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Man thanks rescuers after missing puppy adventure

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A Lochgair man has sent 'profound thanks' to the emergency service personnel who rescued him after he got stuck on a remote hillside while trying to find his missing puppy.

Hew Service, originally from Ardfern, got into trouble on Sunday March 1 when his Patterdale pup Torsa disappeared after breaking her tether while his wife Barbara was working in their six-acre woodland garden at Knock Newhouse.

After searching to no avail, Mr Service, who has recently undergone chemotherapy, decided to walk up the steep hill behind the garden to try and locate the adventurous canine.

Planted with five-foot high, immature trees, the higher part of the hill, however, proved difficult to walk on.

Taking up the story, Mr Service explained: 'Once I

reached the top of the hill, I was challenged by old bracken stalks full of briars about two foot deep which made the going much harder than I had expected.

'After a couple of falls, I became badly entangled and stumbled into a large puddle. I was kneeling but unable to get to my feet again and the young trees were too small and flimsy to help me to rise.'

Mr Service called to his wife who by this time had grown concerned about her husband and had walked part of the way up the hill. She immediately called 999 and police and ambulance crew from Inveraray and Lochgilhead arrived promptly to the scene followed closely by fire and rescue and coastguard volunteers.

'They were under the misunderstanding I was in deep water rather than just kneeling in about six inches,' added Mr Service.

'The next problem was getting me back down though.

Continued on page 2



Craig Lang saluting as the band enters the arena to compete at Cowal Games in 2018.

06_a35CowalGames12

Craig says farewell to Mid Argyll Pipe Band

Mid Argyll Pipe Band has wished pipe major Craig Lang 'all the very best' as he steps down from the role after six seasons. Craig took the helm as piper major in 2013, aged just 21, leading the band to championship success and back-to-back promotions from Grade 4B to Grade 3B. More on page four.

Rancour at Knapdale Ward consultation

Health bosses were consulting this week on plans for the future of dementia services in Argyll and Bute.

These include the closure of Knapdale dementia unit in Mid Argyll Hospital as part of a move to dementia care in the community using specialist teams.

On Tuesday health bosses faced the public at a consultation meeting in Lochgilhead. The current plan would see people requiring intensive dementia care moved to the Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS area.

Many people voiced concerns - not only about the community care model but about the way in which health bosses have developed the dementia care model with little consultation with staff, carers or families of dementia patients.

Full story on page three.



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Teenage rapist jailed

A sex attacker who told two girls he would have sex with them whenever he wanted has been jailed for five years after raping them.

Cameron Kerr, 19, subjected both 16-year-old victims to physical as well as sexual abuse.

A judge told Kerr at the High Court in Edinburgh on Tuesday March 10: 'Given the gravity of the crimes, there is no suitable alternative to a sentence of imprisonment.'

Lord Beckett said he took into account that Kerr was aged 16 and 17 when the offences were committed and that he had also read four references for the youth which highlighted favourable aspects of his character, including helping others and engaging in charity work. He told Kerr that were it not for the mitigating features in his case the sentence would have been significantly longer.

But he said Kerr had com-

mitted 'a serious and frightening assault' on one victim and raped two young women.

Lord Beckett said: 'You told both of them you would have sex with them whenever you wanted and it is clear you knew you were raping them.'

The judge said it was necessary to punish him and to seek to deter him and others from such behaviour.

Lord Beckett also ordered that Kerr should be kept under supervision for a

further three years as a public protection measure and told him if he failed to comply with licence conditions during that period he could be returned to custody.

Kerr had earlier denied a string of charges but was convicted of carrying out two assaults and two rapes.

He attacked his first victim in 2017 in the Oban area and in Mid Argyll and pushed, punched, pinched and bit her on the body. He also

seized her by the throat. In September that year he raped the victim during an attack in Mid Argyll in which she was repeatedly punched, throttled, pinned to a bed and bitten on the face.

Kerr, latterly of Port Glasgow, Inverclyde, first attacked his second victim in April 2018 at cottages near Oban when he seized her by the throat. The following month he assaulted and raped the teenager at the cottages during an attack in which he struggled with her and bit her breast.

Defence counsel Tony Graham QC said Kerr continued to deny the offending.

Mr Graham argued that a post-custodial period of supervision would assist with reintegration into society for the young offender.

Kerr was told he would be placed on the sex offenders' register indefinitely. His case will also be notified to Scottish Ministers to consider whether he should be included in a list of persons unsuitable to work with children.

POLICE FILES

No insurance

The 33-year-old male driver of a car stopped by police for a routine check on the A83 at Kennacraig at 9am on Tuesday February 25 had no insurance for the car.

He was issued with a £300 fixed penalty ticket and six penalty points on his licence.

Lorry damaged

Police are appealing for information after a lorry failed to stop and report it had collided with another lorry, damaging a mirror and trailer.

The incident happened on the A83 near Furnace at 7.15am on Tuesday March 3.

Abusive behaviour

A 31-year-old man who behaved in an abusive manner in Poltalloch Street, Lochgilphead, on Wednesday March 4 at 2pm was traced, charged and issued with a £40 fixed penalty ticket.

No seat belt

A man, aged 57, was issued with a £100 fixed penalty ticket after he was caught driving with a child in his car who was not wearing a seat belt. Police stopped the car at 3.20pm on Friday March 6 in Ardfern.

Fixed penalty

On Saturday March 7, around 1.15am, in Lorne Street, Lochgilphead, a man, aged 20, behaved in an abusive manner and was issued with a £40 fixed penalty ticket.

No MOT

At 6.30pm on Saturday March 7, a vehicle was stopped by police on the A83 at Inveraray.

Checks revealed the vehicle had no MOT and the driver, a 24-year-old woman, was issued with a £100 fixed penalty.

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.



CONTACTUS

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01546 602345

Wall work to start next week

Work to repair a section of sea wall at Crarae is scheduled to begin next week.

Trunk road management firm BEAR Scotland will begin work to the Woodside sea wall on the A83 south of Furnace on Monday March 16, with the project expected to take around two weeks to complete.

The Crarae sea wall is one of a number of sea defences damaged on January 13 dur-

ing Storm Brendan. Traffic lights were introduced two weeks later to keep vehicles away from the newly-undermined section.

The same sea wall had been cordoned off for safety reasons in the spring and summer of 2019.

While the current repair work is under way, there will be a lane closure in place with a temporary speed limit of 30mph.



The damaged section of wall beside the A83.



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.



www.explorecampbeltown.com

Man thanks rescuers after missing puppy adventure



Mr Service with Torsa, home safe and sound.

Continued from page one

'The first idea was to support me to walk down but when I was helped up my knees could not support my weight so a stretcher was produced by the coastguard and I was strapped in.

'I weigh 16 stone, am just over six feet tall and the path is narrow so it was very difficult for the party, which by now numbered around 20 men and women, some having to hold a heavy stretcher to manoeuvre down.

'They were all spectacular and with such amazing kindness and humour.

'I will never be able to thank them enough. If I had been forced to spend a night on that hill, it would have been a totally different story.'

Mr Service's ordeal lasted around four hours, with the emergency services ensuring his safe transportation over the challenging terrain to an awaiting ambulance.

For Torsa the pup, however, the trial lasted slightly longer but to the massive relief of the Services, who had almost given up hope of finding her, she was discovered tied up in the nearby village last Wednesday evening.

'Barbara and I are thrilled to have our lovely puppy back. We still don't know what happened to her and she has been a bit jaded since her return but she is perking up a bit now.

'Again, we sincerely thank everyone who went out to look for her.

'A happy ending to what could have been altogether a different story.'

Public discontent after Knapdale Ward consultation

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

In the face of widespread opposition to its plans to close the region's only specialist dementia unit, health bosses faced the public at a lively consultation meeting in Lochgilphead.

A final decision is due to be made on the future of dementia care in Argyll and Bute – including the proposed closure of Knapdale Ward within Mid Argyll Hospital – at the next meeting of the board governing the region's health and social care services on Wednesday March 25.

The governing body, known as Argyll and Bute Integration Joint Board (IJB), will have in front of it that day a report based on the findings of the consultation.

A series of consultation meetings have been held across Argyll, with the Lochgilphead event held at the Baptist Church Hall on Tuesday March 10.

Senior staff from the region's Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) gave a presentation on the plans for dementia care, followed by a question and answer session.

Four options have been considered by a dementia services review group commissioned by the HSCP, with the preferred option being to move to a community care model, with inpatient services provided 'out of area'. Knapdale ward would be closed. Three community dementia teams would operate – one each in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands; Cowal and Bute; and Lorn and the Isles.

Speaking at the meeting, HSCP chief officer Joanna MacDonald said the planned changes were 'not about



Mid Argyll Hospital, which houses the threatened Knapdale Ward.

saving money', adding the money currently used to run Knapdale Ward would be diverted to enhanced community teams.

According to papers presented in January to the IJB, the 're-design' would save an estimated £200,000 within Argyll and Bute – but if 10 patients per annum require inpatient care, the additional payment to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde would potentially be £196,000.

Options

Trade union UNISON, with the support of dementia patients' relatives and NHS staff, has spearheaded calls for another of the options considered by the dementia services review group to be taken forward.

This alternative model – known as Option Four – would develop Knapdale ward to provide inpatient assessment/respice/day care/outpatients/information hub and a community team base along with the development of enhanced community teams.

Option four would include the installation of dementia-friendly flooring; fitting out of a sensory room and

resources to fund an improved activities programme; dementia appropriate toilet fittings; a proper sitting room with soft and period furnishings; more homely decor throughout; the filling of 3.5 RMN vacancies and the re-opening of the ward.

At the consultation meeting, a current Knapdale ward nurse said: 'We take people in crisis dementia settings who might have violent tendencies or perhaps suffer from delusions. What is going to happen to these dementia patients? Care homes won't look at them.'

Another member of the public, a former nurse, added: 'You need support services for these community teams. You can't have three teams working in isolation. Don't throw the baby out with the bath water here.'

Amid the frustration being expressed by the public, Ardrishaig minister David Carruthers addressed the assembled senior HSCP managers: 'You are talking here about engaging with the community,' he said. 'It's a shame that did not happen before the recommendation went to the IJB in January.'

Part of what people are objecting to is the way this has been handled. There is no real discussion.'

The HSCP's head of service for older adults and community hospitals, Caroline Cherry, was a leading member of the dementia services review group. As the consultation meeting closed she remarked: 'What I'm hearing here today is that we haven't really sold this decision.'

David Carruthers made a final appeal, posing the question: 'Does the IJB have to make a decision at its next meeting?'

'The evidence from this meeting is that the decision must be postponed.'



HSCP chief officer Joanna MacDonald addresses the meeting in Lochgilphead. 51_a11JoannaMacDonald01

March and rally in support of saving and improving services

Trade union UNISON is organising a march and rally on Saturday March 21 in support of saving and improving Knapdale Ward as part of enhanced dementia provision under Option Four.

The plan is to assemble at 10.30am outside the Comraich Centre, Blairbuie Road, Lochgilphead, before marching at 11am to a rally on Lochgilphead front green.



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Continuing vigilance in fight against coronavirus

At the time of writing a small number of coronavirus (covid-19) cases had been identified in Scotland.

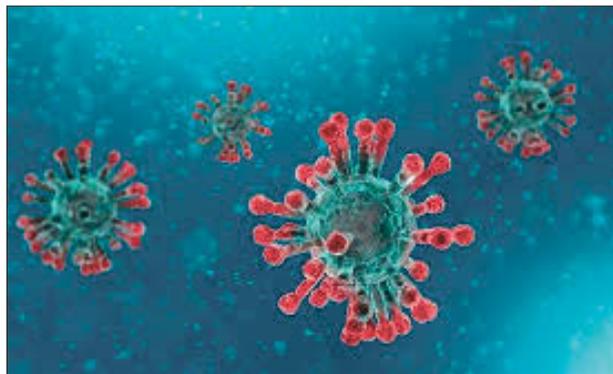
Scottish Government advice is to:

- avoid direct hand contact with your eyes, nose and mouth

- maintain good hand hygiene – washing hands with soap and water or alcohol hand sanitiser before eating and drinking, and after coughing, sneezing and going to the toilet

- avoid direct contact with people that have a respiratory illness and avoiding using their personal items such as their mobile phone

- cover your nose and



mouth when coughing or sneezing with disposable tissues and dispose of them in the nearest waste bin after use.

On Wednesday this week, the UK had 456 confirmed cases of coronavirus (covid-19), with six of those having died. In Scotland, 36 cases had been confirmed at that point.

Health authorities in Argyll and Bute report they remain vigilant over the virus.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership said: 'NHS Highland is having regular meetings to discuss and plan preparedness and resilience for coronavirus. Public safety is our top priority and we are actively working with

colleagues nationally to ensure we are well prepared to address any suspected cases which may present. We have well-rehearsed procedures in place to deal with coronavirus, having developed steps to deal with any such communicable virus.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We are keen to help people look after themselves and others and so are sharing NHS information on social media, our staff intranet and through other channels.'

'We have well-established arrangements for working with our health partners and will continue to follow NHS advice on actions required in Argyll and Bute.'

'Anyone wishing information can visit www.nhsinform.scot or phone 0800 028 2816.'

Self-isolating – one couple's experience

The Argyllshire Advertiser has been contacted by a Mid Argyll couple who have been isolating themselves on medical advice – not because coronavirus is present, but simply as a precaution.

The husband and wife, both in their 80s, had been self-isolating for around a week when the Advertiser spoke to them.

The gentleman in question recently underwent surgery following a heart attack and was advised last week that his age and medical conditions put him at the top of the risk table for susceptibility to coronavirus death.

He was told his best chance of avoiding risk

was to self-isolate and for obvious reasons his wife's movements must also be limited.

She said: 'My family have enjoyed telling me that age is also my problem.'

She added: 'At first we thought it was a bit embarrassing, a bit of an over-reaction. But the opportunity to watch lots of television soon dissipated complacency.'

'The best thing we can do for our health service is stay out of trouble. Indeed there have been people speaking out about their own decision to self-isolate.'

She added: 'Just now the self-isolation is no problem, but longer term we just don't know.'

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Mid Argyll pipe major steps down

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

After six full competition seasons in charge, Craig Lang has stepped down as pipe major of Mid Argyll Pipe Band.

A statement from the pipe band committee said: 'Everyone associated with Mid Argyll Pipe Band would like to pay tribute to the incredible work Craig put in to making the band what it now is.'

'His dedication has resulted in back-to-back promotions from Grade 4B to Grade 3B from 2018 to now, as well as Grade 4B Champion of Champions, Grade 4B British Champions and Grade 4A European Champions.'

'We wish Craig all the very best in his future ventures.'

Craig, who took over from Struan Thorpe in 2013, told the Advertiser: 'I intend to carry on in the piping world, looking for a new challenge in the near future.'

He added: 'The biggest highlight of my time has to have been watching many young musicians develop through the band as players and as people.'

'I've had the pleasure of working with a lot of amazing people along the way.'

Taking over the pipe major role will be Stephen Clark.

Stephen (aka Fozzy) joined the band ahead of the 2019 season having come from the Grade 1 Lomond and Clyde Pipe Band, where he was part of the band which won the Grade 2 Champion of Champions in 2017 as well as the British, United Kingdom and Scottish Championships.

In total he served 11 years with Lomond and Clyde, with a break away in 2015 and 2016 to play with the Grade 1 Police Scotland Fife. Before this, he played for David Urquhart



Pipe Major Craig Lang with the British Championship trophy in 2018.

06_a21PipeBand08_CraigLang

Travel Pipes and Drums and Inverclyde Pipe Band.

Craig concluded: 'I'd also like to thank all parents, supporters and committee members for their efforts over the years. I hope my time in charge was enjoyable for everyone involved. I wish Mid Argyll Pipe Band all the best.'

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Call 0800 138 3944 to book your phone or face-to-face appointment, or go to pensionwise.gov.uk for more information.

New dental practice to open in Lochgilphead

Changes to the provision of dental services in Lochgilphead are to be implemented soon.

A new independent dental practice in the town's Union Street is scheduled to open on Wednesday March 18.

All patients registered with the Public Dental Service will have their dental registration electronically transferred to the independent practice on March 23.

Union Street Dental Practice will be offering the

transferred patients the full range of NHS treatments. As an independent practice, private treatment items not routinely available on the NHS will also be offered.

The patient registration transfer follows Scottish

Government guidance that routine dental care of patients should be provided by independent NHS dentists and that the Public Dental Service should concentrate on providing care for those who find it difficult to access dental services for health or other reasons.

The Public Dental Service is committed to providing dental services for priority group patients. The dental team based within the Mid Argyll Hospital will provide a service to patients with special care needs or where their circumstances prevent them from attending an independent practice.

These circumstances include physical disabilities, medically compromising conditions and frail or dependant elderly and house-bound patients. Patients who fall within these and other priority groups will still be registered with the Public Dental Service.

Tarbert road works complete

Work to re-align the junction at Barmore and Garvel Roads in Tarbert is complete.

Funded through Argyll and Bute Council's £3million Tarbert and Lochgilphead Regeneration Fund, the improvements have made it easier for vehicles to enter and exit Garvel Road in all directions, while also improving visibility and safety at the junction.

As a result, in February, Tarbert Harbour Authority (THA) was able to start work on its proposals to construct a new car park,

with a further £105,000 regeneration funding.

This complements previous work undertaken as part of the Tarbert and Lochgilphead Regeneration Fund, when the council allocated £125,000 to THA for its improvements to shore side services at Tarbert Harbour including the conversion of the former wash house and laundry block into an office and chandlery.

In early 2019, THA built a new wash house and laundry block with funding from the Coastal Communities Fund.



Skipness Primary School has been mothballed since 2016.

HAVE YOUR SAY
email.editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Skipness school closer to closure

The closure of a Kintyre primary school is a step closer after councillors were recommended to accept a proposal to close it.

Skipness Primary School has been mothballed since 2016. The annual cost of mothballing the school to Argyll and Bute Council is more than £1,600 and it would cost £75,000 to bring the building back up to a required standard for the next school year in August.

Members of the council's community services committee were due to debate the proposal at its meeting yesterday (Thursday March 12).

Should it be accepted, the plans to close would be subject to statutory consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

A report by executive director with responsibility for education Douglas Hendry said: 'It is proposed that education provision at Skipness Primary School be discontinued with effect from October 28 2020.'

'The catchment area of Tarbert Primary School shall be extended to include the current catchment area of

Skipness Primary School. Skipness Primary School has been mothballed for three years. The school roll is very low and not predicted to rise in the near future. The annual cost of the mothballing of the building is £1,641.

'Argyll and Bute is facing increasing challenges in recruiting staff. At the time of writing, there are 12 full-time equivalent vacancies for teachers in Argyll and Bute.'

'Whilst the school is mothballed, the building is deteriorating with limited budget for maintenance.'

The school's future first went out to consultation after the committee's September meeting, with a further update given in December.

An options appraisal event was held in October, with 22 people in attendance who were asked for their views on what should happen next.

The report added: 'Of the 22 community members that attended the options appraisal event, no-one was in support of re-opening the school because of the lack of feasibility due to low pupil numbers. If the school were to re-open in August 2020, the number of

pupils from the catchment area would be one.

'It has been stated that without a viable number of pupils for the school, parents would not be considering placing their children at Skipness Primary School if it were to re-open. If the school were to re-open, sustainability may not be viable due to the fact pupil numbers over the next four years are not predicted to rise.'

Continuing the mothballing process was also floated as an option, but the report said: 'There was a significant view at the community meetings that mothballing the school over a long period was wasteful due to deterioration of the property and potentially affected sustainability of the community. Pupil numbers are not predicted to rise in terms of pre-school children living within the catchment area. Mothballing had no positive impact on the reasons for the proposal.'

The report also states re-opening the school and extending its catchment area was also deemed an unsuitable option by those in attendance at the event.



Work under way last November. 51_a47TarbertJunction01

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LETTERS

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Public still unconvinced over dementia decision

The consultation held this week on the future of dementia services was less about consultation and more to do with telling the public what is about to happen.

There is undoubtedly a need for a public voice on the future of elderly and dementia care, but Tuesday's exercise seems to have been, for HSCP management, just a step on the road to the closure of Knapdale ward.

There has been no discussion, as far as we are aware, with skilled, experienced and knowledgeable nursing and clinical staff about their preferred 'option four'.

No matter whether they agree or disagree with the views of staff, patient's families, the union and many others, HSCP managers are public servants and surely have an obligation to listen and genuinely hear what people are saying.

The impression the general public is getting is that this has been a predetermined decision made in secret. And that is not good enough.

As was said at Tuesday's consultation, the IJB must defer any decision until all the alternatives are properly considered – and discussed in the public domain.

Public opinion remains unconvinced.

Save Knapdale Ward

Sir,
When we are hoping the government will increase spending on the health service in the budget, Argyll and Bute HSCP is looking to close a not-so-old hospital ward in Lochgilphead for dementia patients.

Does the Integration Joint Board understand the needs of patients with dementia in Argyll and the damaging consequences should Knapdale ward close?

Argyll has an older population than many other areas in Scotland and a poorer one as well. There is a greater need for local specialist dementia care. To move patients so far away as Glasgow will signal the death knell for many patients due to the lack of visits from family and friends. Patients from Argyll will have to compete with those in Glasgow for a bed in future, so why is there a rush to close wards and reduce hospital beds? Money must be found to reverse this damaging, cruel and senseless move. Where is the joined-up thinking? The ward, outpatient and community care are needed in Mid Argyll. If you take away one, the others suffer as a consequence.

It is time to rethink this damaging move.

Derrick Anstee, Inveraray.

Congratulations Clachan

Sir,
I was privileged to attend and present the pupils of Clachan Primary School with their seventh Green Flag. This is a major achieve-

ment for any school and highlights the close working relationship between the school and community.

The young people entertained us with profound acting and thoughts on the implications of climate change and what we each can do in our own way to make a difference. They then served us a lovely lunch.

Michael Russell MSP and Brendan O'Hara MP were also in attendance and added their congratulations on the tremendous efforts of the children, staff and parents.

Well done Clachan school and many thanks for allowing me to spend the day with you all.

Councillor Anne Horn, Kintyre and the Islands.

Spin doctors of HSCP

Sir,
As you drive through the town of Renton in Dumbarton you will see a notice which tells you it was the birthplace of Tobias Smollett. He is described as a doctor of medicine and manners, better known in America. Some make the astonishing claim he was the first spin doctor.

I have to congratulate the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) on its ability to follow his example.

The presentation of familiar facts in a different view certainly convinced a good friend of mine. He told me I would be delighted to hear what was proposed for the dementia service in the area. I have a great admiration for his acumen, integrity and commitment to good

care, but none of that was proof against the case presented by the HSCP. I am not wholly surprised. The documents and proposals presented to our group over the years were impressive, but we had the advantage of retaining those from previous years. It became apparent the words did not match the reality.

As one experienced member put it: 'Do more, do it better but with less money, can't be done.' There was also frustration at the generality of statements, very short on costed verifiable facts.

It is true there are new people in post and we have not had the opportunity to see this presentation, but it reminded me of my feelings when I went to work in Oban more than 30 years ago. Long term care arrangements meant islanders coming to the mainland, cut off from the life they had known. Many were faced with saying goodbye to family and friends for the last time and losing the familiarity of Gaelic. The cruelty of this situation was recognised and a lot of hard work and innovative thought went in to providing island services.

The situation in Knapdale, and public feeling about it, is compounded by historical factors. The uncertainty, the closing of the ward to new admissions, the seepage of highly trained staff and no alternative residential plans all speak of decisions considered some time since. All without open public discussion.

Tobias Smollett was also described as a man of moral courage. He knew the cost of being a dissenter, saying: 'He who bravely dares must sometimes risk a fall.'

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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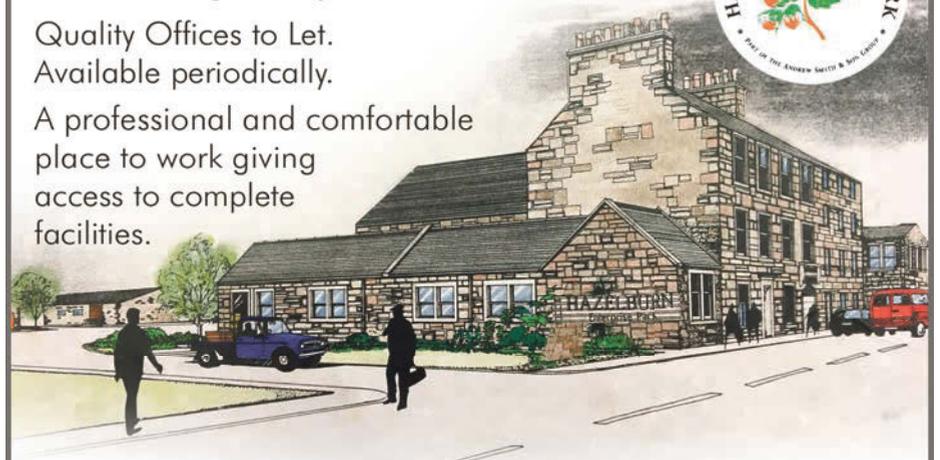
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YOUR PICTURES



This week's photograph was submitted by Allan Redpath from Lochgair. While the weather has not been the kindest so far in March, Allan captured a blue sky at Carrick abandoned township on a rare sunny day. Send your favourite photographs for publication to editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

People in the community are speaking out because they know the problems of inadequate provision. We need people in the partnership to break ranks and acknowledge the cost to physical, emotional and family life if better solutions are not found.

Barabel Mckay, Health and Care Group chairwoman.

Join Earth Hour

Sir,
I'm writing to encourage readers to join millions around the world in turning off their lights and celebrating the World Wide Fund for Nature's (WWF) Earth Hour on Saturday March 28 at 8.30pm.

We are in the midst of a joint climate and nature emergency. We've destroyed forests, polluted the oceans and messed up the climate. But what happens next is up to us. By taking part in Earth Hour you can be part of the change. All eyes are on Scotland this year ahead of the UN climate talks in Glasgow this November, so now is the time for Scottish communities to stand up and be counted.

So whether it's switching off your lights, switching off your phone for an hour or celebrating with others, Earth Hour's a time to reconnect to what's important. Taking part is a great way to showcase your group's environmental action, get new people involved and be part of a global movement.

You can find out what's on near you by visiting wwfscotland.org.uk/earthhour.

Lang Banks, director of WWF Scotland.

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More money for 'sticking plaster' work at the Rest

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

News of an additional £1.9 million to be spent on landslide mitigation on the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful has been met with a lukewarm response from Argyll and Bute Council.

The plans were unveiled by Cabinet Secretary for Transport Michael Matheson MSP while giving evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Petitions Committee concerning a petition submitted by Mid Argyll councillor Dougie Philand.

Councillor Philand's petition calls for a permanent solution for the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful, ensuring the vital lifeline route is not closed because of landslides. It was lodged following major disruption in 2014.

'Argyll and Bute Council is still asking for a permanent solution to be identified, funded and delivered'

Since then, the road was closed for nine days in 2018 following landslides, a large boulder coming loose meant the road was closed in early 2016 and the most recent landslips occurred in January this year, causing the road to close for two days.

Michael Matheson said £13.3 million had been spent at the Rest and Be Thankful on landslide mitigation – debris fences and catchpits – since 2007.

He added: 'Work is now under way in partnership with Forestry and Land Scotland to source the required native tree species that will form the basis of the new woodland to be established on the steep slopes of Beinn Luibhean above the A83.'

Welcoming the news, Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'The catch pit programme has had a very positive impact, keeping the road open for at least 48 days in which this otherwise would not be possible so I am glad to see this being expanded.'

'I am also glad that in the longer term, the Scottish Government is making Argyll and Bute a priority in the second strategic transport projects review. This means recommendations for the area, including plans for a replacement road, can be

among the first reported and actioned.'

Argyll and Bute Council leader Aileen Morton was less enthusiastic: 'The issues with the Rest and Be Thankful have been recognised for more than a decade now, a decade in which a sticking plaster approach has been taken by the Scottish Government,'

she said. 'The process the Scottish Government is currently going through to review potential transport projects across the country is a long, drawn-out one.'

'This was first suggested as a way forward for the Rest and Be Thankful in October 2018. We have no more information now than we did then and

the final Strategic Transport Projects Review report isn't due to be available until spring 2021.

'Considering the mitigation measures failed yet again, Argyll and Bute Council is still asking for a permanent solution to be identified, funded and delivered as a matter of urgency.'

Projects get cash boost

A total of 13 applicants in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands are to be awarded a share of £23,422.

Thirty third sector organisations applied to Argyll and Bute Council's Supporting Communities Fund, with applicants able to apply for a maximum of £2,500.

Applications were scored against a set criteria which included evidence of impact on issues including social and rural isolation and reduced scoring for repeat applicants.

Amongst the successful candidates were Mid Argyll Music Festival; Tarbert Village Hall; Carradale Music Festival and Lochgilphead Community Council for its annual Celtic and Pictish Festival.

A maximum grant of £2,500 was awarded to the 19th Argyll (Lochgilphead) Scouts to put towards an adventure weekend. 104 children and young people will gain improved opportunities, skill and confidence from learning together in the outdoors and



19th Argyll (Lochgilphead) Scouts have secured funding of £2,500 for their upcoming trip.

this grant will help to reduce the cost of the trip for low income families.

Tarbert Soccer Centre also benefited from a maximum award. The money will be used for winter sport kit for the children and volunteers, to encourage continued uptake of football throughout the winter. As there are no indoor facilities available to the soccer centre, a drop

in participation numbers often occurs, partially due to the affordability of suitable sportswear for the Argyll weather.

Of the eight island-based projects that applied, three were successful – Islay and Jura Community Enterprise Limited; Islay Community Council and MacTaggart Community Cybercafe in Islay.



Tarbert Soccer Centre was successful in its Supporting Communities Fund application.

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Councillor Alastair Redman.

Hearing date for suspended Tory councillor

A Conservative councillor suspended from his party in November 2019 will face a hearing later this month.

Alastair Redman, Argyll and Bute Council member for Kintyre and the Islands, was one of 25 members suspended from the Tory party and from the council Conservative group over claims of Islamophobic and other prejudicial social media posts.

The suspensions, involving serving and ex-Conservative councillors, follows a dossier containing names that was produced by an anonymous Twitter user and handed to the Conservative party.

At the time of his suspension, Councillor Redman said he had been 'set up' because he is 'such an active councillor and strong Conservative'.

He also claimed the accusation was timed 'to coincide with the general election and has been engineered to take away some of the attention from Labour's anti-semitism crisis'.

Speaking to the Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll and Bute campaign chairwoman for the Conservatives, Councillor Yvonne McNeilly, said: 'Councillor Redman will have a party hearing later this month [March].

'I am hopeful he will be cleared and, provided all is well, he will be re-instated to the Conservative group within Argyll and Bute Council.'

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New way of keeping people on the move

Council chiefs look to artificial intelligence to help monitor road conditions

Council chiefs could turn to artificial intelligence (AI) to keep people on the move in Argyll and Bute.

A report suggests the technology is being considered by officers for helping to monitor the condition of the area's roads, pavements, bridges and marine assets.

It could also be used to provide more accurate and up-to-date information during times of service disruption.

Artificial intelligence is defined as the use of computer systems which can perform tasks which usually rely on human intelligence – such as visual perception and speech recognition.

The report was considered and the content endorsed by members of the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee on Thursday March 5.

Kirsty Flanagan, the authority's interim executive director with responsibility for roads and infrastructure services, said: 'AI is becoming increasingly popular and may well have a role to play in monitoring structures and other infrastructure.

'It is anticipated that over the next two to three years there will be an increase in the use of AI.'

'Officers are currently considering various opportunities for which AI could be used. Whilst the use of this technology is in its infancy, it is anticipated that over the next two to three years there will be an increase in the use of AI.

'Through the use of data captured, through video survey and algorithms, projections of future deterioration/condition [AI] should be able to be modelled which will enable a greater focus on a stitch in time/right first time fixes.

'AI has got potential for use across the marine sector, bridges and structures as well as carriageway and footway surfaces.

'It is not expected AI will fully replace the current



Left, Kirsty Flanagan, roads and infrastructure services; above, artificial intelligence could help to monitor road conditions.

inspection regime, more that it would provide earlier indication of possible failure and reprioritise how our existing resources can be best used.'

Ms Flanagan said initial discussions had taken place between the council's ICT team and the Scottish Government's digital office about a detection system being implemented for ports and harbours.

It is felt this would help harbourmasters during out-of-hours periods and free up time, with a rota standby system in place.

Ms Flanagan added: 'Route optimisation is being progressed to provide effective and efficient logistical routing for a number of the operations carried out by the service.

'This would include activities such as routing for bin collections, winter maintenance, gully emptying, mechanical street sweeping and routing for safety inspections.

'Route optimisation would also allow for live re-routing in the event of a vehicle breakdown.

'This technology, coupled with on board satellite navigation equipment, would enable effective and efficient deployment of the council's fleet.

'This would also have the benefit of providing more up-to-date and accurate information relating to service disruptions.'

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Above: Jacki Stewart with keen reader and Mary's Meals customer Brendan O'Hara MP. 51_a11MarysWorldBook01



Right: Mary's Meals has a wide range of titles and people can now reserve their own copy. 51_a11MarysMeals_books02

Book a book with Mary's Meals

By Liberty Hampton
Lochgilthead's Mary's Meals shop has introduced a new book reservation service for customers. The service was launched to coincide with World Book Day on March 5. World Book Day aims to give every child a book of their own. It

celebrates reading in more than 100 countries, encouraging children to explore books by providing them with one. Not only will customers be able to reserve a book, but volunteer Jacki Stewart will help find specific titles or authors. A trained librarian, Lochgilthead

resident Jacki is a volunteer at the Mary's Meals shop. Visitors to the Mary's Meals shop in Lochgilthead can fill in a form requesting a book or author and Jacki will do her best to locate and set it aside for the customer. If the title cannot be found in Lochgilthead, one of the seven other

Mary's Meals shops will be scoured to locate a copy. The service will be free, with customers just paying the standard 50p for paperbacks or £1 for hardbacks to buy the books. Jackie said: 'I love reading so I am pleased to help people find books they love.' Argyll and Bute MP Brendan

O'Hara dropped into the shop, as he often does while in Lochgilthead, and said: 'This is a great idea. This Mary's Meals shop is innovative and an experience to visit. I always enjoy coming in here.' Drop into Mary's Meals on Argyll Street, Lochgilthead, to find out more.



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Band's Six Nations call-up 'beyond all expectations'

A musician who played with Campbeltown Brass as the band performed the French national anthem before Sunday's Scotland v France Six Nations rugby match said the experience was 'beyond all expectations'.

Katrina Barr said: 'It was just amazing. I can't describe how good it was, from start to finish.'

Conductor Stephanie Mitchell added: 'It was an amazing experience - one I'll never forget.'

Campbeltown Brass performed before the televised match at Murrayfield Stadium after being recommended by the resident band, Whitburn, which was unavailable to perform.

The senior band's 35 members were joined by

Campbeltown Brass hit all the right notes at Murrayfield

five friends, including former members who have now moved away from Campbeltown, to make up numbers, as 40 musicians are required to play.

Band members had an early start on Sunday, arriving at Murrayfield at 8.45am for their accreditation.

The process was thorough, with all instrument cases, suit carriers and bags being checked, meaning they had to head straight for their sound-

check at 10.30am. 'We were all really nervous because we didn't know what to expect,' Katrina said, 'but we were given a chaperone for the day, who was wonderful.'

Ease

'She put us at ease, told us exactly what to do, taking us through our soundcheck and marching us on and off the field.'

Katrina explained the event was well run, with another full dress rehearsal, timed to

the milli-second, before the televised performance.

'The stadium was at capacity. There were 67,500 spectators,' Katrina added. 'There were fireworks and pyrotechnics. It was unbelievable.'

She says those watching on television missed the build up before the match, which included a set by Tide Lines after which the Scottish pop/rock band accompanied 120 Highland dancers as the national flags were brought out.

'The French fans were singing pretty much bang in time with us,' Katrina said.

'Stephanie has had messages from professional musicians congratulating her on keeping the tempo at a really good speed for the French fans.'

The band not only represented Campbeltown during

the performance but also one of the town's oldest brands as all players sported new soft-shell jackets featuring the Springbank Distillery logo as well as the band's.

Katrina said: 'Having the Springbank jackets was a God-send. It was so cold! We were standing on the sidelines for a while, so massive thanks to Springbank for sponsoring them.'

The band was not allowed to stay and watch the rugby match but proved a lucky charm for the Scottish national team, which won 28-17.

Perform

Whitburn has already said members of Campbeltown Brass are welcome to perform alongside its players at future matches and the full band is in with a chance of filling

the slot at other matches Whitburn cannot attend.

Katrina says the performance is among the band's top experiences.

'All the younger players are just raving about it,' she said.

The senior band had a busy weekend, performing at the Scottish Championships at Perth Concert Hall on Saturday.

The band placed eighth, securing its place in the section for another year. Campbeltown residents were lucky to get a preview of both pieces the band performed at the weekend - Legacy, the set test piece at the championships, and La Marseillaise, France's national anthem - at an open rehearsal at the Masonic Lodge on Thursday March 4.



Campbeltown Brass on the pitch before the match kicked off.



Campbeltown Brass following their performance at last year's Mid Argyll Music Festival.

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Islay hospitality shines at tourism industry awards

Warm island hospitality has netted an Islay bed and breakfast a top award.

The spotlight shone on individuals and businesses working across Scotland's tourism industry at the national final of the Scottish Thistle Awards.

Glenedale House on Islay was among those honoured at the national final of the Scottish Thistle Awards on March 5 when it was named Most Hospitable B&B or Guest House.

The five-star guest house is owned and run by Graeme and Emma Clark and strives to create a unique experience balancing luxury and relaxation that only island life and renowned Scottish hospitality can offer.

With a passion for tourism and a wealth of local knowledge, each guest receives a warm inviting welcome and

'Congratulations to Glenedale House on this fantastic achievement. It is a well-deserving winner.'

a unique experience. Judges praised the guest house for its use of island suppliers and for 'inspiring stories for their guests to go home with'.

The VisitScotland website describes Glenedale House as 'small and select, combining luxurious accommodation with individual service and attention to detail in the glorious setting overlooking Laggan Bay and westwards to the Irish coast'.

VisitScotland Regional Director David Adams

McGilp said: 'Congratulations to Glenedale House on this fantastic achievement. It is a well-deserving winner of the Most Hospitable B&B/Guest House and really goes above and beyond to make sure all their guests have a memorable stay in Scotland.'

The 2019/20 Scottish Thistle Awards, in association with Fishers, rewards hotels, restaurants, B&Bs, visitor attractions, business and consumer events and individuals going above and beyond to create a destination worth talking about.

Comedian Craig Hill co-hosted the evening, held at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, with Heart Radio presenter and former Miss Scotland Jennifer Reoch.

Entertainment was provided by young musician Callum Beattie.



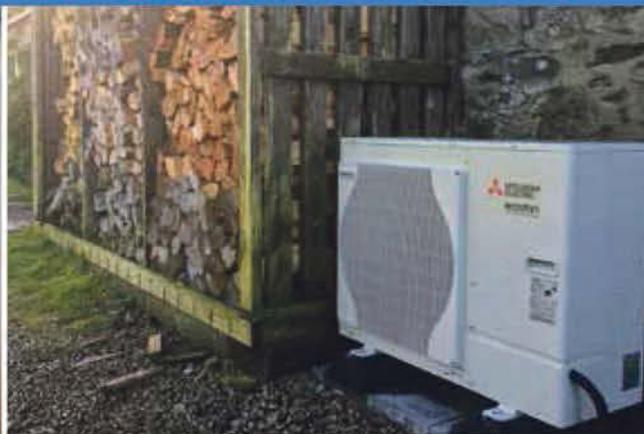
From left: Craig Hill; Abbey Group Finance Director Darren Byrne; Emma and Graeme Clark from Glenedale House and presenter Jennifer Reoch at the awards.



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Carol on one of her many adventures around the world. 51_a11CarolSmall07



Carol's sister Evelyn and brother Colin with chairwoman of the Lochgilphead and District Macmillan fundraising committee Cathy Robertson. 51_a11CarolSmall03

'Very special lady' remembered at Ormsary gathering

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

People gathered in their scores at Ormsary Village Hall for a special tribute to Carol Small.

The community was shocked and saddened earlier this year to learn of her death while completing the latest in a series of charity treks for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Carol decided to mark her 60th year by setting herself a challenge – to reach the summit of 19,341 ft high Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania and raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

She achieved that goal on New Year's Day, but fell ill on the final day of the descent and died in a Nairobi hospital on January 4.

Originally from Elgin, Carol arrived in the area in 1985 when she came to work at Ormsary fish farm.

She had been a fundraiser for Macmillan for almost 20 years and took on many challenges to raise money for the charity. For the Kilimanjaro trip she set herself a fundraising target of £5,000 and had raised almost £7,500 through her JustGiving page before she left for the trip. This total now stands at £9,000.

A combined memorial event and Macmillan coffee afternoon for this much-loved lady was held on Saturday March 7 at Ormsary Village Hall – and it was packed with people.

A keen photographer, Carol was a member of Mid Argyll Camera Club and there was a display of her competition

entry photos and many others from over the years.

A total of £1,591.22 was raised on the day for Macmillan Cancer Support. This included £262 from Mid Argyll Camera Club raised through the sale of Carol's prints and £70 from the sale of framed pictures kindly donated by Barbara Cutler and family.

Addressing people in the hall, Carol's brother Colin said: 'We're speechless at the number of people who have turned out here today. It shows just how much people thought of Carol.'

'Everyone has been incredibly supportive to us.'

Carol's sister Evelyn said: 'Colin and I were extremely grateful to residents and the Lochgilphead and District Macmillan fundraising committee for their organising and the delicious baking.'

'Carol's camera club prints are now being exhibited at Lochgilphead Community Centre and can be bought, with all funds going to Carol's Macmillan tribute fund.'

'She was a very special lady and it was a privilege to know her,' said chairwoman of the Lochgilphead and District Macmillan fundraising committee Cathy Robertson.

While the JustGiving page will close during March, a tribute fund page has been set up by Carol's family so that her legacy of fundraising for the community can continue.



The hall was packed with people remembering and celebrating Carol's life. 51_a11CarolSmall05



Some of Carol's stunning photographs, which were available to take away at the memorial Macmillan event.

51_a11CarolSmall08

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The voyages of the Fulmar



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'.

but the two last named were turned in before the fishing party returned.

Wednesday August 1

During the night the wind blew up quite stiffly from the south-east and there were a few showers after dawn. The weather forecast was back to gales in nearly every area and the glass fell three tenths.

It was dry and fairly bright when, at eight o'clock, the Pilot and Skipper went ashore for the milk and rolls. The rolls were sold out but they got porter biscuits in lieu and these proved very popular. The milk they got at the Co-operative and it shook the Skipper when he was asked for 1/7d for two pints.

Improving

As soon as they were back aboard the Pilot went ashore again with the Major who was definitely improving but who had to be carried back to the dinghy after they had walked to Brown's shop where the Pilot bought a new painter for the dinghy. Meanwhile aboard, the Bosun had started making breakfast.

The Lochard and Claymore came to the pier and a puffer, Lady Isle, kept manoeuvring amongst the yachts waiting for a berth. We wondered how the Tobermory folk liked it as all the time she poured out a great thick cloud of black smoke which covered all the houses as it drifted slowly up the hill with little dispersal. The Caillich which was anchored nearby asked the Skipper what he thought the prospects would be at Ardnamurchan and the Skipper replied that for a boat like Caillich they should be all right and a few minutes later she sailed under power but got her sails up (!) out in the

Part eight

We had a lunch of chicken noodle soup strengthened by the jelly from yesterday's tinned chicken followed by bread and cheese and tea then the Mate, Bosun and Major went ashore for meat, bacon and exercise.

By this time we were having long sunny intervals but it was very cold and a slight swell was setting into the bay but not enough to make us lie uneasily.

As soon as that party came off the Pilot, Skipper and Bosun went ashore. The Pilot

got some medical comforts in the shape of 'Old Mull' and some fishing hooks and the Skipper who had been feeling the cold very badly, after borrowing £2 from the Pilot to pay for them, bought a pair of fisherman's thick worsted trousers and, to the surprise of the shopkeeper but his own great comfort, proceeded to put them on in the shop over his flannels. They then went to the MacDonald Arms and over their beer heard a poor forecast and the result of the Test Match. On their way back they failed to pass the Mishnish at the first attempt.

No sooner were they back, than all but the Skipper, Major and Bosun were off ashore again.

Bay

Tanky and the Pilot walked to Ru na Gal and the Mate and Tar went a part of the way there then, on their return to the Fulmar, the Tar rowed the Pilot round the bay.

Meanwhile on board the Bosun washed and shaved then read the papers he had brought off when ashore the first time and the Skipper had a snooze.

At eight we had a great disappointment - we found the glass had started to go back up again.

While our dinner of really splendid fillet steaks and onions followed by rice and coffee was being cooked, the Pilot tidied up our fishing lines, cutting one big line into two, mending the line carrier which had been pulled awry by the dry line being wound on too tight then allowed to get wet and tying on his new-bought flies.

By the time dinner was finished it was a dead calm with a clear sky and altogether a very pleasant evening and the first time since Puilladobhain that we could enjoy being on deck.

The Bosun thinned out the petrol of the outboard and the Pilot toasted the plug and between them they got the infernal machine going, then with it and with the Tar they went fishing out of the bay towards Ru na Gal. They had no luck.

The Tar did hook a fish but just as it was being swung in-board it broke from the hook and disappeared. The Tar, not being old enough to lie about the size of 'the one that got away', admitted it was only a wee one.

On board, the Mate wrote letters while the Tanky and Skipper sat about the decks and enjoyed the evening

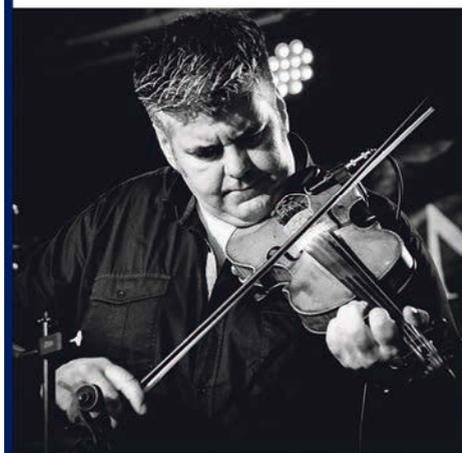


'Scrambled eggs for supper'. 51_a11Fulmar02_ScrambledEggs

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'The Invisible Man'. 51_a11Fulmar03_InvisibleMan

Sound. It was the first time we had ever seen this craft under anything but power.

We heard later she made a record trip and was in Mallaig in four hours. When she left the wind had eased to a fresh breeze and though it was not raining there was a moisture in the air that was quite wetting.

After breakfast, all but the Skipper and Pilot went ashore for a store hunt and an incidental cup of coffee in the cafe. They also got a tin of varnish and a brush to do up the skylights in the main cabin which were leaking a little and, as the Skipper's trousers bought the night before were considered such a good buy, a similar pair was purchased for the Tar. These last, however, though the smallest available were too big for the intended user and the Bosun appropriated them.

Black yawl

When they came back the Bosun rowed furiously as he was 'fair desperate' to get below. While they were ashore the black yawl that had not sailed yesterday left for the south. They went across the Sound making nothing of it then got down their sails and put on their engine and were last seen bashing into the head sea with spray sweeping their decks - and they could have gone down yesterday in perfect comfort!

Ayrshire Lass and an ex-six metre Sabrina came in from the south and Soldian, a typical Shetland type yawl with a peculiar bowsprit with no guys and neither bobstay nor forestay and manned by a Gordonstoun master and half a dozen of his pupils, came in from Loch Sunart. A big motor boat also came in and anchored very close to us but after a party from her had been ashore for only a few minutes she left again and proceeded north.

By noon the glass had dropped another tenth and the mid-day forecast promised prolonged rain and fresh

south-easterlies for our areas but renewed gales everywhere to the south and east of us.

We had a lunch of baked beans, bread and butter, fruit, tea and biscuits then hoisted our sails leaving the two reefs tied down in the mainsail. At half past two we were away followed by Soldian who was having a little trouble with their anchor as we passed them.

We reckoned they were anchored just about where the dredging for the Galleon had taken place last year. Both of us headed over for Loch Sunart and Soldian gradually overhauled us until at Auliston Point she was close astern but here we had to start beating and very quickly we left her a long way behind.

On the passage the Bosun and Pilot repacked the mast wedges which had been leaking badly. They did it with Plasticine but unfortunately had not enough to do all they wanted to do but with what they had they effected a great improvement. Previously the water just streamed down the mast in the cabin, now it was only the occasional drop or two that trickled through. The Pilot then made a new pick-up rope for the anchor.

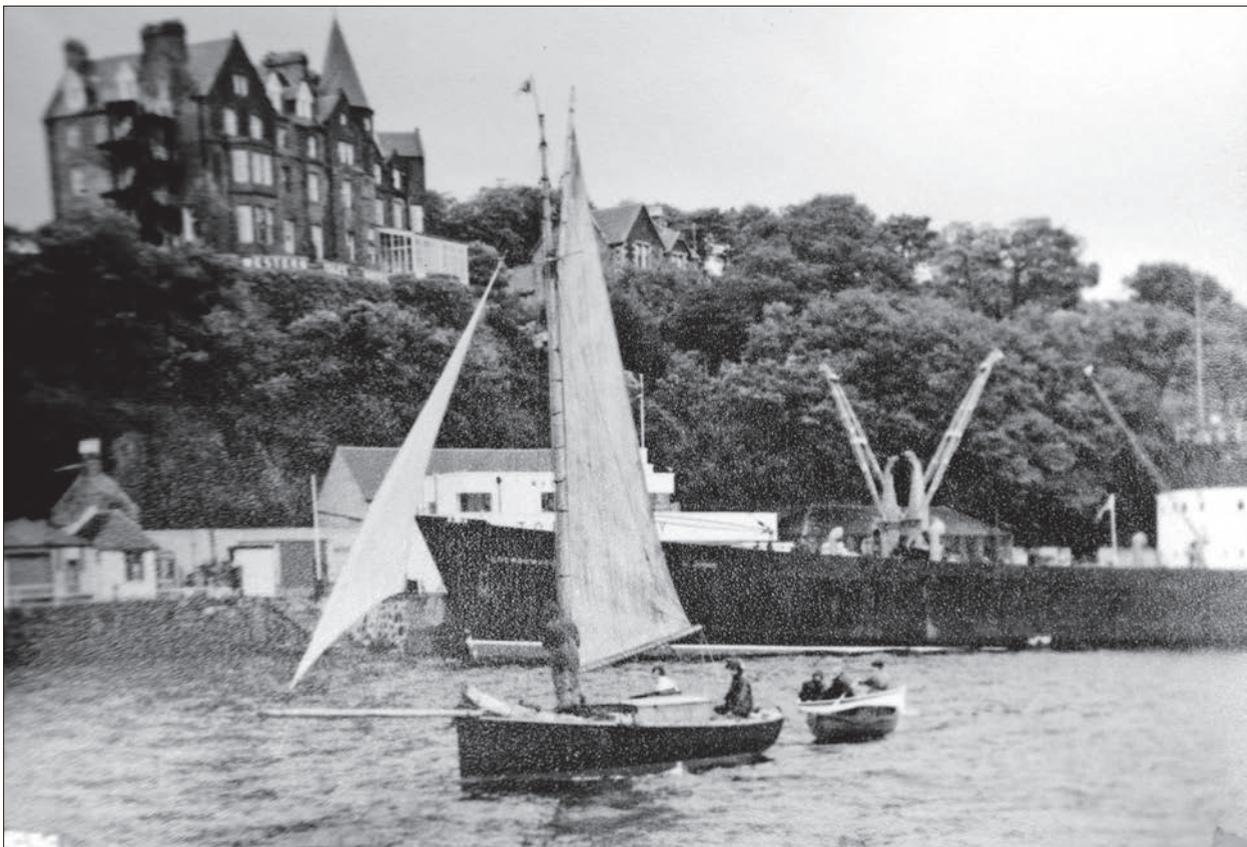
Heavy shower

It had been quite pleasant crossing the Sound of Mull but in Loch Sunart we ran into a heavy shower which only cleared up as we approached the entrance to Drumbuy. At this entrance we got the sails down and motored in and at a quarter to five anchored off the big boulder on the beach but when we swung to the wind we found the Skipper had let his old vice of going too far in take charge and we were too close to the shallow shelf and had to get the anchor up again and go fifty yards further out.

When anchoring the second time we found the winch drum had seized up and the chain would not run out and had to be hauled out and let go by hand yard by yard.



'The black yawl that should have gone yesterday passes ahead of Soldian.' 51_a11Fulmar04_BlackYawl



'Ayrshire Lass'. 51_a11Fulmar05_AyrshireLass



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Make a splash with new funding programme

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is encouraging Argyll and Bute community-based projects to apply for its new Coasts and Waters Heritage Fund.

As part of the new scheme, launched as part of the Year of Coasts and Waters, grants between £3,000 and £20,000 will be available for projects which help communities to protect, promote or engage with Scotland's coasts or waterways.

This includes projects which are developing and implementing measures to enhance resilience and adapt to climate change.

While community groups

are encouraged to apply, the scheme is open to all organisations throughout the country.

All applicants, however, should demonstrate how their project will benefit their community.

Skills

This could be through developing traditional skills, stabilising historic or marine structures, hosting community outreach and educational activities or increasing people's understanding of Scotland's coasts and waters heritage.

The Coasts and Waters Heritage Fund is a one-off, competitive fund to celebrate

Scotland's themed year and applications will close on Sunday May 31.

Jane Ryder OBE, HES chairwoman, said: 'For thousands of years, communities across Scotland have lived and worked along or near water and the Year of Coasts and Waters is an excellent opportunity to engage people with our coastal and waterway heritage.'

Protected

'Through this new grant programme, we are encouraging communities not only to celebrate our coasts and waters, but also to explore opportunities to adapt to the effects of climate change and

help to ensure this important aspect of our heritage is protected for future generations.'

The launch of the Coasts and Waters Heritage Fund follows the publication of HES's Climate Action Plan which outlines an ambitious programme of climate commitments over the next five years and beyond in response to the climate crisis.

To apply for the Coasts and Waters Heritage Fund, an expression of interest must be made by Thursday April 30. Applications will close on Sunday May 31.

For further information visit www.historicenvironment.scot/ycw2020-heritage-fund



Jane Ryder OBE, chairwoman of HES, at Newhaven Lighthouse. Photograph: Rob McDougall.

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'Oar'some rowers take on Scotland's coast

Argyll rowers are preparing for their stint behind the oars as part of this year's RowAround Scotland event.

Organised by the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association (SCRA), the relay will see a stunning wooden baton passed between 70 community coastal rowing clubs.

The groups will travel in St Ayles skiffs – double ended, seaworthy designs based on boats used in the Fair Isles – with four rowers, with an oar each, and a cox. Each

boat is being built by the communities and painted in a distinctive colour.

The ambitious relay will launch at Gretna on March 25 then row clockwise from the Solway to the Tweed, around Scotland over eight months.

The Argyll leg begins on May 3 at Ardrishaig, with the baton being handed over to the next section at Ardnamurchan on May 17. Clubs involved include Mid Argyll, Seil, Luing, Kilmelford, Mull, Morvern,

Port Appin, Iona, Tiree and Glencoe.

The best places to see the skiffs will be in the Crinan Canal on Sunday May 3, leaving Ardrishaig at 8.30am and arriving in Crinan by 5pm; at Port Appin on Sunday May 10 and various other points along the way – weather permitting.

En route a free try-a-row day will take place at Craignish Boat Club, Ardfern, on Monday May 4 from 3pm. Organisers invite everyone to join them but suggest wearing shoes they won't mind getting wet.

Marking the tenth anniversary of SCRA, and part of the Year of Coasts and Waters, the relay's final stretch will be crewed by members of SCRA's first clubs from 2009, arriving at Loch Tummel in time for the association's annual general meeting on October 24.

Those staying on dry land can follow the expedition's progress as the baton is fitted with a tracker, transmitting directly to the dedicated website www.rowaround.scot



RowAround Scotland will take rowers up the scenic Loch Shiel. Photograph: Jon Gerrard.



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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT'S ON IN MID ARGYLL

Tuned up for music festival

Preparations to showcase talent well under way

Following the success of the 40th Mid Argyll Music Festival, organisers are preparing for another musical week showcasing the talent of Argyll.

Performers will be welcomed at a new venue this year as the festival's traditional venue, Ardrishaig Public Hall, is undergoing refurbishment. Lochgilphead Parish Church will become home for the festival's daytime competitions, while all evening classes and the final will be held at Lochgilphead Joint Campus.

Running from Monday March 16 to Saturday March 21, the 2020 festival will open with the school poetry competitions in English and Scots

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

Wednesday will see a day of primary school song competitions, before the popular evening of Songs from the Shows starts at 7pm at Lochgilphead Joint Campus.

Secondary school song contests take place on Thursday, followed by the piano competitions.

Starting at 7pm in the joint campus, Rainbows and Brownies will perform, followed by junior and senior vocal duets and the pop song competition.

Friday it is over to the brass and wind instruments at the church, along with junior and senior Gaelic song competitions.

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

Saturday is the big day for instrumental competitions, including the solo piping competitions starting at the joint campus at 9.30am.

The brilliant Bands Bonanza, followed by the premier awards prizegiving, will bring the festival to a close on Saturday night from 6.30pm.

More details are available on the Mid Argyll Music Festival Facebook page.



Wrapped up warm for the outdoor World Book Day event.

A story round the campfire

Youngsters at Badden Farm Nursery held a cosy outdoor World Book Day celebration when they invited parents and grandparents to join them for a fireside story-telling event.

Written and performed by the nursery's Agnes, the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) children were en-

thralled by the tale of The Sad Little Mouse. The previous week children worked with Agnes, filling in the storyboards with their own ideas for the Sad Little Mouse and what he may need in his new house. After the story the children entertained their families with songs, followed

by hot chocolate around the fire for everyone.

Jennifer Campbell, of Badden Farm Nursery, said: 'A huge thank you to all the parents who came to join in on the day and a huge thank you to Agnes for sharing her passion for books with the children.'

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Step out on Claonaig and Skipness circular

This delightful corner of Kintyre has much to offer – spectacular views over Kilbrannan Sound to Arran, windswept beaches of colourful pebbles and sand, quaint glens, amazing rock formations and the important and well-preserved remains of Skipness Castle and Kilbrannan Chapel.

On a clear day, Arran's fine peaks and ridges can be clearly seen and it is fun to pick out details such as Ceum na Caillich – the Witch's Step – step back in time to explore the area's history or take a dip in the sea.

From the back of the car park, head north over a small stile. Follow the fence up the right hand slope of the field for 400m to a gap leading on to the old road.

Turn right. The track ahead is easy ambling with

MONTHLY WALK

stunning views. After 240m there is a wishing well, now choked under an abundance of gorse. Continue NE past Auchameanach Farm and through mature woodland. On exiting the wood, the track has been resurfaced. To the left lies Glenbuie. Continue straight on for 350m until you reach a crossroads.

Ignore the resurfaced track heading down the hill and look for a track to your left and a large pylon ahead. You now have a choice.

Ahead drops into Skipness village, useful if time is against you.

Our track, however, goes left into the woods past a ruin and neatly curves round the top of Crow Glen, before fording the Allt a' Chreamha

and crossing the fields to a T-junction.

Turn right. The route sweeps down to the coast on part of the Kintyre Way – a long distance route from Tarbert to Machrihanish – and to Skipness.

Turn left. Take time to enjoy the beach and St Brendan's Church before crossing the bridge over Skipness River. To the left, the woods are a mass of snowdrops and wild garlic in spring. Continue on the road passing the Old Kennels and Monybachach Farm until you reach woodland on your right. After 200m you will cross a small bridge; immediately look for a faint path on your right next to the burn.

Turn right. After easily circumnavigating a fallen tree, the path becomes obvious, although muddy in places. But the walk down to Skipness

Castle via Campbell's Glen through woodland is charming with waterfalls and a beautiful stone bridge. On reaching the main track, you will see Skipness House ahead, home to the renowned Seafood Cabin, a fabulous eatery in summer. Meanwhile our route heads for history and the sea.

Turn left towards Skipness Castle, originally built by Clan MacSween in the 13th century. The castle saw many important additions and fortifications between the 13th and 16th centuries and has a colourful history, from being used as a garrison for Royal Troops under King James IV, to being besieged in the 17th century. It is well worth exploration and a climb up its narrow staircase to the roof. There are gates on the north and east sides so you can cut

Heather Thomas-Smith, above, runs **Heathery Heights**, a company based in Lochgilphead, offering bespoke guided walks. She has travelled and trekked throughout the world but now lives in Argyll amongst the scenery she loves. www.heatheryheights.co.uk

Route: Claonaig and Skipness circular
Distance: 12.7km **Ascent:** 280m
Time: 4-4.5 hours plus 2-3 hours' exploration time.
Terrain: Tracks, paths and road, muddy in places
Map/s: OS Landranger 62 (1:50 000); OS Explorer 357 (1:25 000)
Start/finish: Claonaig car park
Grid Reference: NR 874561
Parking: Car park
Public Transport: Bus service and summer ferry
Toilets: No

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Kintyre Music Club CONCERT

Friday 20th March
at 7.30pm in the
Lorne & Lowland
Church Hall

The Ugly Bug Ragtime
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naig cular

through or continue until you reach a T-junction.

Turn right. This track leads you down to the medieval remains of Kilbrannan Chapel, with its historic grave slabs, and, beyond the gate, to lovely Port Ban and Skipness Point. Take time to drink in the views or dip your toes in the sea.

Return via the castle and over the bridge, keeping the Seafood Cabin on your left and Campbell's Glen to your right.

The drive will lead you past the old gatehouse and swathes of snowdrops and daffodils in spring.

Turn left, returning through Skipness village, and follow the meandering coast road – part of the Kintyre Way – past twisted rock formations and pebbled beaches all the way to Claonaig.



Above: The view across to Arran.

Left: Kilbrannan Chapel with Skipness Castle in the background.

Safety in the outdoors

The described route and accompanying information are there to be used as a guide and do not replace the use of map and compass and the skills required to use them.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the route is accurate at the time of going to print, be aware that track and path closures can happen at any time. All walks are undertaken at your own risk.

Please ensure you use appropriate clothing and equipment for your chosen outdoor activity. Don't forget to consider informing a contact about your route/whereabouts, taking other items such as a phone, snacks, drink, any medication/first aid supplies you may need and to check weather conditions.

Most walks are dog friendly but please keep your dog under close control, especially around livestock and wildlife.

Some open areas of moorland used for shooting may have snares in use. Please respect the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

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Famous fundraiser turns 21

Boat jumble milestone

The famous Craignish Boat Jumble celebrates its 21st birthday this spring.

Craignish Boat Club decided to have a boat jumble as a one-off fundraiser in 1999.

It proved so popular it was held again the next year... and the next. It has now been held every year since, initially raising money for the boat club, then for the village hall and now for Craignish Community Company (C3).

The popular sale later this month will see stall holders and car booters travel from Ayrshire, Moray, Perthshire, north Argyll and even Stoke-on-Trent.

For sailors there is always the possibility of picking up

a bargain among the anchors, ropes, clothes, electronics, sails and even boats which have been traded in the past, while for non-nautical family and friends, there will be plenty of general stalls to browse round.

With lunchtime refreshments on sale to revive the weary, a visit to this now well-established event makes an enjoyable day out.

This year's Craignish Boat Jumble and Car Boot Sale will be held on March 21 in Craignish Village Hall and car park, Ardfern, from 10am-2pm.

For more information email ttedoldi@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 07765 855750.



Last year's boat jumble sale was packed with sellers and buyers. 06_a13BoatJumble09

Inveraray seniors enjoy trip down the glen

Alison Diamond, archivist at Argyll Estates, was a welcome visitor to Inveraray Senior Citizens Wednesday Club.

At the get-together on Wednesday

March 4, Alison gave a talk and slide presentation on the Glen Shira families of years gone by. Many of the group contributed with their own knowledge of the families who had lived in the glen.

Adding to the afternoon's entertainment, Ethel singing and Alison on violin was a delight to the ears of club members as they performed a song about Glen Shira, for which Ethel wrote the music.



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April issue



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With the boating season fast approaching, it's time to gear up and get your boat ready for the water and the forthcoming summer season.

Many owners want their craft launched for Easter weekend in early April and have booked slots with their boatyard. Getting a time for launching should be planned well in advance to avoid disappointment at this busy time of year. So contact the yard and co-ordinate to get a launch date if not already booked.

The poor weather over the last couple of months may have delayed essential maintenance being carried out on boats. With an improving prospect and better temperatures on the horizon, it's now time to 'bite the bullet' and get moving. There's nothing like a deadline to work to!

For many, fitting out is always last minute and it's important to prioritise jobs. If work is required from one of the boat professionals get in touch as soon as possible to book a slot since this is their busiest time of year.

Set your workload list down alongside tools and specific materials required. Add to this a general array of rags, silicone and grease, petroleum jelly, lubricating and penetrating oils, cleaning products, brushes, wet and dry sandpaper, rollers and tray, degreaser, rolls of tape, engine spares and treatments for your water and fuel tanks. It's often the best idea to work from the outside in so that if you run out of time to launch any work required inside can be done when the boat is in the water.





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OUTSIDE – HULL, TOPSIDES, KEEL ETC

Take a close look over the keel and keelboats for signs of rusting or pitting and wear at the keel to hull joint that may be more evident after winter layup. Deep pitting on the keel may indicate anode problems and will need taken back to bare metal and an epoxy protective coating applied before anti-fouling. Call in the professionals if anything looks suspect, for example movement between the keel and hull. It may be necessary to check the keel bolts.

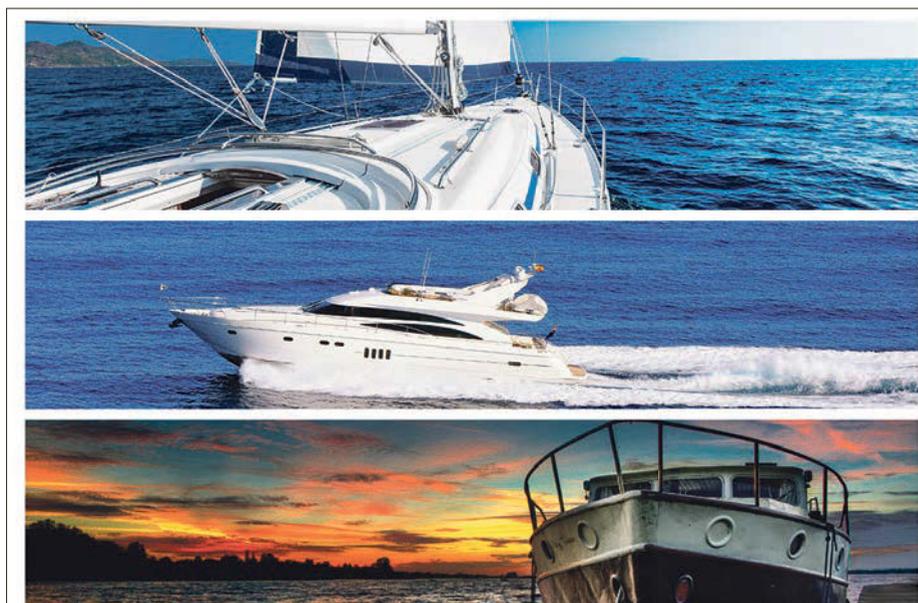
Look over the rudder and skeg fitments as well as the propeller and check for any play in bearings, stock or quadrant. Make sure the bonding wires from the anode are sound and replace the anode as required. Grease the shaft, steering cables and the log's paddle wheel.

If antifouling has built up then removing it is difficult and time consuming. However, it pays off since it improves the efficiency of boat movement in the water. A variety of scrapers are available but care needs to be taken not to damage the hull, whether

this is gel coat or wood or other. If going to the trouble of full removal, it pays to apply a protective epoxy coating before re-anti-fouling. There are a number of products on the market so seek advice from your chandlery for the best one. If not fully removing the anti-fouling, then sand over the surface with wet and dry to give a good key for the new paint. A smooth surface will pay dividends for re-application and help reduce fouling for the season. Remember to wear fully protective clothing and a face mask.

The choice of anti-fouling products on the market is huge ranging from powerboat finishes to cruising and racing coatings. The choice will depend on boat type and use and location of mooring. Advice from a chandler or boatyard and fellow boat owners in the same area will ensure the best decision on product.

Apply according to instructions with a stronger build-up in high impact areas – the leading edge of the keel and skeg and the keel to hull joint. A long handled radiator roller can be a good option to give an even finish with a paint brush to reach more inaccessible points. Some antifouling requires only one appli-



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cation; others need a few depending on longevity required. If stored on a cradle or stocks, leave some antifouling for painting the underside of the keel and cradle support points before the boat is launched while in the hoist.

The topsides will require a thorough clean up and polish. Repair any problem area such as chips or crazing in the gelcoat as required. Where gelcoat is older it may need hard work to get the original finish back. Then apply a protective wax and polish well to keep the boat looking pristine throughout the season. Again, an extensive range of products is on offer for all requirements.

DECK GEAR, RIGGING AND ANCHORS

Over the winter, dirt, debris and verdigris will have built up on deck if the boat is outside and will need a good scrubbing with perhaps an anti-mould treatment. Teak decks require their own specialist treatment and there is advice on what best to use from the chandlery and on-line forums. Deck gear needs checking for wear and tear if this was not done at layup. Check the stanchion bases for any cracks and any corrosion in lifelines, particularly under plastic sheathing. Replace if suspect. Inspect rigging on



for broken strands and any cracking at terminals and renew if necessary. Remember if any aspect of rigging is dangerous, boat insurance could be invalid. Your local sail rigging firm specialist will carry out a rig inspection for you if you are in any doubt. It's good to have a check over from the professionals since they can correctly tension the rig which improves efficiency under sail.

Instrumentation and furling equipment at the masthead should be checked in case work is required before the mast is stepped.

Winches need to be overhauled. Strip down any that are seized – soak components in degreaser and re-grease. If warps and sheets were removed for winter then this is the time to check over, renew and replace as required.

Similarly, look for corrosion on anchors and chain. Clean manual windlasses, check for wear and grease. Remove the gypsy in powered versions, grease the drum, look at the foot switch for wear, clean and grease electrical connections.

All wood on deck, teak slats etc should be cleaned, or if preferred oiled or varnished and paintwork touched up and stainless polished. This is an ideal time also for cleaning and maintenance of spray hoods and other cockpit coverings.

THE POWERHOUSE - ENGINES FUEL TANKS AND GAS SYSTEMS

Both inboards and outboards need serviced and this is most often done by a professional whether by your boatyard or an independent engineer.

If carrying out your own service, the oil, filters and anodes should be renewed and exhaust fittings checked. Inspect impellers, engine belt tension and mounts as well as the underside of the shaft – re bed if any leaks are apparent. It's essential to keep spares of everything you think you may need on the boat during the season so order two of everything and store onboard in case required.

With sail-drives check the oil level and gaiter seal as well as the earthing wires from the starter motor. Replace if there is any wear on hose and electrical connections.

Check out the state of boat batteries which need to be up to charge and holding before launching. Ideally, batteries will have been stored on trickle charge over lay-up, so if not, re-charge now and monitor electrolyte levels if unsealed. Ensure the battery tray is dry and tighten securing straps making sure all gas vents are clear. Clean terminals and coat with petroleum jelly.

Fuel tanks should be full from laying up. If not, drain water off and treat with a diesel biocide. Inspect the gas system regularly and thoroughly. A qualified gas engineer will ensure the system conforms to current gas regulations and any suspect hoses and fittings should be replaced to manufacturer's recommendations.

INSIDE THE BOAT – BILGES AND SEACOCKS

It's a good idea to start from the bilges up. Inspect pump impellers and gaskets, grease and replace if necessary. With automatic bilge pumps, see float switches work and the strum box is clear. Manual strum boxes should be pumped through to see hose is clear of blockages. Service seacocks.

CABIN

Most owners install a de-humidifier and heater over the winter to keep mould at bay so the interior should be dry. Clean up if not already attended to over the winter. Wash out all the lockers before replacing equipment and remember to display a list of where everything is stored in the boat. Clean the galley and check burners on gas cookers. Look over berth cushions and other soft furnishings checking for any damp if they have not been taken off for the winter for storage. Re-install for the season ahead and keep everything well aired.

WATER TANKS AND HEADS

Any water left in the water tank should be pumped through and a purifier added before re-filling for use. Flush through the heads adding washing up liquid/vinegar to lubricate the hoses and pumps. Check the boat's central heating system is working and maintain as required. Re-install any communication, navi-

gation and other equipment that was removed for winter storage.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

The best time to go over safety equipment is at the end of the season which allows time to store properly and replace items if there are any issues. However, if this hasn't been done, it's essential now to see all equipment is in good condition since lives may depend on it. Fire extinguishers, flares, life-rafts, life-jackets should be inspected with items needing replaced or repaired if in any doubt as to condition of if out of date. It is also vital you check to make sure your vessel has the correct amount of flotation devices for the crew. Invert MOB lights to see they work and change bulb and batteries if not. Some WD40 on the copper contact strip inside should ensure good connection. Silicone grease rubber seals. The RNLI will carry out a free safety check on your boat equipment and lifeboat stations will check your lifejackets – this is really worthwhile. Liferrafts need to be inspected and if not already sent away for an overhaul, do so now. Similarly dinghy tenders should be blown up and checked for leaks and repaired as necessary.

Make an inventory of where safety equipment is stored and display prominently in boat – items can then be found quickly and easily in an emergency.

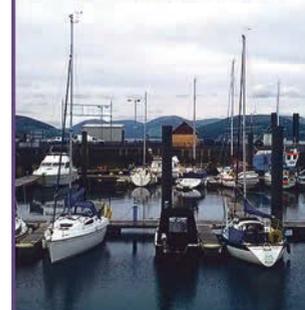
SAILS AND SPRAYHOODS

Sails are the powerhouse of the sailing vessel so it's important they are in good condition and sailmakers are on hand for advice on any aspect. With everyone pushing to get their boats ready for launching, the sail loft has their busiest time of year now, so book a slot early to get sails checked over and repaired or replaced as required. Similarly sprayhoods and other outdoor canvas should be checked for wear. If new sails are needed, order as soon as possible.

EXPERT ADVICE FOR A SUCCESSFUL SEASON

Professional advice is on hand from boatyards, engineers, marine service and repair firms as well as chandlers and sail-makers. Each has their own area of expertise and don't hesitate to contact them for advice and to carry out work as required.

Whatever your plans are for getting out on the water - whether it be cruising, racing, fishing or just pottering about with your boat, enjoy a safe and successful 2020 season.



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Union calls to government to drop tariff proposals

NFU Scotland submitted its response last week to the UK Government's consultation on the future of UK tariffs.

In the submission, NFU Scotland made it clear it is crucial the applied tariffs are not unilaterally lowered in advance of trade talks.

The UK's 2019 temporary tariff schedule in the case of a no-deal BREXIT, which offered to reduce and remove tariffs, caused trade partners to halt negotiations on transitioning existing EU trade deals.

In the consultation submission, NFU Scotland has stated any tariff reduction or removal should only be done

as part of trade negotiations and in return for reciprocal concessions.

NFU Scotland president Andrew McCornick said: 'Applied tariffs are of fundamental importance to Scottish agriculture and it is absolutely crucial we want to keep tariffs at the current level.'

'The high production standards to which we operate in Scotland do not come free. The current tariffs provide a level of protection to offset low price, low standard imports. They are the only tools allowed under World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules to do that.'

New advice aims to help tenant farmers diversify

Scottish tenant farmers planning to diversify into areas such as tourism or renewable energy can get advice from a new guide.

Published this week by the Tenant Farming Commissioner, the guide looks at what tenant farmers need to do when they are planning to diversify.

Already more than half of farms in Scotland have diversified into areas ranging from campsites and glamping pods, to wind turbines and farm shops – and the trend is set to continue as farmers look for ways to enhance their livelihoods.

Those farms with some form of diversification generate significantly more income each year than those that do not, according to the Scottish Government Farm Business Income Estimates report (2017-18). In Scotland, provided tenant farmers follow the correct procedures and



Garden centres are also another way for farmers to diversify.

get their landlord's consent to their plans, there is no limit on the amount of the holding that can be used for diversification. The law sets out a clear timetable, summarised in the guide, for any tenant farmer seeking to get their landlord's permission to diversify part – or all – of their holding.

Tenants must send a formal

'notice of diversification' to their landlord, although an initial informal discussion is often the best way to kick-start the process.

The new guide also sets out what should happen at the end of the lease. Diversification may have increased the value of the holding and in these cases, provided the correct

process has been followed, compensation may be due to the tenant. Equally, the landlord may be entitled to compensation if the value of the land has been reduced by the diversification. However, the right to compensation may not apply if the diversification is such that the land cannot be used for agriculture by an incoming tenant.

Speaking about the new guide, Bob McIntosh, tenant farming commissioner, said: 'More and more farmers are set to diversify, as agricultural subsidies decline post-Brexit. I expect another driver will be climate change, as farmers seek more innovative uses for land. Diversifying can be profitable and straightforward – provided tenants and landlords agree the scope of the diversification up front and follow the correct process. Diversification can help to protect the viability of farms and livelihoods.'

Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) are inviting Applications for grazing opportunities

at Savary, Aoinidh Mhor and Glenrigh in Lochaber, West Region.

Full details and applications forms can be found on our website at: <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/business-and-services/grazing-opportunities>

The closing date for applications is **Tuesday 31st March 2020, at 12 noon.**

For further information please contact Henry Dobson or Lyndsay Sharp at the FLS office at Torlundy on: 0300 067 6650.

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Invitation to Tender: Mink trapping

Scottish Natural Heritage invite tenders from suitable contractors to re-establish mink control along the Isle of Mull and Morvern shoreline adjacent to the Glas Eileanan islets in order to reduce predation of the common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) colony. Glas Eileanan is a Special Protection Area (SPA) designated for breeding common tern.

We will accept tender submissions for trapping on Glas Eileanan, Eilean Rubha an Ridire, the adjacent Isle of Mull coastline and the mainland coastline of Morvern for 5 years running from April 2020 to March 2025.

The statement of requirements is available from Sally Weaser by emailing sally.weaser@nature.scot

Tenders are required by Monday 23rd March 2020 at 12 noon.



Scottish Natural Heritage, Cameron House, Albany Street, Oban, Argyll PA34 4AE
Tel: 0300 244 9360 www.nature.scot
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba, Taigh Chamshron, Sràid Albanaidh, An t-Oban, Earra-Ghàidheal PA34 4DN
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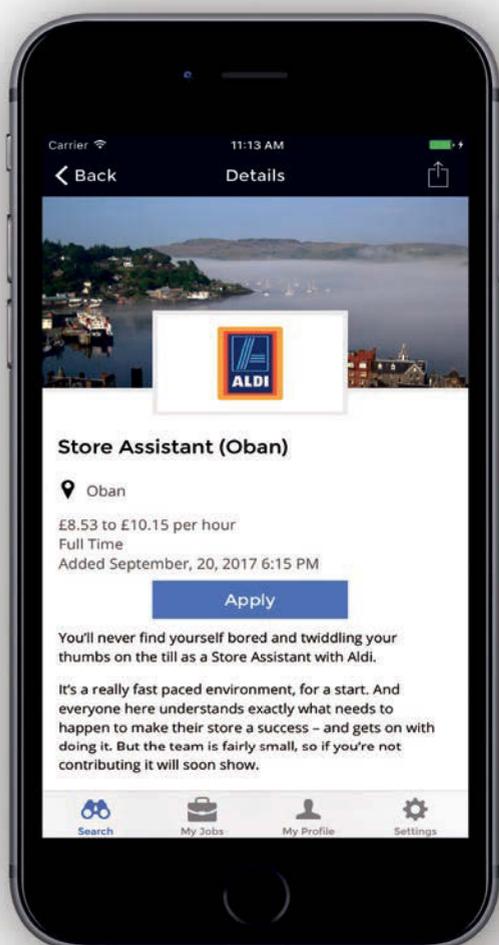
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PUBLIC NOTICES

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCOTTISH HYDRO TANGY2 COMMUNITY FUND

Constituted and unconstituted groups which support charitable activities meriting community support are invited to apply in writing for limited funding from the above (total fund circa £2,800).

The application should include a) a statement of what the funding will be used for b) how it will be monitored and assessed c) when a progress report will be furnished d) a contact email address.

The closing date is Friday 10th April 2020. Applications to: Chairperson Alan Baker, Ailsa House, Kilkerran Road, Campbeltown, PA28 6JL.

WEST KINTYRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL WIND FARM TRUST

Applications are invited for grants from this year's first round of funding from the above Trust.

Grants may be available for capital or revenue funding to support projects, groups, halls, charities and churches within the West Kintyre Community Council area, ranging from Whitehouse in the north to Kilkenzie in the south. Advice, details and application forms are available from the convener via email: margarepratt@btinternet.com

Closing date for receipt of applications is: Saturday 4th April 2020
Disbursement meeting: Monday 20th April 2020, 7.30pm at Tayinloan Village Hall.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT LOCHGILPHEAD & DISTRICT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 23rd March
2020 at 7.00pm
Mid Argyll Hospital
Lochgilphead
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MS Society Campbeltown

AGM Wednesday 18th March 2020 at 7.00pm

Argyll Hotel,
Campbeltown
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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
20/00358/PP	Removal of existing window and installation of smaller window opening	SGN Campbeltown Depot, Roding, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute, PA28 6LU

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.

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THE MACHRIHANISH GOLF CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of The Machrihanish Golf Club will be held in the Argyll Arms Hotel, Campbeltown on Friday 3rd April 2020 at 7.30pm.

All members are respectfully invited to attend.

A Martin, Secretary

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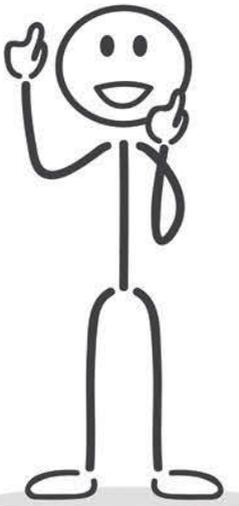
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SPARROWHAWKS, STUFFED - Life size pair of sparrow hawk's, Victorian ex. museum piece, male and female, displayed on stand, some damage, can email photos. Campbeltown, £20.00 Telephone 01586 554537

VINTAGE TILLEY LAMP - Old and collectable, full size lamp, brass base, unsure if working, ideal display item, can email photos, Campbeltown, £40.00 Telephone 01586 554537

TILLEY LAMP, VINTAGE - Another Tilley lamp, full size, red base, highly collectable, unsure if working, can email photos, discount if both purchased. Campbeltown, £40.00 Telephone 01586 554537

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ELECTRIC BIKE



Affordable electric bike - upgraded 36volt battery now gives approx 20 miles range. Well used for scenic trips - free on CalMac ferries and the local train. Ideal starter electric bike at £295.00, Telephone Roger (on Seil) 07968 508430

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BRIC-A-BRAC

ORNAMENTS - three Border collie ornaments. each, £30.00 Telephone 01397 773045

BUILDING / DIY

REPLACEMENT CHIMNEY POTS - for older houses, ornate Victorian/Edwardian pots in various sizes and colour, £40.00 Telephone 01631 564578

CAMPING & CARAVAN EQUIPMENT

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CARS AND CAR PARTS UNDER £250

NEW WHEEL - with a good tyre for a Citroen C2 or Peugeot 108, £50.00 Telephone 01499 302709

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GENTS NEW BLACK SUIT - Brand new, smart 2 piece suit with tags, never worn, 40" chest, 30" leg, classic cut, ideal funerals, was £125, can email photos, Campbeltown, £15.00 Telephone 01586 554537

MOONBOOTS - Campri. Black with white logo. Size 9-10. Brand new in original packaging, £8.00 Telephone 01546 603245

MOONBOOTS - Campri. Size 11-12. Worn once. In packaging, £6.00 Telephone 01546 603245

PORSCHE BACKPACK - Black in colour. 100% polyester. 17" x 11" x 6" approx. Still in bag. Unsuitable purchase. Including postage, £39.00 Telephone 01475 726360

PORSCHE T-SHIRT - 36" chest Grey with Martini logo Perfect condition. Including postage, £10.00 Telephone 01475 726360

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

AEG DOUBLE OVEN - Brushed Stainless Steel, in good order, £80.00 Telephone 01631 730323

HOTPOINT 8KG WASHING MACHINE - 1600 spin. Buyer uplifts, £50.00 ono Telephone 01586 550075

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HUNGARIAN WIREHAired VIZSLA PUPPIES - KC Registered. These dogs have wonderful temperaments, very trainable, make good family pets and or gun dogs, both parents working. Ready March 17, £1,000.00 Telephone 01506 854822 or 07951 817581

EQUESTRIAN

BLACK DRESSAGE SADDLE - Reactor panel Avant Garde 16.5 inch, wide fit black dressage saddle, fully adjustable, £1,500.00 Telephone 07834 806335

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FURNITURE

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PETROL BRUSH CUTTER - Qualcast 29cc Petrol Brush Cutter (cow horn style). Little used, £29.00 Telephone 01631 565570

GARDEN

SPEAR AND JACKSON SPADE - Good strong spade, good used condition, can email photos, Campbeltown, £10.00 Telephone 01586 554537

VINTAGE STEEL GARDEN ROLLER - Small vintage steel garden roller. Excellent painted conditions. Suit smaller garden or makes a nice feature, £90.00 Telephone 01631 564578

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DRIMNIN

Scotland's leading female-founded, organic and sustainable whisky distillery, Nc'nean, has raised more than £1.7m from a crowdfunding campaign and private investors to help accelerate its growth plans.

The innovative whisky distillery exceeded its funding target in little over a week after launching the campaign on investment platform Seedrs. Further funding was injected from existing and new private investors, bringing the total funding to more than £1.7m.

The investment will go towards supporting the launch of its first whisky this year, the continued growth of its innovative Botanical Spirit, as well as buying bottling equipment and supporting further portfolio expansion.

Nc'nean is a young, independent, organic distillery that set out to create a more forward-thinking, modern and sustainable whisky.

INVERARAY



Patsy Dyer shows some of her plants to an intrigued audience.

Nettles, feverfew and yarrow were among the plants discussed in an

CLACHAN

Clachan Primary School pupils are celebrating after they received their seventh Eco-Schools Green Flag.

Run by Keep Scotland Beautiful, Eco-Schools is the largest sustainable schools programme in the world. It encourages young people to take steps to ensure everyone looks after their environment.

Clachan Primary School signed up to the scheme 16 years ago and has since gone from strength to strength, with the school introducing a number of eco-friendly initiatives.

Pupils have introduced a ban on using glitter and all single use plastics in the school. They have created an eco garden and wormery and compost all their raw waste. They take part in regular beach cleans, thermal blinds have been fitted to school windows and they have cut down on the number of paper towels they use. A significant change has been the decision to change their school jumpers to a material that uses more cotton than microfibres so they do not go into the wash.



Clachan Primary School has been awarded its seventh Green Flag.

informative talk by Patsy Dyer to Inveraray History Society this month.

Patsy enthralled everyone with her knowledge and passion for plants and their medicinal properties. She brought along samples for everyone to touch and taste, rounding off the evening with a

quiz and questions from a fascinated audience.

Patsy is an organic gardener and has gathered a wealth of information during her years working in botanical gardens, including Virginia, USA, and more recently in Kilmartin. Her ability to convey information

is enhanced by her skill in story telling, making the evening one to remember.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday April 7 in the Nicoll Hall at 7.30pm when Tom Kirsop will give an illustrated talk on Stalking and Wildlife on the Estate. Everyone welcome.

Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Shedden

I love the book Jonathan Livingston Seagull, which has so many wonderful quotes and so much hidden wisdom.

I also love the musical interpretation which Neil Diamond gave to the words as he added some of his own.

My favourite is this one: 'Be - as a page that aches for a word which speaks on a theme that is timeless.'

Sometimes when I come to write 'Thought', I have no idea what to say.

My mind is empty and as I sit before a blank page, I think maybe people think it's time I stopped 'thinking' as it has been 10 years now.

However, I thought about the empty page waiting quietly for some words and I thought about the theme that is indeed 'timeless'. That, of course, has to be God, the timeless one, the infinite one, the one who was before time, is in time and will be after time.

Where do I begin, I thought?

Another song popped into my head and the words seemed also to speak to me of God, of his love, in fact of the greatest love story ever told. The story of God's love for each one of us.

It goes like this:

*'Where do I begin,
To tell the story of how great a love can be,
The sweet love story that is older than the sea,*

The simple truth about the love he brings to me,

Where do I start?'

If we were to write about God's love, we could use up every tree in the world for it is infinite and that love story continues in each one of us.

There will be no blank pages for the story never ends.

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

BIRTHS



GILLIES

Craig and Collette (née MacFarlane) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter, Fern Niamh, on February 17, 2020. A beautiful little sister for Coen. First granddaughter for Gus and Helen, Ballochgar Farm, Campbeltown and second granddaughter for Coll and Marwin, Tarbert.

DIAMOND WEDDINGS

BALLANTINE

MCLEAN - Jim to Kay, by Rev C M Henderson, on March 18, 1960, at Kilmichael-Glassary Church.

DEATHS

COLVILLE - Peacefully at home, Langa Farmhouse, Kilkenzie, on March 8, 2020, after a short illness, Mary MacCallum Kelly, in her 73rd year, dearly beloved wife of Rory Colville, much loved mum of Rory and Donald and a loving granny of Freya. A service will be held in the Lorne and Lowland Parish Church, Campbeltown, on Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 1.00pm, to which all friends are respectfully invited. A private cremation will take place, on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Family flowers only please. A retiral collection will be held in aid of the Kintyre Cancer and Palliative Fund.

DUNCAN - Ian Alexander. Peacefully, after a long illness, on Monday, March 2, 2020, at The Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, Ian, aged 94 years, beloved husband of the late Muriel, dearly loved dad and grandad. Funeral service and cremation to take place at Carlisle Crematorium, on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 3.00pm. Family flowers only, but donations if so desired, to Mental Health Foundation. All enquiries to Co-op Funeralcare, 32 Spencer Street, Carlisle. Telephone 01228 523467.

KELLY - Peacefully at home, 15b John Street, Campbeltown, on March 6, 2020, Flora Henderson, in her 80th year, dearly beloved wife of the late James Johnstone Kelly, much loved mum of Davie, Fiona and Morag, loving granny of Kerry, Leona, Laura, Andrew and Pamela and loving great granny of Connor, Maisie, Logan, Lyle and Remi.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - The family of the late Catherine Brown Cameron (née MacGeachy) would like to thank everyone for the many cards and expressions of sympathy received following the recent sad loss of their mum. Heartfelt thanks to all staff of Glenarary Ward for their compassionate care and the staff of Ward 6C at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow who were exceptional. Sincere thanks to Rev Hilda Smith for her personal and uplifting service and Rev William Crossan for his service at Kilkerran, and also Ryan McGlynn for his musical accompaniment. Thanks also to Richard and staff at Kilmartin Hotel and to the Ardshiel Hotel, Campbeltown, for excellent catering; to Keli MacDougall for the beautiful floral tribute, and to Roddy and Fiona of Donald MacDonald, Funeral Directors, for their professional and caring service. Finally, thank you to all who paid their last respects to Catherine at the church and graveside, especially those who travelled a great distance in difficult weather conditions. All very much appreciated by Shona, Sheena and their families. The collection for Marie Curie Mid Argyll raised £300.

CARMICHAEL - Margaret McKinven. Margaret's family thanks all who attended the celebration of her life, at the Lorne and Lowland Church, on March 6, 2020. Margaret was born at No 9 South Moy, and thanks to exceptional home care by Dr Anderson and Campbeltown Medical Practice, with NHS Highland, was able to end her days at her beloved Moy. Her lifelong friends, Mrs Helen McLean and the late Mrs Cathie McGowan, with Donald and Valerie McKay and their twins, were the spark in Margaret's enjoyment of life after John died. Malcolm and

Tracy McArthur played a vital role, supporting Margaret as her health deteriorated. Her love of music was beautifully brought to life by David McEwan and she would have thoroughly approved. The Reverend William Crossan delivered a personal and moving service, along with some humour. Catering by the Argyll Hotel, where Margaret and Cathie spent many a happy hour putting the world to rights, was an appropriate setting. Funeral Directors, T A Blair, organised and carried out a smooth, professional and personal service, which was very much appreciated. The retiring offering raised for church funds was £1,010. Thanks to all.

IN MEMORIAM

HUME - In loving memory of Johnnie Hume, died March 11, 2010. A loving granda and pappy. Miss you every day, Love you forever more. - Lorna and Megan.

MACDOUGALL - Precious memories of our son, Alasdair, who was taken from us on March 13, 2007. The tears we cry we can wipe away, But the ache in our hearts will always stay. Loved and missed always. - See you later, Mum and Dad xxx.

MACDOUGALL - In loving memory of our grandson, nephew and cousin, Alasdair, sadly taken from us on March 13, 2007. Memories are a gift to treasure, Ours of you will last forever.

- From all your family in Ardrishaig, Lochgilphead and away xxx.

MACVICAR - In loving memory of my dear wife, Peggy, who passed away on March 16, 2015.

Lonely is my home without you Life to me is not the same I have always had this one wish Just to have you back again.

- Love always, Robbie xx.

MACVICAR - In loving memory of our dear mum (Peggy). We think about you every day Happy memories spring to mind Of one we loved with all our hearts And will 'til the end of time. - Love from all the family xxx.

CHURCH NOTICES

LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity Number SC 11686
Sunday 15th March
11.15am Morning Worship
Creche, Triple C, Gen 1
Rev W Crossan
Monday 16th March
Guild 2.00pm
New Hall
Tuesday 17th March
Tiny Tots 9.45 am
New Hall
BB Anchor Boys 6.00pm
Junior Section 7.15pm
Church Hall
Thursday 19th March
Choir Practice 7.00pm
Friday 20th March
Lunch Club 12.00 noon
New Hall

HIGHLAND PARISH CHURCH



SC002493
Sunday 15th March
The service will be conducted by Mr Kelvin Moller and will be held in the church at 11.15am
All welcome

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



75 Longrow, Campbeltown
Friday 13th March
SKY Youth Group Meeting at Springbank Church
7.00 - 9.00pm
Sunday 15th March
Family Communion Service 11.00am
Guest speaker John Ives
All welcome
Joint Evening Service 6.30pm
Held at the SKDT Hall
Speaker Rev Rodger Crooks
Wednesday 18th March
Bible Study 7.30pm
All welcome
Pastor Steve Davies
Enquiries 01586 551200
www.springbankchurch.org.uk
SC014646

ST KIARAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Sunday 15th March
Lent 3
Holy Communion 10.45am
Enquiries tel: 01586 551141
The Scottish Episcopal Church is a Province of the Worldwide Anglican Communion

ST KIERAN RC CHURCH

St. John Street, Campbeltown
01586 552160
Rev Tony Wood
stkieransrc.org
Vigil Mass Saturday 6.00pm
(except 1st Saturday of the month)
Sundays, Holy Mass 10.00am
All welcome
(SC002876)

SALVATION ARMY



Sunday Services
10.30am Morning Service
Army Kidz 6.30pm Evening Service
Wednesday
Lunch Club 12.15pm
CAMEO 1.30pm
Make 'n' Munch Craft Group 7.00pm
Major Ruth Russell
All welcome
Scottish Charity Number SC009359

CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH



George Street, Campbeltown
Sunday 15th March
11.15am Worship Service
Rev Rodger Crooks
11.15am Sunday School 6.30pm Joint service in Campbeltown Community Church
Speaker: Rev Rodger Crooks
Monday 16th March
4.00pm Road to Recovery
Wednesday 18th March
12 noon Prayer & Bible Study
2.00pm Water of Life Cafe
All welcome
www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH



Sunday 15th March
11.00am Family Service
Speaker - Andrew Chalkley
with Sunday school Refreshments after the service
Joint Evening Service 6.30 pm at SKDT Hall Playgroup
Every Thursday 10.00 - 11.30am (Term-time only)
Pastor Mark Jasper
pastor@campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk
www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk
SC043322
We meet at the SKDT Hall, Kirk Street PA28 6BL

ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES

"It is good to sing praises to our God"
Services in Ardrishaig at 11.00am and Achahoish at 12.30pm
All welcome

CHRIST CHURCH SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Bishopton Road, Lochgilphead (SC013787)
Sunday 15th March
11.00am Eucharist & Coffee
St Columba's, Poltalloch (SC031391)
1st Sunday of the month
9.00am Holy Communion
3rd Sunday of the month
3.30pm Evensong
All welcome
Father Simon Mackenzie
01546 602315

STMARGARET'S RC CHURCH

Lochgilphead
Holy Mass Sunday 10am
All Saints, Inveraray
Holy Mass Sunday 12.30pm
Fr Ronald Campbell
01546 602380
All Welcome
(SC002876)

GLASSARY, KILMARTIN & FORD PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 15th March
Kilmartin 10.00am
Rev Robert MacLeod
Stated Annual meeting to follow the service with light lunch
All very welcome
(SC0 02121)

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

Charity number SC001002
Sunday 15th March
Tayvallich Church
10.30am Choir Practice
11.30am Morning Worship
Rev Robert MacLeod
7.00pm - 3 Braeface Alpha Week 6 Meal and video
Saturday 14th March
Achnamara Hall
10.30am - 12.30pm
Café Connect
All welcome
www.northknapdale.org

SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 15th March
Skipness Service 10.00am
Dr J L Morrison OBE
Tarbert & Kilberry Joint Communion Service
11.30am - Tarbert
Rev Christine Fulcher
Stated Annual meeting to follow the service
All welcome
Tarbert and Kilberry
Charity No: SC002622
Skipness Charity No: SC004280
For all church enquiries and pastoral care contact CFulcher@churchofscotland.org.uk

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND WEST LOCHFYNESIDE

Church of Scotland
Sunday 15th March
Cumlodden Church 10.00am
Inveraray Church 11.30am
Westlochfyneside
Charity No SC016665
All welcome

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Narrow defeat for 'Aray in reversed season opener

The new shinty season is under way, with half the schedule beating the elements on Saturday March 7.

As part of the Camanachd Association's work to raise awareness of mental health and well-being, all throw-ups took place a minute later than usual as a cue for conversation about mental health.

All shinty players and supporters were encouraged to use this time to check in with one another and support each other by listening.

Mowi National Division

Glenurquhart 1 Inveraray 0

Inveraray's match with Glenurquhart was moved to Blairbeg on Thursday when the Winterton was deemed unplayable.

Inveraray made a good start, enjoying much of the play for the first 20 minutes but, with heavy underfoot conditions restricting their silky style of shinty, Glenurquhart slowly worked their way into the game.

There were few efforts on goal in the first half with both full backs – Glenurquhart's John Barr and Ross Montgomery for Inveraray – having good performances.

As the match became more physical, Inveraray bosses Ruairaidh Graham and Joe Fyfe took Lewis Montgomery from the centre and pushed him back into his usual role in the forward line.

Craig Taylor came off and

Ali McDonald joined the midfield in a bid to match Glenurquhart's physicality.

Both teams continued to work hard and the closest to a goal was a Glenurquhart effort which came off the woodwork.

There was little between the teams as the second half got under way, both struggling with the conditions.

The decisive moment came on 56 minutes when referee Alex MacVicar awarded Glenurquhart a penalty and James MacPherson stepped up to score from the spot.

There were efforts on target at both ends during the remainder of the second half but both keepers – Stuart MacKintosh for the Glen and Inveraray's Scott MacLachlan – were in fine form so there was no further scoring.

Fixture

Inveraray head north again this weekend to face Skye Camanachd in what could be an important fixture in the promotion race.

Kyles Athletic's Mowi Premiership match against newly-promoted Fort William was called off on Saturday morning with surface water on parts of the Fort pitch.

In Mowi South Division 1, the game between Col Glen and Bute was postponed due to an unplayable Glendaruel pitch, as was the Kyles reserves meeting with Tayforth.

The game between Kilmory and the Inveraray second team in Mowi South Division 2 was also called off.



A hint of a push in Ally Munro's back by Glenurquhart's Oliver Black. Photograph: Steven Lawson



Argyll drivers back in top rally action

The opening round of the 2020 KNC Groundworks Scottish Rally Championships took place in and around Inverness last weekend with a good entry of 96 cars.

The event, on Saturday March 7, was three weeks later than usual to try and avoid the worst of the weather. There were, however, large sections of the stages still swathed in snow and ice, making conditions changeable to say the least.

Lochgilthead's Alister MacArthur was back in the forests, after a two-and-a-half year break, in the MR Motorsport prepared Talbot Sunbeam. Co-driver Claire Tilley, from Craignure, Mull, had only completed one event prior to this in the car and that was on Tarmacadem and mostly in the dark of Mull Rally. Gravel, snow and ice would be a whole different concept in the powerful rear wheel drive car.

Test

The car has seen development over the past season and the five stages ahead that day would be as much a test as a genuine attempt to score points.

However, after a relatively clean run through the 13 miles of Stage 1 – the stage that claimed a large number of competitors due to the slippy conditions – thoughts quickly turned to getting up the leaderboard and grabbing as many championship points as possible.

The crew had made it to the afternoon sitting in 36th place overall and a very quick run through Stage 4 saw them climb to 31st. Drama nearly robbed them of a great result when the alternator stopped

working and the battery started to go flat in the last 13 miles of Lochletter 2, with Alister switching off all but the bare essential electric components to try and make it to the finish. Finish they did and in 32nd place overall and third in Class 7. A brilliant start to the new season.

Also heading north to Inverness to compete was Ian Parker, whose normal seat in the MkII had been withdrawn as the car wasn't ready.

Late call

He had a late call to co-drive for Linzi Henderson in her Ford Fiesta but they were one of the unlucky crews to slide off the road in Stage 1, spectacularly attempting to knock down some trees in the process.

Eoghan Anderson from Cairnbaan was out in the Subaru Impreza of Graeme Sherry in what is slowly becoming a weekend habit – one which has his mother watching nervously from the wings.

They had a good day and brought the car home in 26th overall and eighth in a competitive Class 9. They plan to do the full season, so watch this space for updates on their progress.

The closely contested event was finally won by Michael Binnie and Clare Mole in a Mitsubishi Evo, with the ever present Jock Armstrong and Cameron Fair taking second place in the TEG Sport Impreza, after leading the rally for much of the day. Freddie Milne and Patrick Walsh in the Fiesta R5 were third overall.

Next up is the Speyside Rally in Elgin on April 18.



Rally winners Michael Binnie and Clare Mole. Photograph: West Coast Photos.



An unfortunate end for Linzi Henderson and Ian Parker.

Sports club lotteries

Numbers drawn in Tarbert Football Club's lottery on Monday March 9 were 10, 17 and 18. There were no winners, so next week's jackpot will be £400.

Also drawn on Monday, Inveraray Shinty Club's lottery draw numbers were

11, 16 and 17. There were no winners, so next week £400 will be up for grabs.

This week's Kilmory Camanachd Club numbers were 2, 3 and 11. A Jonston won the £1,000 jackpot, so next week's prize pot will return to £100.

Soccer centre has its finger on the pulse

Volunteers undergo first aid training

Lochgilphead Soccer Centre volunteers have received vital first aid training.

Sports clubs are required to ensure a number of their volunteers have a valid first aid certificate and when Lochgilphead Soccer Centre looked to secure the services of an accredited firm to provide the required two-day course, outdoor and first aid coach Andy Craven was happy to help.

Covering theory and practice of all fundamental aspects of first aid, the volunteers were grateful to Andy for his informative and interactive approach to learning important skills and knowledge to safeguard the welfare of players and spectators.

Soccer Centre chairman Stuart Green said: 'It is not just about having the relevant certificate, but ensuring a good number of our volunteers have the knowledge, skills and equipment to look after our youngsters and their friends and families.'

'Knocks and sprains are common in football and we deal with them every week, however, even as volunteers, we have an obligation to be prepared with any eventuality and Andy was first class in guiding our volunteers through a range of scenarios.'

Andy said: 'Whilst first aid is a serious business, the folk at Lochgilphead Soccer Centre were a great bunch. They were keen to learn and kept me on my toes with a range of questions.'

'I am a qualified outdoor and first aid instructor and have been working with community and sports groups throughout Argyll and Bute and their enthusiasm and desire to develop skills to look after members of their community in the event of something going wrong never ceases to impress me.'

'It is a joy working with folk in this area and I look forward to coming back to refresh their knowledge in a couple of years.'



Lochgilphead Soccer Centre volunteers receive training on how to use a defibrillator.

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new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

Win!
THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT
£2550

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:

- C MacDonald**
Oban
- A MacVicar**
Lochgilphead

Argyll drivers
 back in top
 rally action

Soccer centre
 has its finger on
 the pulse

Mixed fortunes for young Lochgilphead Red Stars

In one of their best performances of the season, Red Star 2007s welcomed Glasgow Boys to Lochgilphead and secured all three points with an excellent 7-1 victory.

Pressing high, Red Star put pressure on Glasgow Boys forcing them to make mistakes in the game on Sunday March 1. This led to Star leading 4-0 at half-time with goals from Gibson, Semple and Cooper (2). Glasgow Boys started the second half well and were rewarded for their hard work with a goal. They created a few more chances but were thwarted by the safe hands of Urquhart. The Lochgilphead youngsters scored a further three goals through Todd, Semple and Gibson.

Also battling it out on Sunday March 1, Red Star 2004s faced last season's league and cup double winners Drumchapel Amateurs at the astro pitch, Lochgilphead.

Red Star dominated the first half. Playing nice football, Star created a few chances and restricted their opponent's opportunities. Unfortunately, just before half-time, Star were reduced to 10 players.

With a player short and the score 0-0, things looked tricky for Star but they made a terrific start to the second half with Aitken scoring twice. Drumchapel pulled one back, but a goal from Caskie and a great move finished off by McLean increased Star's lead.

A 4-1 lead was the stuff of



It's shinty time!

The 2020 shinty season opened on a soggy Saturday March 7.

With the Winterton unplayable due to recent wet weather, Inveraray's opening Mowi National Division fixture with Glenurquhart was reversed to Drumnadrochit.

More shinty news on page 34.

Left: Glenurquhart players Michael Brady and Liam Robertson get to grips with Allan MacDonald of Inveraray on the opening day of the season.

Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

dreams but in the final 20 minutes it turned to a nightmare. Drumchapel turned the screw and Star's effort began to tell as they tired.

Drumchapel pulled a goal back, then a second, then, in the final 10 minutes, scored three goals to win 6-4. An entertaining game and great performance from Red Star but not the result they were looking for.

On Sunday March 8,

Red Star 2007s travelled to Glasgow to face Park Villa. The Lochgilphead youngsters started brightly and took the lead through Gibson. It remained 1-0 at half-time, Star having had a claim for a penalty turned down.

The second half was end-to-end football with some good play by Star, who created numerous chances, only to find the Park Villa keeper in excellent form.

Unfortunately for Star, the Park Villa forwards were also in excellent form converting their chances into goals to score four. Final score 4-1.

Last weekend, March 7, saw a Saturday game for Red Star 2004s as they played away to Paisley first division team Erskine in the quarter final of the West Region Cup. With only 11 boys travelling, it was always going to be a challenge for the Lochgilphead young-

sters. Erskine dominated the early stages but Star began to get a foothold in the game. It was Erskine who were to take the lead but it wasn't to last long as Aitken equalised for Star. A second goal for Erskine gave them a 2-1 lead at half-time. The second half saw Red Star equalise.

With time running out, Erskine scored a third from the penalty spot but Star didn't let their heads drop.

A thrilling final five minutes would see Star pull a goal back and camp around the Erskine goal as they searched for an elusive equaliser. Final score 3-2.



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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