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# Argyll adapts in the face of coronavirus

by Rachel Carruthers  
and Colin Cameron  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

People in Argyll are adapting in remarkable ways in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health and social care staff and volunteers are going above and beyond in the front line, while support groups have sprung up to reinforce council and government agencies.

Businesses, too, have changed in tough trading conditions following the lockdown.

Distillers around Argyll are adapting to put their equipment to good use making alcohol-based hand sanitisers.

Beinn an Turic Distillery, creators of Kintyre Gin, distillers behind Isle of Bute gin and Bruichladdich Distillery on Islay, home of The Botanist gin, in collaboration with

**'We produced three prototypes that were put to Mid Argyll and Oban hospitals for discussion.'**

Spirited Soaps, are among the craft gin makers distributing the sought-after product as supplies of handwash and sanitisers run low.

Kilmory-based acrylics firm Midton is producing face shields for NHS staff. The vital equipment will go to nearby hospitals, with Mid Argyll Hospital requesting an initial run of 1,000 shields.

Midton director Graham Ramsay said: 'We produced three prototypes that were put to Mid Argyll and Oban hospitals for discussion. The

different designs were created to use stock we already have at the factory. However, our stocks are limited and purchasing more materials is getting harder and harder.

'We thank everyone who has already donated sheets of acetate and film and further donations would be greatly appreciated. We are also looking for firm foam/dura foam and 10-20mm elastic, preferably button hole. All donations can be left in our blue paper bin.

'We have a volunteer production team ready to start and a volunteer in Tayvallich who is 3D printing units from his house to help produce more. Any other 3D print hobbyists with home printers who would like to help should email hello@midton.com.'

Frustrated at the speed of  
**Continued on page two.**



## Raising a glass to Big Donald

In this week's edition we carry a tribute to a larger-than-life character, Donald Clark of Inveraray, who died earlier this year. Turn to page 23.

## What we are doing to help

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Keeping our community informed

**All the information on our website is available free - you don't have to log in**

If you want to get the "page turner" version of the newspaper and can't get to the shops we have halved the price of our digital edition for the next 3 months. We will review this on an ongoing basis.

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Su Black, Beinn an Tuirc's head distiller, with a bottle of the alcohol-based hand sanitiser.

## Argyll adapts in the face of coronavirus

**Continued from page one** supply of protective equipment for health and care workers, a Strachur GP has started making face masks with his 3D printer – and he is also looking for help.

Dr Robbie Coull said: 'The government seems to have been slow to react. We are told supplies are coming but there is still a shortage of protective equipment nationally.'

'I was looking for a design and found one invented by a doctor based at Billings Clinic in Montana. They are washable. All you need to do is replace the filter every time.'

'What I now need is people with 3D printers to get involved in making these masks,' added Dr Coull.

To find out more, contact Dr Coull by email covid@strachurmedical.com or via twitter @DrRCoull.

On the roads of Argyll, despite having to operate a

reduced bus service, West Coast Motors is offering free bus travel for all NHS workers. This is available by presenting a valid NHS card to the driver.

The bus operator is also offering a delivery service for those most vulnerable. Volunteer support groups and businesses are encouraged to contact area managers to co-ordinate this service for those they are helping.

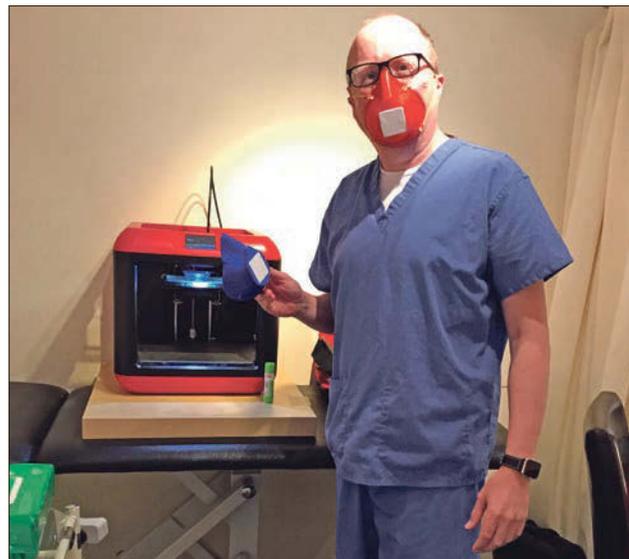
Courier business AM Transport is also offering its services free to anyone in need. A spokesperson said: 'We can collect and deliver your shopping order to your home and if there are other issues you may be facing, we will do our best to offer help where we can.'

Call the company's head office on 01586 554270 or, out of hours, director Ewan McIlroy can be reached on 07717 817395. And there are many more firms doing good work for the community.



An example of the type of face shield Midton can manufacture.

**■ If you know of people showing innovation and resilience in the COVID-19 crisis, let us know at editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk**



Dr Robbie Coull is looking for help to make protective masks.

## Council changes how it makes decisions

Argyll and Bute Council has agreed major changes to its decision-making processes as part of its response to COVID-19.

Council leader Councillor Aileen Morton explained: 'Our committee system works well when we can plan ahead and deliver meetings focusing on different areas of the council's work.'

'The COVID-19 pandemic, however, is changing quickly. Our decision-making process has to be flexible enough to deliver decisions rapidly so we are doing all we can to protect our employees and communities. At the same time, we have to continue with the normal business of the council as we deliver a wide range of services for young and old, businesses and communities. We have to find ways to maintain vital services using as few resources as possible considering the enormous scale of work we are doing to respond to COVID-19.'

'The changes agreed today [Tuesday March 31] make it easier to take urgent decisions when needed and to continue progressing the longer term business of the council.'

A special meeting of the

full council agreed to set up a Business Continuity Committee (BCC) to temporarily replace and do the work of its numerous scheduled committees.

Nine councillors, from the area's 36 elected members, will sit on the BCC to deal with normal business that would usually be managed by the full council or another committee.

Members of the BCC are: Aileen Morton, chairwoman; Gary Mulvaney, vice-chairman; Kieron Green; Yvonne McNeilly; Robin Currie; Rory Colville; Sandy Taylor; Dougie Philand and Lorna Douglas.

The BCC will function as other committees, with published agendas, reports and minutes. Councillors also noted the chief executive has the authority through the council's constitution to make urgent decisions that would normally go to a committee for consideration, if required.

During this period of responding to COVID-19, councillors agreed to widen the consultation the chief executive is required to make for these decisions to include the leader, depute leader and leader of the opposition where available.

## POLICE FILES

### Car scratched

Sometime between 1.30pm and 5pm on Friday March 20, the passenger door of a blue Nissan Qashqai parked on Union Street, Lochgilphead, near the TSB bank, was scratched. Police are investigating the incident and appeal for anyone with information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

### Drug possession

At 12.25am on Tuesday March 24, a car was stopped and searched by police on the A816 near Cairnbaan. A man, aged 19, was allegedly found in possession of cannabis and a 24-year-old woman was allegedly found in possession of cocaine. The pair were charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

### No insurance

A driver, aged 54, was issued with a £300 fixed penalty ticket and six penalty points for having no insurance when travelling on the A83 near Lochgair on Sunday March 29 at 12.40am. The vehicle was seized by police.

### Vehicles damaged

The wing mirrors of a blue Audi A1 and a Renault van on Barmore Road, Tarbert, were damaged by another vehicle around 12.40pm on Friday March 27.

The offending vehicle failed to stop and report the incident.

Police are investigating and are appealing for witnesses or anyone with information to contact them.

■ 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.

**READMORE**

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## Caring for People helpline launched

A dedicated helpline has been set up for people across Argyll and Bute who need help during the coronavirus outbreak.

The Caring for People helpline brings together partner agencies and covers a range of issues including help for those who are experiencing difficulties accessing food or prescriptions, business advice including access to grants and anyone with financial or personal concerns.

The contact number 01546 605524 is available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. An answering

machine service will be accept messages out-with office hours and at weekends.

The helpline number can be used by British Sign Language users through contactSCOTLAND-BSL and access to a browsaloud function for visually impaired and language translation is available through Argyll and Bute Council's website.

In addition you can use an online request form by visiting argyllandbute.custhelp.com/app/VOL/Help\_Request



### Davaar Island Safe Walking Times

	Morning Safe Walking Times			Afternoon Safe Walking Times		
	Low Tide	From	Til	Low Tide	From	Til
Wed, 1 Apr 2020	11:18	08:18	13:48			
Thu, 2 Apr 2020	12:26	09:26	14:56			
Fri, 3 Apr 2020				13:47	10:47	16:17
Sat, 4 Apr 2020				15:08	12:08	17:38
Sun, 5 Apr 2020				16:08	13:08	18:38
Mon, 6 Apr 2020				16:56	13:56	19:26
Tue, 7 Apr 2020				17:40	14:40	20:10
Wed, 8 Apr 2020				18:22	15:22	20:52
Thu, 9 Apr 2020	06:50	03:50	09:20	19:05	16:05	21:35
Fri, 10 Apr 2020	07:33	04:33	10:03	19:49	16:49	22:19
Sat, 11 Apr 2020	08:17	05:17	10:47			
Sun, 12 Apr 2020	09:04	06:04	11:34			
Mon, 13 Apr 2020	09:54	06:54	12:24			
Tue, 14 Apr 2020	10:54	07:54	13:24			
Wed, 15 Apr 2020	12:13	09:13	14:43			
Thu, 16 Apr 2020				13:35	10:35	16:05
Fri, 17 Apr 2020				14:42	11:42	17:12
Sat, 18 Apr 2020				15:37	12:37	18:07
Sun, 19 Apr 2020				16:24	13:24	18:54
Mon, 20 Apr 2020				17:04	14:04	19:34
Tue, 21 Apr 2020				17:39	14:39	20:09
Wed, 22 Apr 2020				18:09	15:09	20:39
Thu, 23 Apr 2020				18:38	15:38	21:08
Fri, 24 Apr 2020				19:07	16:07	21:37
Sat, 25 Apr 2020	07:15	04:15	09:45	19:38	16:38	22:08
Sun, 26 Apr 2020	07:49	04:49	10:19	20:14	17:14	22:44
Mon, 27 Apr 2020	08:28	05:28	10:58			
Tue, 28 Apr 2020	09:11	06:11	11:41			
Wed, 29 Apr 2020	10:02	07:02	12:32			
Thu, 30 Apr 2020	11:00	08:00	13:30			

Stay safe: Check weather conditions and hours of daylight before you go



In an emergency, dial 999 and ask for the Coastguard

# Health bosses under fire after dementia ward closure

by Colin Cameron  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

A health workers' union has joined Argyll and Bute councillors, patients' relatives and a former consultant psychiatrist in condemning the decision to close Knapdale dementia ward.

As reported in last week's Advertiser, Argyll and Bute Integration Joint Board (IJB) agreed on Wednesday March 25 to close the ward, which is within Mid Argyll Hospital. Instead, dementia care will be

moved entirely to the community, with severe cases being accommodated in specialist care centres in Glasgow.

Prior to the IJB meeting, a consultation was carried out around Argyll in March. A dementia steering group will now be created to manage the transition.

## Alternative

Campaigners, including many nursing staff, proposed an alternative dementia strategy with an upgraded ward in support of the proposed community care model.

Under this vision, Knapdale Ward would house day care, respite and information services and as a base for community nursing staff.

Speaking after the closure decision, Joanna Macdonald, chief officer of Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, said: 'This decision will allow us to significantly increase our investment in dementia services within our communities so we can build up our dementia teams and provide the appropriate clinical expertise locally.'



Campaigners to retain Knapdale Ward at an earlier IJB meeting. Their protests have fallen on deaf ears within the IJB. 51\_a06KnapdaleWardProtest03

'It will also allow many more people living with dementia to be supported to live longer in their own homes and communities across Argyll and Bute.'

'We will also continue to work closely with the families of patients within Knapdale Ward as to the change to their care arrangements.'

Former consultant psychiatrist on Knapdale Ward Dr Jan Calder favours the alternative model.

She told the Advertiser: 'We are not going to let this rest.'

A campaign group includ-

ing Dr Calder, Councillor Anne Horn, Councillor Dougie Philand and Belinda Braithwaite, whose husband was looked after in Knapdale Ward, later issued a joint statement saying: 'This is a hugely disrespectful and unforgivable decision. It is harmful to the most vulnerable people in our communities and their families.'

'It is a missed opportunity. Knapdale could have been re-purposed as part of an integrated health and social care service in Argyll and Bute.'

Trade union Unison said it was 'dismayed' at the decision, adding in a statement: 'The IJB was urged by many not to proceed, including by local MSP and Minister Michael Russell who called for such measures to be shelved amid the COVID-19 crisis.'

## Disappointing

The statement continued: 'It is disappointing the IJB did not focus on backing their staff.'

'Instead it exploited the lack of scrutiny provided by the crisis to push through an unpopular decision.'

# 'Critical' pylon project must continue despite coronavirus crisis

by Colin Cameron  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

The main contractor on a major pylon upgrade project found itself at the centre of an online furore as workers continued to travel between work and home during the coronavirus lockdown.

A number of people posted on Facebook to criticise Balfour Beatty workers' actions, with many personnel said to be travelling home to other parts of Scotland and the north of England before returning to work in Mid Argyll at the beginning of the week.

Councillor Dougie Philand described the situation as 'unbelievable' but the power company behind the project has defended the contractor, stressing the work continues to operate in line with current government guidance.

Balfour Beattie is employed



A row has broken out over work continuing on a major pylon upgrade in Mid Argyll.

by SSEN Transmission on the Inveraray-Crossaig line upgrade project. A spokesperson for SSEN Transmission said: 'In line with latest guidance from the UK and Scottish governments, work in the area is continuing because they are

part of an urgent, critical programme to rebuild the line to ensure the continued safe and reliable supply of electricity in the region.

'Any postponement or temporary suspension of this work could severely impact the electricity network's ability to serve the area in the medium term.'

A Balfour Beatty spokesperson added: 'The health, safety and wellbeing of all those who work with and for us, as well as the general public, is always our priority.'

'We recognise the situation is evolving and we will continue to shape our approach and keep our employees updated, whether working on our sites and contracts or at home. Our crisis management team meets daily to understand the evolving situation and to enable Balfour Beatty to respond swiftly to any changes.'



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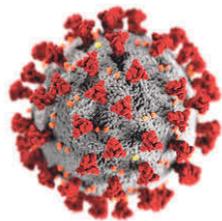
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# Tackling the coronavirus together



As the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues, incredible community spirit is being shown across the region, with volunteer support groups coming together to offer help to those in isolation.

## CRAIGNISH

Craignish Community Council has combined with the village hall committee, Craignish Community Company and other organisations to create the Craignish Coronavirus (COVID-19) Local Co-ordination Group, offering help to the vulnerable on the Craignish peninsula.

Information is being shared on the Craignish Community Facebook page and contact details for community councillors can be found on the Craignish Community Council website.

## FURNACE

A support network has been set up by Furnace SCIO to ensure those in self-isolation can receive supplies. Orders can be made to Furnace Stores and will be delivered by volunteers, who will observe all the necessary precautions when delivering. Collection and delivery of prescriptions from Inveraray Pharmacy can also be arranged. The

service is available to Furnace and Minard residents. For more information, call Lynda on 07799 622927.

## INVERARAY

Inveraray Community Council has formed a volunteer group to deliver essential groceries or prescriptions from businesses to those in need. To arrange a delivery, or volunteer your services, contact Linda on 07388 165366 or Aly on 07717 885404.

## MID ARGYLL

A Facebook group called Mid Argyll Coronavirus Support Group has been launched,

offering support, advice and key information as the situation develops.

The group is making it quick and easy for people to volunteer to help and for those self-isolating to ask for assistance. As things change, group administrator Steven Timothy hopes to keep members up to date with national and local developments and be able to advertise formal volunteer groups.

## MINARD

Minard Good Neighbours are offering support to those isolating. Brian and Becs Barker are available on 01546 886273; Liz Feeney on 01546 886276; and Margaret Moncur on 01546 886252. Further information can also be found at [minard.org.uk](http://minard.org.uk).

## TARBERT

New volunteer group Team Tarbert is on the case in the lochside village and surrounding areas. For those needing assistance, you can contact the group via the Team Tarbert Facebook page, which is being treated like a noticeboard for requests, without sharing personal details, then a volunteer will respond. Alternatively, phone

one of the key contacts: Fiona McTaggart, 07717 325628; Ailsa Laing, 07748 641412; Johnathan Arnott, 01880 820341; Anne MacArthur, 07484 928026; Alice Kilbride, 07488 293523; Bea McAllister, 01880 820061; or Izzy McGarrie, 07776 349788.

## TAYVALLICH

A volunteer phone tree has been launched by a Tayvallich resident. Kirsten Logue is keeping a log of volunteers'

information to help co-ordinate those offering to deliver shopping, walk dogs and post mail.

To add your name to the list email your name, number, what 'region' of Tayvallich you are in, for example Carsaig, Keills Peninsula, Scotnish, and how you can help to [kjlogue@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kjlogue@hotmail.co.uk)

If you require any assistance, use the same email address to contact Kirsten so volunteers can be co-ordinated for you.

## KILMICHAEL AND KILMARTIN

Dunadd Community Council is seeking volunteers to help deliver shopping, pick up prescriptions or even just have a chat over the phone with those in isolation. With a large area to cover, the community council has printable leaflets on its website [www.dunaddcc.org](http://www.dunaddcc.org) that neighbours can distribute, helping to reach those in rural areas and make them aware of the support being offered.

To make use of this service

or to volunteer, contact the key co-ordinators for your area:

Kilmartin – Jim Malcolm on 01546 510540 or [jgmalcolm@btinternet.com](mailto:jgmalcolm@btinternet.com)

Ford – Amber Crowley on 01546 810328 or [amber\\_crowley@outlook.com](mailto:amber_crowley@outlook.com)

Slockavullin – Sue Maclean on 01546 510297 or [sue.mclean10@googlemail.com](mailto:sue.mclean10@googlemail.com)

Kilmartin – David Smart on 07758 130576 or [david@dwsassoc.com](mailto:david@dwsassoc.com)

**■ If your group has been missed, let us know by emailing [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk) or via the Argyllshire Advertiser Facebook page.**

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## Chilled raspberry-ripple lemon soufflés



1 Syn per serving | 1 hour | Serves 4

### Ingredients

- 5 sheets leaf gelatine
- 200g raspberries, reserving 4 berries to decorate
- Zest and juice of 3 unwaxed lemons, plus thin lemon wedges to decorate
- 3 large egg yolks, 4 large egg whites\*

### Method:

- Tightly tie strips of non-stick baking paper around 4 individual, straight-sided soufflé dishes (about 9cm wide x 5cm deep, or 200ml), leaving a 4cm collar above the rims. Then soak the gelatine in cold water for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, purée the raspberries in a food processor and set aside.
- Put the lemon zest and juice, egg yolks and sweetener in a large, heatproof bowl. Boil a pan of water, then turn off the heat. Place the bowl over the water, making sure the base isn't touching the water. Using an electric hand whisk, beat the lemon mixture for 5 minutes, or until pale in colour and slightly thickened.
- Heat 3 tbsp water in a small pan, so it just covers the base. Squeeze the water from the gelatine. Put the leaves in the hot water, take the pan off the heat immediately and stir until dissolved. Then whisk into the lemon mixture (still over water); set the bowl aside to cool completely.

- 4 level tbsp sweetener
  - 500g fat-free, no-added-sugar vanilla yogurt
- \*Pregnant women, the elderly, babies and toddlers are advised to choose eggs showing the British Lion stamp if eating raw or partially cooked eggs*

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# Reasons to be cheerful

In these uncertain days, from time to time it is important to focus on the more positive and light-hearted sides of life. We asked our readers for their reasons to be cheerful amid the ongoing coronavirus crisis. Many thanks to everyone who has replied.

**Paula Cameron** from Ard-rishaig told us she has been busy with nine-year-old son Rhys making rainbows during these days of social distancing. 'Our neighbour shouted across and asked us if Rhys could paint one on paper so she could have one for her window,' explained Paula. 'We are going to start doing Easter cards to post out to people who live alone.'

'Rhys has also been making posters, one with a green tick and another with a red cross, for our friends and family to put in their windows to show if they are okay or need help.' Paula added: 'We have been doing homework also but I'm not being strict on it. 'It's a huge change for the kids and a very long day stuck indoors so trying to make everything fun.'



Above: The young artist waves beside a rainbow. Right: Rhys has been painting signs for his family.



The **Clap for Carers** campaign on the evening of Thursday March 26 was well supported in Mid Argyll and Tarbert.

People were encouraged to stand at their gardens, balconies, front doors and windows

to give a round of applause to NHS staff and carers working in the front line against coronavirus.

While out applauding, **residents from Cnoc Mor Place, Lochgilphead**, decided they needed to find a way to

have more 'almost get-togethers' during this time of isolation. So the following night, a suitable distance apart, they 'met' for a remote street party.

In their candlelit gardens, and wrapped in blankets, they gathered as famous

fiddler Archie McAllister was streamed live. Resident **Claire Cameron** said: 'Hopefully we will do it again.'

'We even said we could make it a competition to see who has the best decorated garden each week.'



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## LETTERS

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or The Editor, 44 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8NB

## A big hand

We join our communities in applauding the people at the sharp end of the coronavirus outbreak.

In this time of crisis, we have nothing but admiration for frontline health, care and other local authority staff – and even management – who are having to deal with the virus close-up.

Let's not forget everyone else working on for the benefit of our society, from shop workers to lorry drivers and the emergency services – and many more besides. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

There are a few numpties who believe they are invincible and fail to abide by our new social rules – but people in general appear to be complying, difficult as it may be, for the greater good.

And no matter how many cases there may have been locally, the same rules still apply.

Stay safe and keep helping each other.

## Need to travel?

There has been controversy over contractors on the new pylon line travelling home at weekends – see page three. We asked, but the answers we received failed to address the need to travel home. Why keep travelling backwards and forwards?

## Thank you

Sir,  
I would like to thank all our customers for their support during these very difficult times.

I want to thank all for their nice comments and understanding – our staff are doing their utmost to help and be there for everyone. Thanks also to Yvonne for the offer of help and to RJD Brickwork for offering his van for deliveries.

Times ahead are going to be hard and we will do our best to provide a service to the community and help where needed.

Also thank you to all key workers, even us. Boris was calling us non-skilled but I know the skills needed. Thank you to all the other stores open and all emergency services, the NHS and the other workers you don't think about.

**John at the Co, Lochgilphead.**

## Happy memories

Sir,  
Having lived at Bellanoch Bay for many years, I used to visit John MacPherson at his coal yard and the highlight of the week was when a puffer arrived, which was busy time for John as the puffer wanted to unload as quickly as possible.

Being a keen teenager at the time I soon gave John a helping hand on his rounds to Kilmichael Glassary, Kilmartin and Ford, to name a few villages he covered over the week.

Thank you Elma for sharing your interesting photograph, as printed in the Friday March 20 edition of this paper.

**David Wright, Largs.**

## Closure of Knapdale Ward

Sir,  
The closure of Knapdale Ward would be a folly of the first degree.

I have seen many specialised services in the NHS closed or moved to a large centre with no benefit to the community and little financial saving, since the NHS moves on much faster due to the changing nature of health and skills.

Moving dementia patients to the Glasgow and Clyde area will be of no benefit to the patients or their relatives and friends at a time of their life when the patients need that contact. If Knapdale ward was a cancer or organ transplant centre, then there would be a howl and loud outcry to keep it open.

As a former technical manager of a service within the NHS, I have heard again and again the cry: 'It will be better to have all the patients within a specialised unit' – and for some services this might be a justified argument. But we must ask ourselves, these are elderly people who are near the end of their life and their greatest need is for care and the closeness of family and friends. If we deprive them, and Argyll, of that care service for the elderly, it will be irresponsible.

If it is just for cost and staffing, then we should learn the lessons of this current coronavirus, where we were unprepared and cost savings over the past decade have led to the NHS being short of vital equipment and staff and no workable strategy that will get us through this pandemic without much hardship. Now we have thrown hundreds of billions at this problem and we have had to call on staff who were discarded

over the years for help. We should have learned that dementia has more social aspects than other illnesses, most patients need their loved ones nearby.

We ought to do more to find ways to keep Knapdale open for its vital dementia service. We need to change our thinking, as I am sure many a politician will do when the final tally of the current pandemic is made, that we do not just ringfence money for the NHS – we need to spend as much money that provides a decent and world class health service come what may; and supports all the staff that we have stood up to clap for, for their dedication to us all.

**Derrick Anstee, Inveraray.**

## Joiners of today

Some Argyllshire Advertiser readers are using this time to pen poetry, not letters. The first of these to come through our letterbox is titled 'Joiners of today':

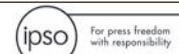
*I listened and I listened  
To hear the hammer's clout  
As MK their business  
Progressed without a shout*

*So silently they toiled  
Outwith my own earshot  
To bring about a mansion house  
Without a hammer's clout*

*The hammer's thump on nail or thumb  
Has silentness become  
For joiners now both old and young  
Work wonders with a gun*

## 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@campbeltowncourier.co.uk](mailto:editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk); telephoning the chief reporter on 01546 602345 or write to the Group Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will try to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can call IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email [inquiries@ipso.co.uk](mailto: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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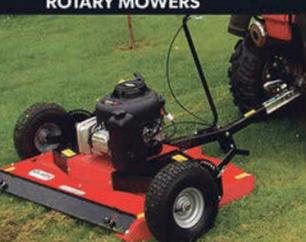




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*So all and sundry listen now  
And hail the glorious 12th  
When MK their joiners take  
To roam the moor with stealth*

*The ancient butts with heather clad  
Will soon come tumbling down  
As joiners with their silent guns  
Erect a mini town.  
Name and address supplied.*

### It's time to demand earlier diagnosis for ovarian cancer

My mother, the actress Marjie Lawrence, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer just three weeks before she died.

This was in 2010 and she had been tireless in her search for a diagnosis from her GP and specialists to whom she was referred.

If you believe in a future where every woman diagnosed with ovarian cancer has the best chance of survival, please sign our call to action.

**Sarah Greene,**  
Target Ovarian Cancer patron.

## YOUR PICTURES



Reader Avril Lockhart, of Cairnbaan, snapped this week's featured photograph while out for a walk.

Taken from the Dunardry viewpoint, Avril has captured a bird's eye view of Mòine Mhór.

Avril said: 'I needed to get out for some fresh air and

to take a moment to stop thinking about the coronavirus. I really appreciate living in Argyll at times like this.'

Send your favourite photographs for publication to [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)

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# Ag's life under lockdown



Last day of winter and daffodils hold spring hope. Inset: The Wilkie/Steven extended family in Zoom call get together, beating the lockdown blues.

Retired TV executive and journalist Agnes Wilkie, now resident in south Knapdale, has been keeping a daily diary of life under government movement restrictions, effective from Tuesday March 24, as part of measures to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

## SELF-ISOLATION DAY 1

### Tuesday March 24

Awoke in own bed for first time in a week and since COVID-19 lockdown. Can hardly believe yesterday I was fighting to get out of London madness.

Then reality strikes. COVID-19 is here too.

Neighbours are strictly self-isolating for health reasons and are anxious. They're being looked after by newly formed Kilberry Support Group, doing sterling work. Thanks to David and Clare at the Kilberry Inn, looks like we'll even get fresh fruit and veg deliveries!

Note to self: cut social media intake by half, limit radio news to twice a day, once on TV. As a journalist (retired) that's hard. Subscribe to local paper online - we need to know what's going on in our community more than in Westminster.

Challenge is not to eat. Today lunch was a banana, apple and orange. By 5pm we were in our little torture chamber of rowing machine, step and multi-gym to strains of Garbage. Not my choice.

Broke my internet rule already. WhatsApp message from our daughter, key worker in London with fellow key worker husband and three children under six, that the baby's nursery had closed.

Try to sleep in hope tomorrow will be a better day.

## DAY 2

### Wednesday March 25

A grey day. Resolved to be more constructive. Projects: a path and a veg plot. I support latter but not former. Husband developed path obsession.

Lunchtime and still immersed in social media and news but trying to research home-grown veg. Maybe an apple for lunch will help? And Kilberry Road Support Group on full flour alert for me.

Today's highlight: Zoom hosted family get-together with three generations from London, Herts, Milton Keynes, Blantyre, Campbelltown and Kilberry.

Gym then pasta salad, news, light relief from Phil and

Kirstie and early bed. After a slice of millionaire shortbread. To dream of the (still) not started veg plot.

## DAY 3

### Thursday March 26

Another grey day, but today is Action Day!

#### TO DO LIST

- Gardening with socially distanced gardener
  - Build veg plot
  - Write to CEO EasyJet for cancelled flights refund
  - Cook something amazing
  - Gym
  - Wash hair
  - Write best-selling novel
- Now, that was positive start. How did it actually go?

#### DID LIST

- Scrubbed bathroom floor on hands and knees like olden days
- Chatted to John the gardener at safe distance
- Waved to neighbours
- Made spagbol (but amazing spagbol!)
- Worried about bread flour
- Worried about grandchildren in London
- Wrote five-page letter of complaint to EasyJet
- Gym, dinner, bed

## DAY 4

### Friday March 27

How to make Friday special?

#### TO NOT DO LIST

- Gym
- Worrying about things can't control
- Social media

#### TO DO

- Make bread with ordinary flour
- Prep special corona cocktails
- Create corona cocktail hour
- Light veg plot digging
- Write best-selling novel
- Work out how to livestream Royal Opera House's Peter and The Wolf

#### DID

- Grey roots touch up diy job
- White wash with blue T-shirt, oops
- Discovered joy of strimming! Who knew? Male conspiracy?
- Worked out how to

livestream Peter and The Wolf but satellite broadband package ran out

- Corona cocktails started early, lasted hours
- Dreamt about strimming.

## DAY 5

### Saturday March 28

Abandoning TO DO lists. Nothing gets done.

Slight hangover from cocktail hour, fixed by 8am Zoom with extended family. Supermarket queues massive down south, thank goodness for Tarbert Co-op.

Postman delivered L'Oreal Magic Retouch spray. Instant root concealer.

Ride on lawn mowed grass then cuffed husband at table tennis. Table tennis = no gym hurrah! Husband digging 'The Veg Plot'.

I bath soak, worrying about rampantly greying hair.

It's Saturday night. Gorgeous last day of winter so sundowners on terrace and leftovers from fridge. Made hummus for delicious nibbles.

(Almost) no social media all day. Husband watched weird Tim Burton movie and I went to bed, dreamt had no shoes but HAD to go for a long walk in excruciatingly ill-fitting ones. Deep, eh?

## DAY 6

### Sunday March 29

Soooo quiet without planes or Islay ferry's frequent trips up and down West Loch. Still going but at fewer runs. Always quiet but...deeper quiet somehow. No church so challenge to find calming substitute.

Long ramble cross-country, back in time to see Finlaggan back from Islay. Felt moving seeing island lifeline in serene operation.

House bedecked with fallen daffodils. Emailed friends in big city of Tarbert. Proper Sunday roast chicken dinner. Yum.

Quick gym and bath before scoffing with one glass wine then my favourite Sunday night combo: Escape to Chateau/Antiques Roadshow. So to bed and some very, very strange dreams.



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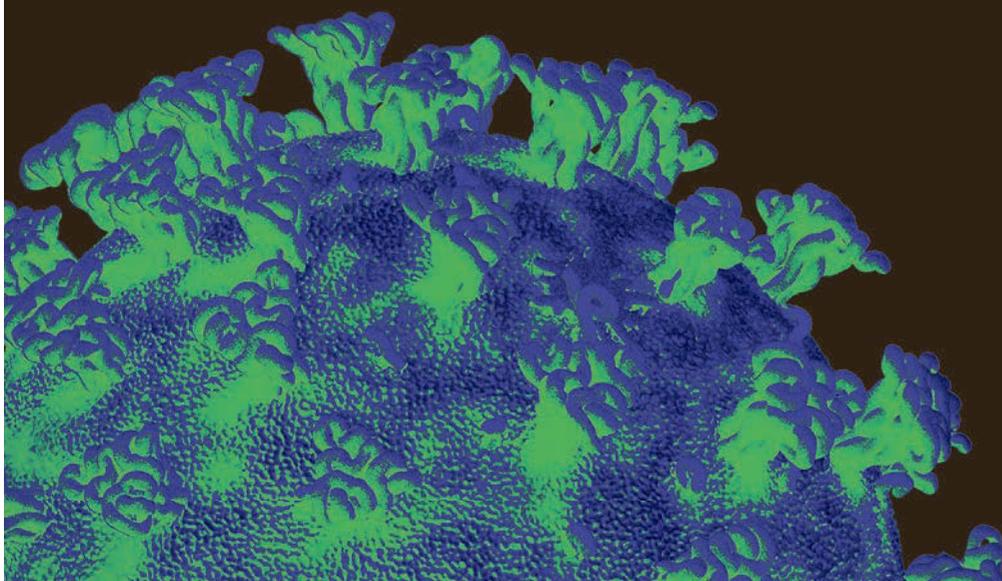
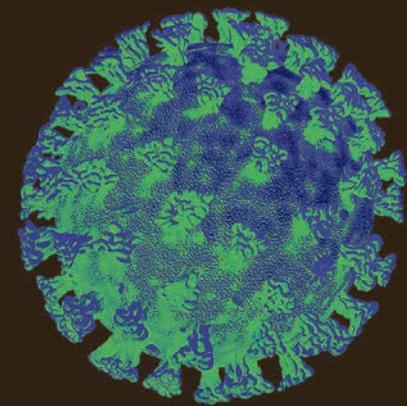
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- ✔ To exercise once a day, alone or with members of your household
- ✘ Do not meet others, even friends or family



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THE NHS  
SAVE LIVES**

Keeping our community informed

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# A shaggy dog story

It goes without saying that the COVID-19 situation is extremely serious and we must all abide by the rules to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

But our regular artistic contributor Ann Thomas manages, as ever, to find the lighter side.

This week Ann has a wry take on social distancing, and the exceptions to the basic rule that we should all stay well apart from each other.

Keeping our community informed

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## Jack protects Blarbuie beauty

One Lochgilphead boy is going the extra mile as he does his bit for the environment.

Eleven-year-old Jack Rhodick decided to make his evening stroll on Sunday March 15 into a litter pick, collecting all the rubbish he spotted while walking around Blarbuie Woodland.

Mum Diane McCumiskey said: 'We regularly go on walks round the back of the hospital where we stay and generally bin any rubbish we find. Quite often, though, we will go just a few days later and there is rubbish everywhere again. This time Jack decided he wanted to take a bag and it was amazing how quickly we filled it.'

Jack, who had previously decided to make his litter picks a weekly thing before the latest government advice, is hoping to carry on his good deed and plans to still get out for a short while every Sunday to help keep the woodland clean.



Jack Rhodick on one of his litter picks.

# The voyages of the Fulmar

## – part 11

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

The Fulmar, a 41f gaff cutter built in 1901, was owned by Commander Ralph G Mowat, RN (Rtd).

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'.

It was such a fine day, sunny and with a good drying breeze, all our wet things including the tents were soon dry and the fire was allowed to go out. The paid hand from the Ormidale passed and spoke to us saying he hoped we were going to be at Tobermory for the regatta as it would not be the same without Fulmar which, with Leonara, were the two best known yachts in the west. We had given Allan a copy of the CCC [Clyde Cruising Club] Journal and the paid hand had had a read of it and he congratulated the Pilot (through the Skipper) for the fine effort it undoubtedly is.

The Pilot and Bosun went ashore and got petrol and water and a new cane for the Western Isle burgee and at the same time the Mate, Tanky and Tar were off on a huge store hunt. The Pilot and Bosun came back and the former had another crack at stopping the drip in the semi-rotary pump. On completion of the hunt the Mate hailed Fulmar and the Bosun went in and fetched the shoppers off. Besides getting stores they had had a coffee in the cafe and had got some letters at the Post Office – one from the Purser, one from the Doctor saying he would be joining us this afternoon

in Tobermory and one for the Tanky.

The Bosun rigged the dinghy and had a little sailing but it was unsatisfactory as one of the pintals on the rudder had cracked and opened up and the rudder would not stay in position. The metal was tired and later, when trying to straighten it, it fractured and went to the bottom.

### Wasp

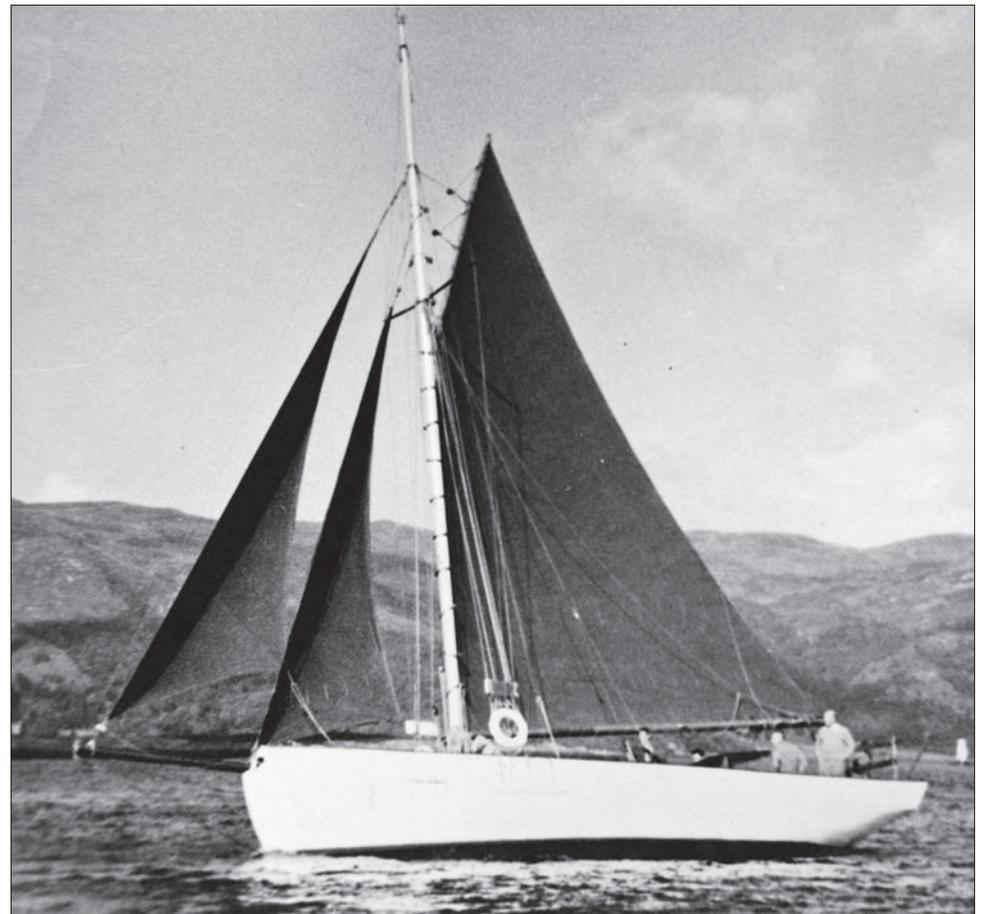
Just before lunch a wasp settled on the Skipper's thigh and, not noticing it, he put his hand on it and got stung dead in the centre of his palm and had to have the nip taken out of it by the Mate who swabbed it with baking soda. Our lunch, which we had at two o'clock, was ham sandwiches and tea and, it being such a lovely day, we had it on deck.

At three o'clock we decided we couldn't waste such a perfect sailing day by remaining at anchor so the sails went up to the moderate northerly breeze and under jib and main we reached across to Auliston Point then crossed Loch Sunart to the Ardnamurchan shore. Here we came about and reached back to Tobermory retracing our steps exactly.

As we came into the Sound of Mull we could see the Loch Earn coming away from

Drimnin and heading for Tobermory and we knew the Doctor aboard her would see us and not be worried by not seeing us in the harbour. It was a very pleasant sail though coldish at times and for the first time cameras appeared and shutters kept clicking constantly. As we came into Tobermory at about five o'clock we met Venture coming out on her way to Loch Sunart and we could see the Doctor waiting for us on the verandah above the new pier.

As soon as we were anchored the Skipper went ashore for the Doctor and in his excitement he forgot to post the ship's mail given him by the mate. The Doctor had his gear parked in the Mishnish so a visit there was necessary before returning aboard. As soon as they were back aboard we had tea and the Doctor gave the Skipper Rachel Carson's 'Edge of the Sea' for the ship's library then all but the Doctor (who was busy changing his clothes), the Mate, and Skipper went ashore for a stroll and while they were away the Islay and Marjory came in and the latter anchored close beside us. In her were an old couple (both in the region of 70 we reckoned) who must have had their hands full during the past few days.



The Fulmar. 51\_a48Fulmar01



'The Cutwater'. 51\_a14Fulmar01\_Cutwater

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# Public asked to exercise responsibility when on farmland

As the COVID-19 lockdown continues, people exercising in the countryside are being asked to bear in mind social distancing and adhere to sign requests.

Farming union NFU Scotland issued the appeal after a large increase in the amount of access issues being reported to it by members, particularly around towns and villages.

Given social distancing requirements, the public are now seeking routes where they are less likely to encounter other people – often away from formal paths.

The union is reminding the general public that farming

activities such as lambing and calving are ongoing and requests that people ensure they do not do anything which could jeopardise this. This includes not taking access to fields where there are young lambs or calves present, ensuring that they adhere to social distancing requirements if they come across farmers or farm workers and finding alternative routes when asked to do so.

Where the public are exercising with dogs, it is important that they are kept in sight and under close control. In order to ensure the safety of farmers and their workers during COVID-19, the public

may encounter additional sign requests, which they are urged to adhere to.

Gemma Cooper, NFU Scotland head of policy team, said: 'In these unprecedented circumstances, farmers are already seeing an increasing number of access issues being caused by the public taking their daily exercise.'

'It is important for the public to understand that farming activities are food production and these must continue during COVID-19. NFU Scotland is asking the public to ensure their behaviour does not make farming any more difficult than it already is in these unprecedented times.'



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# Coronavirus

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We value everyone in our society – and we want you to stay safe and well. And that particularly applies if you are over 70, pregnant (in early pregnancy and after 28 weeks) or eligible for the flu vaccine for health reasons.

You can still get fresh air and stay safe. Got a garden? Make the most of it. A walk around the block is just as good.

**Limit outings to once a day and please remember to stay 2 metres away from others** to avoid putting yourself and other people at risk.

Older people or those who may be concerned can call Age Scotland for information, friendship and advice, FREE on **0800 12 44 222**.

You can find the latest information and practical advice at **[readyscotland.org](https://www.readyscotland.org)**



CORONAVIRUS

**STAY HOME  
PROTECT  
THE NHS  
SAVE LIVES**

# West Coast MOTORING

✓ GARAGES ✓ DEALERSHIPS ✓ PRIVATE SALES ✓ NEWS

## PEUGEOT MAKES HISTORY BY WINNING THE PRESTIGIOUS 'CAR OF THE YEAR' AWARD FOR THE SIXTH TIME IN 2020

PRESS RELEASE



Peugeot has won Europe's most coveted automotive award, the 'Car Of The Year' title for the sixth time, becoming only the third brand to do so. The prestigious trophy was presented to the all-new Peugeot 208 after being judged by an independent jury of 60 European automotive journalists.

Peugeot has previously won the award five times across five different vehicles. These include the Peugeot 504 sedan (1969), 405 sedan (1988), 307 (2002) and 308 (2014) hatchbacks, and the 3008 SUV in 2017. The 3008 SUV was the first SUV to win the award since its creation in 1964.

The Peugeot brand's record reflects the outstanding design, technical innovation

and performance of its vehicles over the past 50 years.

The all-new Peugeot 208 has become the sixth Peugeot model to win Europe's most prestigious automotive award. With a sharp design, engaging driving dynamics and clever use of technology, the all-new 208 was awarded the 'Car Of The Year' title by more than 60 leading European automotive journalists.

With a choice of both efficient petrol and diesel engines, as well as a full electric variant, the all-new 208 forms a part of Peugeot's new strategy of 'unboring the future' by giving drivers the power of choice: 'choose your Peugeot, choose your powertrain.'

The all-new Peugeot e-208 represents a new leap in the world of electric mobility. With a range of 217 miles (under WLTP testing), its 100 kW (136 bhp) electric motor with 260 Nm of torque (available from 0mph) enables it to go from 0-62mph in just 8.1 seconds.

The all-new Peugeot e-208 also features three driving modes: Sport, Normal and Eco.

The all-new Peugeot 208 has already received 130,000 orders in Europe, including 15 per cent for the electric e-208 since its launch in September 2019. To find out more visit [www.campbeltownmotor-company.co.uk](http://www.campbeltownmotor-company.co.uk)

<p><b>NEW CAR INDEX</b></p>	 <p><b>SUZUKI</b> Gordon Motors UK Dealer Of The Year 2014 Comrie Rd, Crieff, Perthshire PH7 4BQ Tel.01764 652125 Delivery throughout the West <a href="http://www.suzuki.co.uk/gordonmotors">www.suzuki.co.uk/gordonmotors</a></p>	 <p>W.D. Semple <a href="http://www.wdsemple.com">www.wdsemple.com</a> Inveraray Shore Street Tel.01499 302150 Lochgilphhead Highbank Park 01546 606767/ 606272</p>	 <p><b>ISUZU</b> S &amp; S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr 01292 880080 01292 880440</p>	 <p><b>Great Wall</b> S &amp; S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr 01292 880080 01292 880440</p>	 <p><b>SUBARU</b> S &amp; S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr 01292 880080/880440</p>
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# West Coast PROPERTY

✓ SALES ✓ LETS ✓ COMMERCIAL ✓ ESTATE AGENTS ✓ NEWS

## Property market adapts to social distancing measures

Guidance around property buying and selling during the COVID-19 outbreak from the government and relevant industry bodies is changing on a regular basis. Contact an ESPC solicitor estate agent for the most up to date information.

In the past couple of weeks, despite the new restrictions on daily lives, ESPC agents continue to report cases of buyers paying in excess of the Home Report valuation for a house or flat along with many properties going to closing dates. This indicates buyers are keen to secure property purchases despite the COVID-19 outbreak. Find out what ESPC agents are saying about the current market conditions below.

### Demand from buyers

Jenna Spence, operations director at Neilsons Solicitors and Estate Agents, cited several cases of properties across Edinburgh going to closing dates in the past couple of weeks. She also mentioned they have received multiple offers over the Home Report valuation for properties. In total, Neilsons had ten closing dates for properties last week with 36 offers received.

Tzana Webster, sales and marketing manager at Warners LLP, said they have seen similar cases. This week, ten offers were accepted on their properties, none of which was below Home Report value. A property in Portobello did particularly well, achieving an offer which exceeded Home Report value by over 10 per cent.

Stacey Wilson, director at VMH Solicitors, also noted cases of properties in the past week continuing to receive significant interest from buyers. One of their properties in Abbeyhill went to a closing date on March 25 and received 'more than half a dozen offers and achieved a price in excess of 15 per cent over Home Report valuation'.

Amy Howard, head of estate agency at Deans Properties, said they have also seen many cases of properties sold at or over Home Report valuation in the past week and commented: 'We've still got inquiries coming in and our team are actively working from home.'

Graham White, head of East Lothian operations and estate agency at Anderson Strathern, also had a case in the past week that achieved an offer 10 per cent over the asking price. He



said: 'If both parties enter into sensible talks and agree that the process can be carried on with a flexible date of entry then deals can still be done.'

Michael Maloco, senior partner at Fife-based Maloco + Associates, said that while there had been a decline in market activity over the past week, the firm had set a closing date for a property and had submitted some offers as well.

Ron Hastings, director at Borders-based Hastings Legal, said: 'We have had recent successes with closing dates including a cottage in Ayton on the Berwickshire coast, which attracted multiple offers and a sale well over the Home Report value despite the closing date being set for Tuesday March 24.'

### Homes coming to market

Some sellers are also still looking to get their homes on the market, with all the above firms listing more properties over the last couple of weeks.

Jenna Spence commented: 'Sellers seem keen to proceed to market if they have a Home Report, photography and floorplan in place to enable them to do so as they want to take advantage of getting online.'

'Due to surveyors not being able to visit properties, those properties who do not currently have a Home Report won't be able to come to market in the present circumstances. However, ESPC agents are proactively preparing these properties so that when the current restrictions are lifted they can be brought to market as soon as possible.'

### A word from Argyll Estate Agents

Let's turn a negative into a positive. There has never been a better time to prepare for the property market starting back up. Buyers, sellers and agents can all use this 'stay at home' time to get themselves in a prime position. Good housekeeping and carrying out the small jobs now will benefit us all in the long run. Current opinion is that the property market will bounce back significantly when this period of uncertainty ends. We do not need to go too far back to test this. Who remembers Brexit now? January and February 2020 were very buoyant months with record levels of sales and online traffic being reported by our major property website partners. We are expecting similar results, if not even better, this time around. Spring and early summer is historically the busiest time of year for home movers, and with the early spring buyers set to join the market at the same time, this can only lead to positive times ahead.



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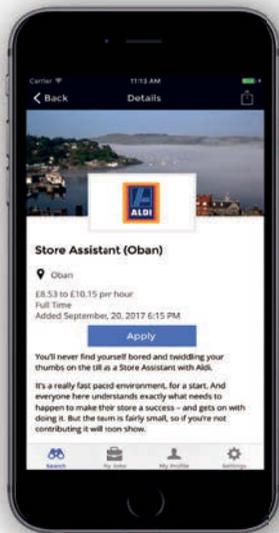
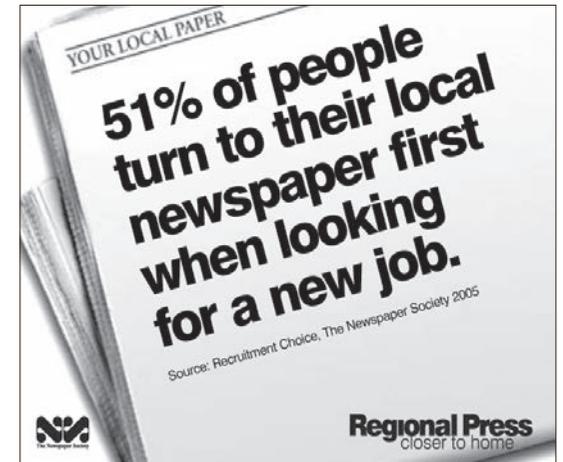
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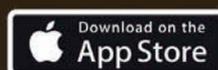
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## STRACHUR

### Fire and rescue volunteers wanted at Strachur

Strachur's voluntary fire and rescue service are recruiting.

Currently with only six in the team, it is getting progressively more difficult for the crew to respond to call-outs, as they cannot respond to shouts with a crew of under four. If there are too many occasions when they cannot respond to a call there is a danger that the fire station will be regarded as non-viable.

In 2019, the voluntary crew responded to a total of 34 shouts.

This is a opportunity for anyone aged 18 and over to serve their community.

If interested contact Alistair Mackechnie on 01369 860519 or 07794 947088.

## ARDRISHAIG

### Have a rummage in your cupboard for the Eggshed

Ardrishaig Community Council (ACC) are inviting Ardrishaig residents to have a rummage in the cupboard, in their memories, and pull out anything that could help build on the initial work done for the Eggshed, to work towards a future museum or heritage centre.

ACC convener Mary MacCallum Sullivan said: 'The community council is committed to ensuring that the history, heritage and identity of Ardrishaig is remembered and celebrated.

'We are working to enable the collection, curating and exhibiting of Ardrishaig's heritage for when the health emergency is over.'

For more information, contact Mary MacCallum Sullivan: [mary@macpsych.scot](mailto:mary@macpsych.scot) or Catherine Bowe: [bowe.seacliffe@gmail.com](mailto:bowe.seacliffe@gmail.com)

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## CAMPBELTOWN

### Funding secured for repair work on Campbeltown Cross



From left: James Lafferty, Catherine Dobbie and Alan Baker, convener of Campbeltown Community Council.

Campbeltown Community Council (CCC) has successfully secured funding from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) to carry out urgent conservation and repair works on Campbeltown Cross and its immediate surrounds.

The cross is the finest surviving example of late medieval carving in Kintyre and it is thought to have been carved on Iona in 1380. It was brought to Campbeltown from Kilkivan Church near Machrihanish to serve as a market cross in 1680 and is the largest and most famous example of a late medieval Celtic cross in mainland Argyll.

It originally stood outside Campbeltown Town Hall, the focus of the town's civic and social life. In 1700 the local population gathered to witness the town proclaimed a Royal Burgh.

The cross was mutilated after the Scottish Reformation in the 16th century when its depiction of the crucifix and two other figures were erased.

During the Second World War it was taken to Kilkerran Cemetery and, after much debate,

was re-erected at the new purpose-designed Old Quay Head roundabout in 1946.

Last year, however, a report commissioned by CCC from specialist firm Graciela Ainsworth Sculpture Conservation Ltd highlighted huge deterioration of the cross due to algal growth, surface/detail loss, delaminations, cracks and fissures. The report recommended the need for urgent work to prevent further decay.

#### Quotes

Catherine Dobbie from CCC worked with James Lafferty, Argyll and Bute Council's Campbeltown Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) officer, to obtain quotes for remedial works.

The A-listed cross meant that Scheduled Monument Consent had to be sought and this was granted in September 2019.

The specialist conservation works on the cross will be carried out by Graciela Ainsworth Sculpture Conservation Ltd. with local contractors carrying out all of the additional works.

## Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Shedden

'May new things be revealed to us and new ways found to touch the lives of all,' says the morning liturgy of the Iona community.

Having felt somewhat depressed at the thought of all our churches being closed, I am now refreshed and uplifted by the wonderful new ways I can worship.

New ways are indeed touching the lives of many and new things are surely being revealed to us.

The online resources are varied and prolific.

Within the Church of Scotland alone, we can worship each morning with the Moderator in his own home, and we can light a candle on Sunday evenings to join across the country in a time of prayer.

There are midweek times of prayer and reflection from a variety of faith traditions reaching us in our own homes.

Many of our churches are either live-streaming their Sunday services or pre-recording them for folk to watch at any time that is convenient.

At this busy time of year, our farmers often cannot come to church as they may be in the midst of lambing. Now there is the opportunity for the family to worship together when the 'work is all done for a while'.

One minister said that he usually had about 30 in his congregation, and now he has more than 300 tuning in online.

If we apply this to every online service, there could be a huge national and international congregation worshipping God in new ways.

People are going to church in a different way, and the opportunities to proclaim the gospel of God's love are unlimited.

'The church is dying,' claimed the voice of many.

Could this be resurrection? Maybe it just could.

# CONTACTUS

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**GOLDEN WEDDING**

**CRAIG - MCCALLUM** - At Lorne Street Church Campbeltown, on April 3, 1970, by the Rev James W Hood. Alexander, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Bert Craig 70 Davaar Avenue, to Margaret Ann, youngest daughter of Mr John McCallum and the late Mrs Margaret McCallum, 120 Millknowe, Campbeltown. Present address Glenmhairi Campbeltown.

**DEATHS**

**MCDONALD** - Peacefully in the care of his family at home in Brora on April 1, 2020, Alex McDonald, aged 80 years. Formerly of The Chalet, Tarbert. Beloved husband of Moira, much loved dad of Carolyn, Jane and Lindsay and a loving pappy and grand-pappy.

**ROBERTSON** - Peacefully, at Ardfenaig Home, Ardrishaig, on March 24, 2020, after a long and happy life, Elizabeth Robertson, née Gardner, aged 94 years. Much loved wife of the late Iain Allan Robertson

of Tarbert. A private committal was held at Cardross Crematorium on April 2, 2020.

**SMITH** - Peacefully at the Campbeltown Hospital, on March 17, 2020, James Smith (Jimmy) in his 78th year, Shermore, Witchburn Road, Campbeltown, dearly beloved husband of Jean Duncan, devoted dad of Duncan and Jane and a loving papa of Ralphy, Catherine, James and Euan. Funeral private.

**STEELE** - On March 31, 2020, peacefully at home, Marina Steel, aged 65 years, beloved wife of Mike and much loved mother of Gavin, Nicola, David, Kyla and Paul, dear grandmother of Isaac, Jak and Ben, dearly loved and sadly missed by all. A private cremation will take place at Cardross Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Macmillan Cancer Support.

**THOMSON** - Peacefully at home, 16 Barochan Place, Campbeltown, on March 25, 2020, Margaret Merrilees McIntyre, in her

89th year, dearly beloved wife of the late James Thomson, much loved mum of Stephen and Jean and a loving grandma and great grandma. Funeral private.

**WARREN** - Peacefully at Ardenlee Care Home, Dunoon, on March 25, 2020, after a short illness, Margret Warren, née Nelson, in her 100th year, of 10 Caledonia Court, Ardrishaig. Beloved sister of the late Mary Coleman and Janet MacIntyre. Dearly loved aunt of Janette, Margaret, David and Ian. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. A private family funeral service was held at Achnabreac Cemetery on Wednesday April 1, 2020. Forever in our thoughts.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**CRAIG** - Kathryn, Susan, Janet and their families would like to thank all relatives and friends for the many kind expressions of sympathy received following the sad loss of their dad, William (Billy) Craig. Grateful thanks to all staff at the Mid Argyll

Hospital, local ambulance crews and to the social care team for all their care and attention given to Dad. Our thanks are also extended to Rev. David Carruthers for a comforting service and to Donald MacDonald funeral directors for their caring and efficient arrangements. Finally our sincere thanks to those that were able to attend the Funeral service to pay their respects, and to those who were unable to attend due to the current situation, we thank you for your kind words and thoughts at this time.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**MACKAY** - Linda, passed away April 4, 2017.

You're still our dancing queen. Gone but never forgotten. We love you. - Willie and all the family xxxxx.

**SINCLAIR** - In loving memory of Jenny, a special wife, mother, mother-in-law and granny, who died April 5, 2015. Loved and remembered every day by Donald, Anne, Duncan, Jennifer and families.

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**SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH**



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**SALVATION ARMY**



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If we can be of any assistance to anyone during this time please call us on 01586 552046 Major Ruth Russell Scottish Charity Number SC009359

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George Street, Campbeltown



**There will be no services in the church building until further notice**

Rev Rodger Crooks will record the service for this Sunday and it will be available on our website (see below) and on YouTube.

If you would like someone to talk to or pray with you on the phone, please contact Rodger and Joan on 01586 554589 or Calum and Liz on 01586 301016 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.' Psalm 46

[www.campbeltownfree-church.co.uk](http://www.campbeltownfree-church.co.uk) Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

**CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH**



**All church activities and services suspended until further notice**

Please feel free to contact us if you require any help or even just for a chat

Pastor Mark Jasper 01586 554 092 [pastor@campbeltown-communitychurch.co.uk](mailto:pastor@campbeltown-communitychurch.co.uk) [www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk](http://www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk) SC043322 Baptist Union Logo

**ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES**

On the first Palm Sunday the crowds shouted: "Hosanna to the Son of David"

(Matthew 21 v9) This Palm Sunday let's shout it too!

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**in Mid-Argyll & Arran** Livestream on Facebook @ChristChurch

Lochgilthead Palm Sunday 11am Eucharist

Maundy Thursday 7pm Good Friday 1pm Liturgy of the Passion

Saturday 11th 7pm Vigil of Easter

Easter Day 11am Eucharist

Daily Morning Prayer 8.30am

Evening Prayer 6.30pm Father Simon Mackenzie 01546 602315

**ST MARGARET'S RC CHURCH**

**Church building closed and all masses suspended until further notice**

For the most up to date information visit our website: [www.lochgiltheadcatholic.com](http://www.lochgiltheadcatholic.com) or our Facebook page.

[lochgilthead@rcdai.org.uk](mailto:lochgilthead@rcdai.org.uk) Fr Ronald Campbell 01546 602380 (SC0002876)

**Gratitude and Hope**

by Steve Davies,  
Pastor of Springbank Evangelical Church

If I may, I'd like to encourage you to be grateful.

Grateful for the long heritage of values that we in Britain still benefit from: values rooted in a historic conviction that the world is not without meaning and purpose, and in a firm belief in the value of human life. These have run deep in the soul of our nation for many generations - so deep that we risk taking them for granted. But their results have included the stable rule of law, the upholding of the family as a basic unit of society... and, of course, institutions such as our NHS.

Grateful, too, for many people today: in public service, the medical and caring professions, the emergency services and numerous other walks of life. People who are working tirelessly, both in the front line and behind the scenes, and who are sacrificially putting others' needs before their own; responding to the strong impulse to save and protect life.

And also for each new day: which, if we're honest with

ourselves and willing to accept it, must signify some degree of mercy. In a hazardous world, each new day that we're spared yet again is a gift, an opportunity to be glad and to give something back. Or to pay forward, as we often hear nowadays as well.

And for simple things - again, perhaps, taken for granted at times: the sunshine that's beginning to bring out the colours of spring; the birds we can hear singing; families; telephones; the cheery wave of a neighbour; good food, clean water, fresh air.

My reason for writing like this is simple: the belief that gratitude is a strong antidote to anxiety. When many of us are experiencing apprehension and fear, greater, perhaps, than at any time in our lives, a bit of gratitude can make all the difference. For a start, it takes courage to turn our gaze from the threats to the blessings - to recognise again some of the gifts and mercies we've received. And then, in turn, it bolsters and strengthens that same courage.

I'd also like to encourage you to face each new day with hope.

But I don't mean a thin, nervous hope, just "hoping for the best," or "We've no idea how this will all turn out, but we can always hope." I'm talking here about Hope as it's defined in the Bible and throughout Christian theology: if you'll permit the analogy, it's a huge, hearty Cullen skink for your tea, as opposed to a thin watery broth made from a hint of a chicken.

In other words, hope as a rock-solid confidence; hope founded on ancient promises, that have never yet failed. Hope that trusts in a future that is certain, even though still unseen. As one New Testament writer put it (Hebrews 6:19), "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." In short, it's a personal hope - in God the Creator, and his promise of ultimate rescue.

When the world is being shaken by a growing storm, as it is just now, that's a hope that has much to recommend it.

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# Donald Clark – a tribute

Donald Clark was for 50 years the convivial, larger-than-life host at The George Hotel in Inveraray, a notable bon viveur and one of the most colourful characters in Argyll. He died aged 75 on January 19 after a short illness.

Latterly, his mobility hampered by a leg injury, he would sit in the corner of The George public bar on an over-sized carved wooden stool. From his throne he dispensed news, advice and anecdotes – albeit not always historically accurate. His inimitable irony, perfectly-timed humour and the occasional reprimand to a wayward customer were all fuelled by a generous glass.

## Intricacies

As former president of the Scottish Licensed Trade Association and Keeper of the Quaich, Donald knew the intricacies of the business intimately from personal experience. His taste was eclectic and his appetite substantial, extending from Dom Perignon and Saint-Émilion Grand Cru to Tennent's lager and Glen Dronach single malt. On a hot day he'd have an icy martini or a gin and tonic, proportionately scaled up in a pint glass. Being asked if he had time for a quick 'small one', he would reply: 'I'll decide the size for myself, if you don't mind.'

The records suggest that his frequent claim to be Scottish Slimmer of the Year, after getting his weight down from 30 stone to 26 stone, was fanciful.

Big D, as he was often called, was fastidious about standards in the little public bar, training his regulars to clear tables of empty glasses and plates promptly, and to keep the log fire stoked on winter evenings.

If one of his regulars turned up untypically well-dressed, Donald would raise an eyebrow in mild surprise: 'What's the occasion for the suit? A funeral? Your latest marriage? Or has your court case come up?'

## Bewildered

In summer, an erratic stream of foreign tourists would have their first encounter with a Scottish pub, standing in the doorway bewildered as to what happens next – sit or stand? Fight their way to the mobbed bar or go to a table and wait for the non-existent waitress? Donald would call them over to his corner and was soon plying them with drinks, food and conversation, not infrequently paying the entire bill for his astonished guests.

When a tourist asked him about the quaint red GPO tele-



A relaxed Donald in his beloved Inveraray.

who visited The George during sonar testing under the quiet waters of Loch Fyne – the collection of Royal Navy vessel badges displayed in the hotel's lounge bar is said to be the best outside Portsmouth. But his plans were cut short by the death of his father in 1964, and he returned to Inveraray to help his mother run the family business. He also took on the Loch Fyne Hotel in 1968 for the next 15 years.

He married Jennifer 'Jimpy' Waddell in Glasgow, with British Lion Sandy Carmichael as best man. Sons Donald John and Christopher were soon born. Although they separated when the boys were teenagers, the couple later resumed an amicable friendship. Donald cheerfully celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary in March 2019, remarking as a minor aside that he had been divorced for 35 of those years.

After several weeks of illness, Donald died in Oban hospital, where he slowly sucked his last mouthfuls of Dom Perignon from a sponge despite the notice that read Nil by Mouth.

## 600 mourners

His funeral was one of the biggest held in Inveraray. Over 600 mourners, all requested to wear something colourful, filled to capacity the Church of Scotland in Main Street, and overflowed into the church hall. The flags of Scotland, France and Catalonia flew from The George Hotel, piper Stuart Liddell played Leaving Port Askaig, and La Marseillaise accompanied the retiral of mourners.

Interment was in a gale at Glen Shira, with the A83 Rest and Be Thankful road ironically blocked by one of the landslides for whose solution he so vigorously campaigned.

Donald was the fifth generation of the Clark family to run the establishment, a baton which has now passed to the sixth. He leaves sons Donald and Kris, grand-daughters Anouk, Manon and Lola, his long-term partner Jane Somerville, and ex-wife Jimpy Mitchell.

Certainly a man of large stature, he was a giant in so many other ways – personality, sociability, generosity, knowledge – and a friend, helper, adviser and host to many. To quote his own frequent remark upon parting: 'We'll see you around the parish.'

Ken MacTaggart

phone box in Church Square, he told them: 'We have the fastest modern communications here – telephone, teletext and tell Donald.'

Donald was a Francophile and loved his summers in Collioure, where 'Le Grand Ecosais' was almost as well-known as in Argyll. A fixture of the local bars and restaurants, and frequently crossing the border to patronise Spanish hosteleries, he revelled in the region's seafood, wine and culture.

His hobbies included cooking, opera, reading and lively

conversation on a sweeping range of topics from local history to civil engineering. His knowledge was genuinely wide, but when occasionally encountering someone with a superior command of the topic in question, he would quickly change the subject and admonish: 'Och, you're showing off now.'

Donald Clark was born on 18 July 1944, in Rotten Row hospital, Glasgow. He was the youngest child of Donald Clark and Elizabeth Inglis, following by nine years his only sibling, Fiona.

His early years were spent in Inveraray where family life revolved around his parents' hotel in the little white-washed town.

## Athletic

He was schooled at Inveraray Primary and Larchfield in Helensburgh, then Strathallan from 1958 to 1963 where he acquired his love of sports. Contrary to what his dimensions in later life would suggest, he was athletic when young, excelling at rugby and playing for his school and West of Scotland First XV and the old boys' 4As.

Donald also enjoyed curling, motor boating, snow skiing and water skiing, where his party piece was to mono-ski down Loch Fyne while drinking a pint of beer.

Although not a shinty player, he used his sports experience to coach the Inveraray team in the 1960s and, like his father, chaired the club. In 2002, he flamboyantly arrived in Inverness by helicopter for Inveraray's Camanachd final against Kingussie.

He started to pursue a naval career, perhaps influenced by the many raucous submariners



# MOKRUN called off but see you in 2021

Said to be the nation's friendliest running event, the Mull of Kintyre Run (MOKRUN) will not take place in 2020.

The event is not only the jewel in the crown of Kintyre running but also a valuable source of revenue to the area's economy.

So it was with sadness, but in accordance with advice from Scottish Athletics, that the MOKRUN committee has announced the news.

The MOKRUN 10K and half-marathon running festival weekend, scheduled for May 24 and 25, are now cancelled. The committee considered postponing the event until later in the year, but decided that, with so many larger and more centrally-based events choosing that option, it



Race director Gail Williams is one of several 'ever presents' who can look forward to the 2021 race. 50\_c13mokrun03



Competitors in last year's MOKRUN 10K make their way along Dalaruan Street and High Street. 50\_c13mokrun01

would be better to accept the enforced break and come back fresher and stronger for next year's event.

There is also much uncertainty over when restrictions will be lifted to consider, the committee felt.

So make a date for May 29 and 30, 2021.

All of the 2020 entrants will receive an email in which they

will be given the option to defer their place to the following year, ensuring entry into the 2021 event at this year's price.

Alternatively, they can opt to receive a refund of their £28 race entry fee, or to donate that fee to supporting the future of the event.

The entry places that become available will be offered for sale in January 2021. Entry

fees for the junior races and ceilidh ticket holders will automatically be refunded. Further information is available on the website [www.mokrun.com](http://www.mokrun.com)

A spokesperson said: 'The committee members would like to send their heartfelt apologies and thanks to all of the local companies, individuals and volunteers who have helped each year so faithfully,

to make this one of the best events in Scotland.

'We hope that you all make it safely through this difficult and worrying time. If we had booked you for 2020 and you are able to offer your services again next year, please put the new date of May 29 and 30, 2021, in your diary and we look forward to working with you again then.'

## Stay at home, stay safe and stay fit

Leisure facilities may be closed in Argyll and Bute – but the charity behind them is keen to keep people active during isolation from coronavirus.

Live Argyll is publishing daily online workouts, as sought out by their fitness staff, to help residents to stay fit during self-isolation.

Libraries and public hire halls have also had to be temporarily shut by the charity as the UK goes into lockdown in its bid to beat the COVID-19 outbreak.

A statement from Live Argyll said: 'Just because you are staying at home doesn't mean you can't exercise.

'As part of our commitment to contribute to the health and wellbeing of our communities, our fitness professionals will be recommending specific online video links that you can take part in.

'The recommended fitness videos will be based on three levels – beginner, intermediate and advanced.'

Videos will be posted on Live Argyll's social media channels at 9am every day, and they are expected to last between 30 and 45 minutes.

Anybody participating is advised not to work out if they feel unwell. They must also ensure they keep well hydrated, and wear loose clothing and flat shoes.



## What we are doing to help

- We are continuing to bring you accurate and trustworthy news in-paper and online
- We are working with our wholesale and retail partners to make sure that your newspaper is still in the shops

## Keeping our community informed

All the information on our website is available free - you don't have to log in

If you want to get the "page turner" version of the newspaper and can't get to the shops we have halved the price of our digital edition for the next 3 months. We will review this on an ongoing basis.

Stay safe, we're in this together

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