chille Ìle (ICCI), Bowmore

Tuesday 24 March 2020, 5.30pm to 7.30pm
Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen

The meetings will include a 30-minute presentation followed by a Q&A with representatives from Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL), CalMac and Transport Scotland.

Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd
Municipal Buildings, Fore Street, Port Glasgow PA14 5EQ
01475 749920 | operations@cmassets.co.uk
cmassets.co.uk

Energiekontor UK Ltd
ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

Notice is hereby given that Energiekontor UK Ltd, Sovereign House, 212-224 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8HQ has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate a wind farm within Argyll and Bute, approximately 1.6km east of Tayinloan (Central Grid Reference NR 751474). The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be up to 95.2 MW comprising 17 turbines with a ground to blade tip height of 180 metres. The proposed development is subject to Environmental Impact Assessment and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report has been produced.

Energiekontor UK Ltd has also applied for a direction under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it relates, together with a copy of the EIA report discussing the Company's proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, are available for public inspection in person, free of charge, during normal office hours at:

Location	Opening Hours	Address
Argyll and Bute Council Offices	Monday to Friday: 9am to 12.30pm, and 1.30pm to 4pm	Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT

The EIA report can also be viewed at the Scottish Government Library at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ; on the application website at www.energiekontor.co.uk or at www.energyconsents.scot.

Copies of the EIA Report may be obtained from Energiekontor UK Ltd telephone: 0141 354 6544 at a charge of £600 hard copy and £15 on CD. Copies of a short non-technical summary are available free of charge.

Any representations to the application may be submitted via the Energy Consents Unit website at www.energyconsents.scot/Register.aspx; by email to the Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit mailbox at representations@gov.scot; or by post to the Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation.

Written or emailed representations should be dated, clearly stating the name (in block capitals), full return email and postal address of those making representations. Only representations sent by email to representations@gov.scot will receive acknowledgement.

All representations should be received not later than 6th April, although Ministers may consider representations received after this date.

Any subsequent additional information which is submitted by the developer will be subject to further public notice in this manner, and representations to such information will be accepted as per this notice.

As a result of a statutory objection from the relevant planning authority, or where Scottish Ministers decide to exercise their discretion to do so, Scottish Ministers can also cause a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) to be held.

Following examination of the environmental information, Scottish Ministers will determine the application for consent in two ways:

- Consent the proposal, with or without conditions attached; or
- Reject the proposal

General Data Protection Regulations

The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit processes consent applications and consultation representations under The Electricity Act 1989. During the process, to support transparency in decision making, the Scottish Government publishes online at www.energyconsents.scot. A privacy notice and a fair processing notice are published on the help page at www.energyconsents.scot. These explain how the Energy Consents Unit processes your personal information. If you have any concerns about how your personal data is handled, please email us at: Econsents_admin@gov.scot or write to Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

Campbeltown Lawn Tennis Club
A.G.M.
Wednesday 18th March
at 7.30pm
in Ardshiel Hotel

R N L I
Mid Argyll
Fundraising Branch
A G M
Tuesday 10th March 2020
2.00pm
Lochgilphead
Community Centre
All Welcome
SC037736

East Kintyre Community Council Windfarm Trust

Applications are invited for funding from the first disbursement this year from the above trust. Grants for capital or revenue funding may be available to charities, community groups and village halls within the East Kintyre Community Council area bordered by Grogport to the North and Peninver to the South.

Advice, criteria and application forms are available on the Windfarm Trust pages of the new East Kintyre Community website - eastkintyre.org or alternatively from the Secretary/Treasurer:

Alasdair Bennett
Tel: 01583 431112

E-mail: ekccwft@hotmail.com

Closing date for applications: Thursday 23 April 2020

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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 Lochgilphead PA31 8RD. They can also be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at 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
20/00040/PP	Amendment to Condition 2 of planning permission reference 14/01279/PP (Erection of 100 metres high meteorological mast for temporary period of 5 years) to allow retention of the mast for a temporary period of 5 years	Cnocan Gean, Tany Wind Farm, Kilkennie, Argyll And Bute
20/00134/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 3 Land North East Of Bayview, Carradale, Argyll And Bute
20/00137/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 1 Land North East Of Bayview, Airds, Carradale, Argyll And Bute
20/00321/PP	Change of use of land for the siting of timber clad modular building for use as office accommodation (retrospective)	Mowi Scotland Limited, Craobh Haven, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute, PA31 8UA
20/00165/PP	Formation of temporary site compound comprising modular buildings, material storage area and associated heras fencing to enable sewer upsizing (Flood Alleviation Works)	Land Adjacent To Tarbert Fire Station, Garval Road, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute

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

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
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You will be responsible for operating the Mill House and carrying out other general quarry duties as required.

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If you wish to apply to join our team, please download an application form from our website

www.leiths-group.co.uk/careers

and submit to

recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk

Leiths Group are an Equal Opportunities Employer

Ormsary Farmers Vehicle Maintenance Manager

A vacancy has arisen for a qualified motor vehicle engineer to maintain a fleet of cars, estate vehicles and vintage cars, together with some seasonal servicing and maintenance of private boats. There will be a requirement for driver/courier service when required. The successful candidate will be self-motivated and will be required to maintain relevant records, control stocks of spares and equipment and keep excellent garage facilities functioning to a high standard.

If you wish to discuss the role or apply, please send a CV to James Lithgow, Ormsary Estate Office, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8PE or email enquiries@ormsary.co.uk



Oban Cruise Operations – local representative

We are seeking an enthusiastic team player to assist in coordinating shore excursion services for cruise ships visiting Oban. Our ideal candidate must possess good local knowledge, organizational and interpersonal skills, communicate effectively, and be flexible.

This job will only be on an occasional basis and will involve outdoor pier side work (5 dates total during the 2020 summer season).

Please email CV and cover letter by Thursday 12 March 2020 to Felix Lopez at flopez@europeancruise.no

Job description available upon request. Interviews will be held in Oban on Wed 18 March 2020.

Career opportunities



TELEHANDLER OPERATIVE – OBAN

We are recruiting for a qualified Telescopic Handler to fill an available position on Dunbeg Housing Development in Oban. Full Time/Permanent role, available for immediate start.

Please send CV with references and relevant certificates to jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk or call 01546602989.



Career opportunities



SITE SUPERVISOR

We are recruiting for an experienced Site Supervisor to join our team in Argyll & Bute. The candidate should have a background in Construction.

Full Time/Permanent position, available for immediate start.

CV with references to jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk or call 01546602989.

GENERAL LABOURERS

We are recruiting for General Labourers in the Oban area. Construction experience is desirable but not essential.

Full Time/Permanent position, available for immediate start.

CV with references to jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk or call 01546602989



Crear Weddings are recruiting full & part time housekeeping, waiting staff & general assistants.

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Delivery driver

We are a thriving and long established food distribution business covering the West coast and most of the Inner Hebrides.

Due to pending staff retirement and increasing workload, we wish to recruit a smart, reliable, resourceful and customer focused driver for our delivery runs around Argyll, Lochaber and the islands. Occasional stores work may also be required.

Ideal candidates would have a class II licence and CPC, or, be a van driver looking to undergo paid driver training to Class II

Early starts and manual handling skills are essential.

Please apply with CV and covering letter to Eric Walton, Waltons of Oban, 13 Lochavullin Road, Oban, PA34 4PL. Or email to eric@waltonsofoban.co.uk



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Thank You

to Sally and Simon for rescuing me when my car was in the ditch at Craobh Haven on 3rd March.
Your help was much appreciated – you made my day!
Billy Mundie

To **Ami**
Happy 40th Birthday



lots of love from
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Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Shedden

It always happens late on a Friday afternoon when everyone has gone home for the weekend and nothing can happen till Monday.

Yes, our heating went off about 4pm on Friday.

It was going to be a very cold weekend with the latest storm, including the threat of snow, making its way towards us.

Phone calls to the 'big companies' proved fruitless and we were dreading a cold few days ahead.

Our hopes were raised, however, when we were given the phone number of someone who might help. And Malcolm turned out to be our 'God-send'.

Late on Friday afternoon, still working on another job, Malcolm said he would come and try to help.

Malcolm came and not only helped, but completely sorted our problem.

It turned out to be a simple procedure which only took a few moments to sort.

That was not the point. The point was that someone was prepared to take the time late on a Friday afternoon to help.

Often it is the small things that make all the difference.

It is the small act of kindness, the gentle word, the small gift, that can lift our spirits and renew our hope.

There is a book called The God of Small Things.

All that it takes to make this world a better place is to do the small things.

When we can't make major changes in government or national affairs, when we despair of the tragedies and disasters around us, we can do these small acts that make a difference.

We can, in our own wee corner of our world, try to be a 'God-send' to someone.

INVERARAY

It was eyes down for a full house at the Inveraray Senior Citizens Wednesday Club bingo afternoon.

Full concentration was needed for everyone at the Nicoll Hall on February 19 as the numbers, called by Sheila, were marked off.

The club also welcomed Samantha Marshall from 1,000 Voices Mid Argyll to talk about what it can offer people aged over 65 to help with social interaction. A delicious afternoon tea followed.

ISLAY

Two meetings will be held in Islay to discuss with islanders requirements and specification of a new ferry to operate between Kennacraig and Islay.

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) will host the meetings on Monday March 23 at Ionad Chaluum Chille Ìle in Bowmore and on Tuesday March 24 at Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen. The two-hour meetings will start at 5.30pm and include a 30-minute presentation followed by a question and answer session with representatives from CMAL, CalMac and Transport Scotland.

The new Islay ferry is the next major vessel to be ordered for the Clyde and Hebrides ferry service. It will complement the service provided by MV Finlaggan, although it will be developed with a clear focus on freight.

The Islay route is one of the busiest services for freight on the Clyde and Hebrides network. Passenger accommodation will be designed to meet anticipated demand.

DUNOON

Flagship primary school shortlisted for top community impact award

The Royal Institution for Chartered Surveyors (RICS) in Scotland is to vote on a shortlist of 35 construction projects, marking its role in transforming communities and the everyday lives of people.

Amongst the shortlisted projects is Kirn Primary School.

The new school was designed by Ryder Architecture and is one of Argyll and Bute Council's flagship school projects, delivered in partnership with hub North Scotland Ltd and the Scottish Futures Trust. It caters for 320 pupils and offers 30 early years places.

The RICS Social Impact Awards celebrate the impact of construction on communities across the country, with voting to take place ahead of the RICS



Kirn Primary School has been shortlisted for the RICS Social Impact Awards.

Scotland ceremony on Thursday April 23.

A UK grand final will be held in September for those successfully nominated from each

region, with property expert David Brooks Wilson leading a panel of guest judges to select the projects worthy of the top award.

The project is in its early stages. Naval architect consultancy naValue GmbH has been appointed by CMAL to support the feasibility analysis phase of the project and the tender to award a shipbuilding contract.

STRACHUR

An Easter fair is planned to celebrate the arrival of spring and

to generate funds for Strachur Memorial Hall.

Organisers of the event, on Saturday April 11, are calling on all hall user groups to help out by running stalls. Last time the Scottish Women's Institute, Friendship group, fiddlers, Strachur and Strathlachlan Guild, Strachur and District Scottish Country Dancing Club, Strachur and District

Local History Society, Smiddy, badminton club and youth club put in a fantastic effort to support the hall. Crafters wishing to run stalls for their own benefit can rent a stall for £10. Last time an Easter Fair was held, more than £1,400 was raised for the hall. To offer any group's assistance or to book a stall contact Les Earle, Evie Campbell or Fiona Campbell.

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Young Kyles team comes close to national success

The Ferguson Transport and Shipping National Finals brought together more than 150 of the best young shinty players from across Scotland.

Teams competed on Saturday February 29 for the coveted National P5 and P7 first shinty titles.

The P7 and Under tournament was played at the Nevis Centre, Fort William, in front of a large, noisy crowd. The standard of play throughout the day was of the highest order, with each of the 11 teams giving a great account of themselves.

Section A saw the impressive Portree Gaelic School top the group with the equally impressive young Dalneigh Primary team two points behind, claiming the runners-up spot. Section B was extremely competitive, with the impressive Inverloch Primary School topping the group. Taynuilt Primaries edged out Newtonmore Primary School on goal difference to clinch second spot.

The first semi-final saw last year's winners Portree Gaelic School take on Taynuilt Primaries, with Portree rac-

Primary players battle into first shinty final

ing to an early 2-0 lead. The young Taynuilt side showed great character to pull a goal back, before Portree Gaelic School scored a late goal to run out 3-1 winners and book their place in the final.

The second semi-final saw a dominant performance from Inverloch Primary who ran out 5-1 winners against Dalneigh Primary School, who had acquitted themselves extremely well throughout the tournament to set up an intriguing final.

The final started with Portree Gaelic School on the attack, and they raced to a 2-0 lead. Inverloch, however, showed great resilience and pulled a goal back from Diesel Maclean and with only six seconds of the final remaining the highly impressive James Clark scored a dramatic equaliser to take the final into golden goal extra time.

The winning goal from

Inverloch had a large slice of luck about it. With the Portree defender trying to clear his lines, his clearance came off the body of Inverloch's Diesel Maclean, and the ball ended up in the back of the net to win the P7 and Under National First Shinty Championships 2020.

Inverloch Primary School were worthy winners, having gone through the tournament undefeated.

The P5 and Under competition took place at Lochaber High School and the large crowd was entertained with an afternoon of fantastic shinty.

Kyles Primaries and Caol Primary School qualified for the final from two highly competitive leagues.

Runners-up in Section A to Kyles Primary Schools were Auchtertyre Primary School and runners-up in Section B to Caol Primary School were Portree Gaelic Primary

School. It was good to see relatively new shinty teams such as Glendale Primary School and Muirtown Primary School qualifying for the festival and finishing third in their sections.

Due to the incoming Storm Jorge and parental concern regarding travelling in challenging conditions it was decided, prior to the start of the festival, the semi-finals would be withdrawn. This was appreciated by the parents and supporters travelling south.

The final was a classic and will live long in the memory. There were chances at both ends but Caol Primary scored in the last few seconds to come out on top by six goals to five. Both teams provided a high-quality game and Kyles can be very proud of their performances throughout the day.

The winners and runners up were presented with their medals, on behalf of Ferguson Transport and Shipping, by Grade 1 Referee Graham Cameron, who volunteered his time to help at the festival.

Kyles coach James Perlich



The Kyles squad with coaches Gordon Whyte, left, and James Perlich to the right.

said afterwards: 'The team should be extremely proud of themselves and there will definitely be success in the future for this group of players. Well done to all the players who contributed to reaching

the finals. It really was a squad effort from the smallest shinty community in the competition.

'Thank you to all the coaches, the parents for their support and everyone involved.'

New season gets under way

The 2020 senior shinty season starts on Saturday March 7.

Mowi Premiership

Fort William v Kyles Athletic Fort William have been given a difficult start to life back in shinty's top flight as seasoned campaigners Kyles Athletic visit An Aird.

Kyles Athletic will be skippered by Rupert Williamson this season as keeper John Whyte is abroad so will miss the first couple of games of the campaign.

Kyles had been due to visit An Aird pre-season for the Drew Ferguson Memorial Cup, but the game was postponed.

Mowi National Division

Inveraray v Glenurquhart Inveraray, relegated from the Premiership at the end of last season, play promotion hopefuls Glenurquhart at the Winterton - but if recent rainfall leaves the Inveraray pitch waterlogged by Saturday the fixture may be reversed to Drumnadrochit.

Ruaraidh Graham stays on

in charge at Inveraray. He managed to get his side two pre-season outings, although both were on astro pitches, with Lewis MacNicol showing an eye for goal.

Mowi South Division 1

Col Glen v Bute Bute, relegated from the National Division at the end of last season, make the short trip across the water to play Col Glen at Glendaruel.

Kyles Athletic v Tayforth Tayforth travel to play the Kyles Athletic second team at Kames.

Mowi South Division 2

Kilmory v Inveraray Kilmory and the Inveraray second team have a 2.01pm throw-up at MacRae Park. Both sides will be hopeful of competing for the league title approaching the end of the season.

Bute v Aberdour

The Bute seconds and the Aberdour seconds play at the Meadows.

Glenorchy are the free team in this seven-team league.

Shinty Heads Up

Throw-up times at all shinty matches this Saturday will be delayed by one minute, with the majority throwing up at 2.31pm, as part of an initiative to raise mental health awareness.

As part of the Heads Up campaign, shinty supporters are being encouraged to 'Take A Minute' to think about the importance of looking after their own well-being.

Talking

The initiative highlights the power of talking as a way to support one another and normalise what can often be thought of as a difficult subject.

The Heads Up weekends are another step to show that mental health is just as important as physical health and it only takes a second to #KickOffAConversation.



Inveraray's Lewis MacNicol, left, has his goalscoring eye in, judging by pre-season form.

Photograph: Stephen Lawson.



Murray MacDonald came second in the triple jump.

Mid Argyll success at national competition

Two young members of Mid Argyll Athletic Club enjoyed success against athletes from across Scotland.

Concluding the Scottish Athletics indoor season, the Scottish Under 13 Indoor Championships was held at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow on Saturday February 29, with the Under 15s the next day.

Murray MacDonald contested the triple jump and shot putt in the U15s, winning a silver medal in the triple jump with an impressive 9.86 metres. He came close to a second medal in the shot putt, throwing 10.39 metres for fourth place, only 25cms behind the bronze medal throw.

Eleanor Dale from Ardrishaig entered the high jump in the under 13 age group and cleared 1.19 metres finishing in the top half of a large entry.

GET INVOLVED
email editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Sports club lottery numbers

Numbers drawn in Kilmory Camanachd Club's lottery on Monday March 2 were 1, 7 and 8.

There were no winners, so next week's jackpot will be £1,000.

Also drawn on Monday, Inveraray Shinty Club's lottery draw numbers were 1, 4 and 20. There were no winners, so next week £300 will be up for grabs.

This week's Tarbert Football Club numbers were 4, 14 and 20. There were no winners, so next week's prize pot will be £300.

OBAN SAINTS YOUTHS

Last Sunday's results: Under 13s 1 v Rossvale 4; Clydebank 1 v Under 14s 5; Thistle Weir v Under 15s, postponed; Greenock United 1 v Under 17s 3. This Sunday's fixtures: Under 13s v Victoria Park; Milton Rovers v Under 14s; Under 15s v Thistle Weir; Westercommon Star v Under 17s.

ADULT FOOTBALL

Last Saturday's results: Central Scottish AFL Division 1B – Oban Saints 3 Bridge-water 2; Greater Glasgow AFL Division Three – Kilbarchan 1, Oban Saints GG 0; Scottish Amateur FL – Premier Division One – Carlton YM 1, Lochgilphead Red Star 4; Dunoon v Busby, postponed; Parkhall 3, Campbeltown Pupils 1; Premier Division Two – Tarbert v Strathaven, postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures: Central Scottish AFL: Cinema Cup, first round - St Patrick's FP v Oban Saints; Greater Glasgow AFL Division Three - Oban Saints GG v Westcliff; Scottish Amateur FL: Premier Division One - Campbeltown Pupils v Neilston; Lochgilphead Red Star v Dunoon; Premier Division Two - Houston United v Tarbert.

Squash team numbers grow

Oban Ladies Squash Team took part in their monthly squad training session at Atlantis Leisure with four new members boosting their numbers to 22.

Team coach Colin MacNiven puts the women through drills, fitness and stamina routines and games to simulate live competitive matches. He said: 'We had four new players who joined the squad training this time. It is fantastic to see so many dedicated women who want to practise and get better at their chosen sport. It was a great day and everyone put in maximum effort.'

The team have a busy year ahead with fixtures and events taking place across the country, starting with a trip to Glasgow to play Western on Saturday March 21.

new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

Win!
THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT
£2500

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**
D MacLellan Jan '20 **£2000**

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



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

D Campbell
Dunbeg
J MacVean
Lochgilphead

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Young Kyles team comes close to national success

Mid Argyll success at national competition

Carlton 'snow' problem for four-goal Red Star

Carlton YM	1
Lochgilthead Red Star	4
SAFL Premier One	

Awful conditions and an Aaron Moore hat trick dominated the headlines as Red Star travelled to Paisley to take on the league's bottom side Carlton.

Star reverted to a 3-4-3 formation for the game on Saturday February 29, hoping to try and carry more of a goal threat with Aaron Moore leading the attack, flanked by Stuart MacLean and Campbell Litster.

Star were playing against a strong wind in the first half and it was causing problems for both sides.

Although Star had the majority of possession, Carlton had the chance to take the lead when a long ball caused a scramble in the Star box. The Carlton forward got his shot away but the ball was kept out by a combination of Coll McCallum and Jake Weir.

The visitors started to build pressure of their own and after a succession of corners, the ball fell kindly to Stuart McLean, who fired the ball into the bottom corner to give Star the lead at half time 0-1.

Into the second half and the weather took a turn for the worse as a freak snow storm appeared.

It didn't put Star off their stride though as they put the game to bed with an

excellent opening 10 minutes. Some neat play down the left involving Campbell Litster and Lee MacLean saw the ball drop to Aaron Moore who beat the keeper with a fine effort from 10 yards out. 0-2.

Moore's second and Star's third followed as this time he beat the offside trap on the left channel before curling a tremendous shot into the far corner leaving the keeper with no chance. 0-3.

The Lochgilthead side should have been further ahead, but some excellent goalkeeping from the Carlton stopper, including a save from an Andy Weir spot kick, kept his side just about in it. And there was cause for concern when Carlton found the net to make the score 1-3.

Star wrestled back control late on though, playing good possession football, before Aaron Moore completed his hat trick with a fine free kick from 20 yards which left the otherwise excellent Carlton keeper with no chance. 1-4.

This was a welcome three points for Star in testing conditions on their last away game of the season. The Lochgilthead side have five league games and a cup tie at home still to play and will look to build on this performance with three points in a crucial Argyll derby at home to Dunoon tomorrow (Saturday). The game is scheduled at the Ropework and kicks off at 1pm.



It was all smiles at the prizegiving.

Fun in soccer centre sun

An open fun training day organised by Tarbert Soccer Centre proved a hit – and the sun even came out to play.

Twenty-eight youngsters aged from P1 to S3 took part in the event on Saturday February 29, trying out new equipment bought with

grant money from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme.

Goalie

The day included a top bins competition, won by Aidan Anderson; Lachlan Grey and Caitlin Prentice beat the goalie and Brooke Prentice won the crossbar challenge.



Above: Coach Jonathan Scott gets stuck in.

Left: Caitlin Prentice takes on keeper Billy Hawthorn.



The Courier Centre

Main and Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6AE Tel: 01586 554646

Don't forget - Mother's Day, 22nd March 2020!

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