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Pool project takes the plunge after lottery lift

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Plans to redevelop Mid Argyll Community Pool have taken a huge step forward with a National Lottery cash injection.

The ambitious masterplan to transform MACPool into a health and wellbeing community hub was boosted this week by news that the National Lottery Community Fund has awarded a grant of £700,000 to the project. This comes in addition to a grant of £400,000 from the Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund awarded in February and £95,000 from the Robertson Trust.

Together, these funders have provided MACPool with 90 per cent of the capital build costs of the project, with applications for the remaining 10 per cent well advanced.

The lottery funding means the group overseeing the project – Mid Argyll Community

Enterprises Ltd – can brief architects and move closer to the construction stage without further delay.

Kim Ritchie, chairperson of the MACPool board said: 'This is such exciting news, not just for MACPool but for the entire community of Mid Argyll.'

'Watch this space to see how you can be involved in building the future of your pool.'

'We are so grateful to the National Lottery Community Fund, the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund – and to Argyll and Bute Council, which sponsored our application – and to the Robertson Trust for this major investment in our future.'

'We can't wait to get started.' The redeveloped MACPool will feature:

- A welcoming and fully accessible community space and café
- Soft play facilities for younger children
- A modern and fully accessible shower and changing area for a wide range of users
- Multi purpose activities and therapy spaces for community and business use

Building work is scheduled to start in January 2021.

The capital build cost is, however, not the whole story and funding applications still need to be submitted for fit-out and revenue costs – though £50,000 of these have already been secured from the Co-op Communities Fund and FCC Scottish Action Fund.

Mrs Ritchie added: 'It wouldn't be a community pool without the opportunity for members of the community to contribute, so watch this space to see how you can be involved in building the future of your pool.'



Pictured at a MACPool redevelopment open day in 2019 are, from left: Pool manager Fiona MacAlpine, board member Lynn Shaw, architect Nicola Farquhar, MACPool chairperson Kim Ritchie, Councillor Donnie MacMillan and Mary Stewart, MACPool community engagement officer; Right: An architects impression of the new MACPool exterior.



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For eat-in & takeaway menus see our Facebook Page
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www.argyllhotelkintyre.co.uk



POLICE FILES

Abusive behaviour

A 32-year-old woman was charged and issued with a recorded police warning around 11am on Wednesday July 1 after behaving in an abusive manner at Paterson Street, Lochgilphead.

Vandalism

Between October 2019 and 12.45pm on Wednesday July 1, 2020, damage was caused to a tree by cutting branches off without permission within a garden of a property between Hillfoot Terrace and Baluachrach, Tarbert. Police are investigating and are appealing for any witness or anyone with any information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Held for court

About 6am on Saturday July 4, at MacDonald Terrace, Lochgilphead, a 41-year-old man allegedly assaulted a man and a woman. Police arrested and charged the man who was held for court. A report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Assault

A woman aged 50 allegedly assaulted a man about midnight on Sunday July 5 at Meadows Place, Lochgilphead. Police arrested and charged the woman and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Breath sample charge

At around 11pm on Sunday July 5, a car was found to have been crashed into a lamppost on the B841 near Cairnbaan. A 42-year-old man was subsequently arrested for allegedly failing to provide a breath specimen at the roadside and at the police station. He was charged with the offences and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Abusive manner

About 9.30pm on Tuesday June 30 at Charlotte Street, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay, a woman, 20, allegedly behaved in an abusive manner. The woman was charged and issued with a recorded police warning.

If any member of the public has information in relation to the above, or to any incident, they can contact their local Police Station on telephone number 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Temporary postal arrangements and daughter's thanks to public

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

The daughter of Lochgilphead postmaster Findlay Campbell has expressed gratitude to the public for their support following her father's sudden passing on June 22.

Naomi Campbell said: 'We are really grateful for all the online messages and the flowers left outside the post office. It has been lovely, and we really appreciate it.'

The family hopes to hold a commemoration and celebration of Mr Campbell's life when the circumstances allow.

The post office and Mail



Flowers laid outside Lochgilphead post office in tribute to Findlay Campbell – the floral tributes eventually numbered more than 50. 51_a28Mailboxflowers01

Box shop on Argyll Street have been closed since Mr Campbell's death.

A spokesperson for the Post

Office said: 'We were all saddened by the unexpected death of the postmaster for Lochgilphead, who was

well respected. To restore [a postal] service, the Post Office mobile van, provided by the postmaster for Tarbert, is now visiting every Wednesday from 10am-1pm from the Stag car park.

'Alternative branches in the area also include Ardrishaig, Achahoish and Tarbert. Customers should visit the postoffice.co.uk website for the latest opening hours.'

Naomi also made it clear to the Advertiser that the family does not intend to carry on the post office business.

The Post Office spokesperson added: 'We have been supporting the family and decisions will be made at the appropriate time.'

Another landslide pit

The next stage of landslip mitigation measures at the A83 at the Rest and be Thankful is set to begin in September.

The £1.1 million catch pit project will see the construction of a further pit next to the carriageway, to be located next to the three catch pits on the A83 which were completed in July 2019.

Work is expected to begin

at the start of September and take up to five months to complete, with round-the-clock working on some sections to complete the project as quickly as possible.

Temporary traffic lights will be in place throughout the project for safety reasons.

The catch pits are designed to intercept any debris material from a landslip and prevent it from reaching the road.

Once complete the new pit will be 120m long, around 12m wide and capable of holding approximately 4,500 tonnes of debris material from a potential landslip.

The project will be carried out in full compliance of any coronavirus safety restrictions.

Eddie Ross of BEAR Scotland



One of the catch pits on the A83 near the Rest and be Thankful.

said: 'We are pleased that we can progress with the next phase of landslip resilience on the A83 and begin work on the £1.1M catch pit project at the Rest and be Thankful.'

'BEAR Scotland will continue to work with Transport Scotland to improve resilience of the A83 and do all we can to help ensure Argyll remains open for business.'

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Stay Safe from the HQ team

The Time is Now in Argyll and Bute

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

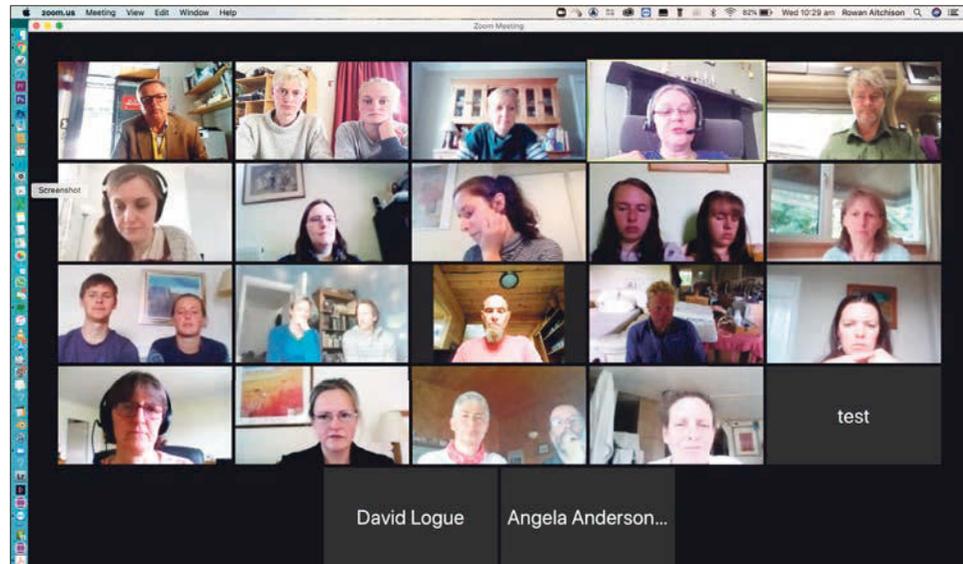
Argyll is leading the way amid a push for a greener, fairer post-coronavirus future, led by young people from Mid Argyll. Amid the personal and economic tragedy, there are growing calls to use the global shock as an opportunity to build a better society – and tackle climate change.

A recent report to the UK government by independent Climate Change Committee urged Ministers to seize the opportunity to turn the Covid-19 crisis into a defining moment in the fight against climate change.

The Climate Coalition campaign group, however, wants to push that bit harder and last week urged supporters to lobby MPs as part of 'The Time is Now' campaign to put people, climate and nature at the heart of the UK's recovery from coronavirus.

During a meeting co-ordinated by Tayvallich brother and sister Rowan and Freya Aitchison, Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara was duly quizzed on the issue by a group of around 24 constituents from Mid Argyll, Cowal and Helensburgh – the Argyll and Bute Climate Change Group.

Among the matters discussed were the five key priorities recommended by the Climate Change Committee: Low-carbon retrofits and buildings that are fit for the future; tree planting, peatland restoration, and green infrastructure; strengthening of energy networks; infrastructure to make it easy for people to walk, cycle, and work remotely; and moving towards a circular



The Zoom meeting in full flow.

economy through recycling. Mr O'Hara said during the online discussion on Wednesday July 1 that he acknowledges that the pandemic gives us an opportunity to rethink the way that we live.

Speaking afterwards, he added: 'I have always believed that politics is at its best when it is organised locally, by people who share a passion and want to effect real change.'

Challenged

'The Argyll and Bute Climate Change group challenged me to make sure that I didn't get into the habit of seeing this as a single issue but rather one that impacts absolutely everything I do at Westminster, from economic recovery planning, to defence and security, human rights and international affairs.'

'If there is a silver lining to this awful Covid-19 pandemic it is that going forward, we can do things differently; as individuals, as a country,

internationally and of course, globally. And it's an opportunity we must take.'

Mr O'Hara referenced the group and their meeting on the floor of the House of Commons the following day, when he asked the Secretary of State for Transport about the group's dismay that 'once again the UK Government had missed almost every one of its emissions targets'.

'We are very fortunate that our MP Brendan O'Hara understands the urgency of the climate crisis, and is open to some of our suggestions,' said 20-year-old Rowan Aitchison.

He continued: 'We desperately need to retire GDP as a measure of our wellbeing and work towards a system that allows people to live a fulfilling life. Scotland is one of very few countries that have made a start on this, pioneering a government system which is based on a wellbeing economy. We need to accept that money

is not the key to human happiness, and start putting our wellbeing before increasing our profit margins.'



The Loch Fyne crossing has returned.

Tarbert-Portavadie ferry is back

The ferry service crossing Loch Fyne between Portavadie and Tarbert has returned following its suspension during the coronavirus pandemic.

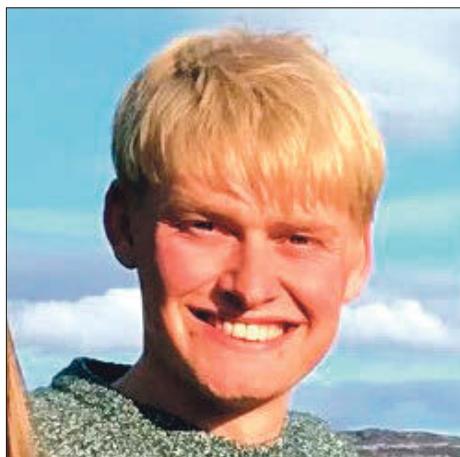
With the easing of restrictions, operator CalMac was able to reinstate the run from the beginning of July and a temporary abbreviated timetable is in operation until July 14.

From July 15 until October 18 the service will return to a full hourly departure from Tarbert between 8am and 7pm (first and last ferries will not operate on Sundays), operating on a turn up and go basis. No cash will be accepted on any CalMac ferry.

CalMac advises that when travelling on a 'turn up and go' route, please remember capacity is constrained, and your first choice of sailing may not be always be available.

The company also asks all passengers to follow the latest advice on how to travel safely.

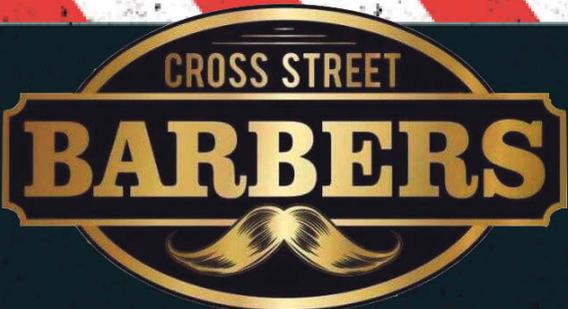
Check with the ferry operator for further information.



Rowan Aitchison.



Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara.



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A tantalising glimpse of the sandstone doorway recently uncovered.

Appeal for help after 'major discovery' at Tarbert Castle

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

A tantalising discovery at Tarbert Castle can only be further investigated if enough money is donated.

Archaeologist Roddy Reagan has uncovered a significant castle entrance, with a visible slot for a portcullis, in dressed red sandstone between the castle's twin towers at the seaward end of the site.

Tarbert Castle Trust secretary and treasurer Robert McPhail described it as 'a major discovery, not only for Tarbert Castle but a significant expansion of the recorded knowledge of Scottish medieval fortresses'.

Mr McPhail added: 'We have consent for a small dig in this

location and have only been able to proceed with this investigation due to the donation of support announced last week from a gentleman in the Lake District.

In a letter with a cheque for £500, the donor said: 'I am well impressed with what Tarbert Castle Trust has done [between the] orchard, woodland, sculpture and castle dig. I have decided to send a donation and visit in the not too distant future.'

To expand the dig with the trust's volunteers, around £2,500 will be needed.

Mr McPhail added: 'Any donation to help us achieve this would be appreciated.'

Contact Robert McPhail by email at sonamarg@btinternet.com for more information.

Screens and masks, but Argyll buses are back

People are beginning to take to public transport again in Argyll as coronavirus measures are gradually relaxed.

As it reaches 60 per cent of its pre-pandemic operations, bus company West Coast Motors reports that up to a quarter (15 to 25 per cent) of regular passenger numbers are being carried in phase two of the Scottish Government's planned relaxation of lockdown measures.

The company plans to increase service levels over coming weeks as more people use public transport, with research suggesting that 30 per cent of customers

will start to use the bus again in phase three and another 30 per cent in phase four.

Face coverings on public transport are mandatory, but a company statement added the proviso: 'Not everyone can wear face coverings due to a range of health issues and we are asking our drivers and customers not to judge those who do not wear coverings.'

Trust

'At this time, we believe and trust those who aren't wearing coverings are doing so for the correct reasons.'

Buses have also been fitted with divider plastic screens, which leaves it up to the



West Coast Motors plans to increase service levels over the coming weeks.

driver whether they choose to wear a face covering.

West Coast Motors also said that after providing free

travel for NHS staff since March 27, the scheme will come to an end on Sunday July 12.

Visitors urged to use official campsites

Tourists are being urged to use official campsites to help keep themselves and communities they are visiting Covid free.

Argyll and Bute Council says at this critical stage in the Scottish Government's roadmap to ease further lockdown restrictions, it is important that communities and visitors work together to avoid a second wave of Covid.

The council is asking visitors in caravans, motorhomes and campervans to make use of official campsites to not only protect health but also to help

support the local economy. Councillor Alastair Redman, Policy Lead for Economic Growth, said: 'People have done an amazing job and made a lot of sacrifices to suppress this virus locally and nationally.'

Restrictions lifted

We are now enjoying more lockdown restrictions being lifted, but that could change very quickly if we don't all act responsibly.'

From July 3 it became possible to use a caravan or motorhome provided that

it is fully self-contained, and there is no requirement to access shared indoor facilities.

To find out more about government guidelines go to the Scottish Government website: www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-what-you-can-and-cannot-do/pages/sport-culture-and-leisure/

More information and guidance for people travelling to camp and also for campsite owners is available on the Scottish Government website.



The Dochas Carer Centre

Are you an adult unpaid carer?

We are here for you.

We provide a service to unpaid adult carers across Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Isles (MAKI). We have three teams:

- Support outreach worker team
- Qualified counselling team
- Volunteer befriending team

The Outreach/Support Team are maintaining regular contact with carers via telephone. Our team is providing a listening ear during this challenging time and we have been fortunate to receive additional funding to support carers and those they care for with creative solutions to help with their mental and emotional health while in isolation.

Please visit our website - www.dochasfund.org.uk and Facebook page - www.facebook.com/dochascare which will be updated regularly with information and advice; we are planning to trial a virtual drop in service.

We are available 10-4pm Monday to Friday. Contact number for the centre 01546 600 022. Email - enquiries@dochasfund.org.uk

Contact numbers for the outreach/support team

Mid Argyll: 07464 308 418

Kintyre: 0753 503 6953

Islay/Jura: 0791 201 5393

The Volunteer Befriending Team

Our volunteer befriending service called Circle of Friends is continuing to run. Volunteers are maintaining contact with the individuals they are befriending by telephone. Our volunteer Co-ordinator, Ryan Taylor, continues to support this service. If you have an interest in this service Ryan can be contacted via the telephone number 0793 203 9801.

Dochas Counselling Team

The dedicated Counselling Team are currently offering online and telephone counselling to unpaid carers and their families, those who have been bereaved or those living with a long term or terminal condition. During the Covid-19 crisis, the Team have also set up a telephone support service for anyone feeling anxious or struggling during lockdown.

For further information or to arrange an appointment, please telephone Alison Whitefield, Lead Counsellor, on 07432 231217 or contact the service via counselling@dochasfund.org.uk or message the Dochas Facebook page. We are here to support you.



Mid Argyll Youth Development Services

Providing Information and Accessible Youth Friendly Services

Are you a young carer?

We are here for you...

MAYDS are still providing support for children, young people and families where we can. Anyone needing advice or help can contact the above at anytime.

We are providing our child and adolescent counselling services via skype, phone etc., and still open for referrals for any young person feeling isolated or in need of support. Our Young Carers are still being supported by our team across MAKI and again referrals are still being taken.

We have regular information and updates on our facebook page mid Argyll youth development services.

Online support is also available on www.cool2talk.org.

Contact 07788900049 or
fiona@mayds.org.uk lynn@mayds.org.uk

Warm welcome ensured at Tayvallich

by Ewan Halley
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Tayvallich has been quieter than usual over the last few months of lockdown as visitors have stayed away during the Covid-19 restrictions and residents abided by the rules.

But, in line with government recommendations as restrictions are relaxed, businesses in the village are gearing up to reopen...albeit with an altered appearance.

Relaxed dining

The Tayvallich Inn, closed since the start of lockdown, reopens on July 31, with a service adapted to meet the crisis. Food will be served in the beer garden overlooking the beautiful bay using compostible containers. The emphasis will be on relaxed dining to minimise personal contact between staff and customers, using digital technology in the form of QR

codes to deliver menus to customers' phones and to take orders. A weekend takeaway service will be on offer, with home delivery in Tayvallich.

'It's all about giving the best service in response to the changing circumstances,' says proprietor Kathryn Masson.

At Tayvallich Café and General Store, the café has been closed during lockdown while the shop has remained open, offering an invaluable collection and delivery service, particularly for those shielding. The café terrace reopened for table service this week, serving breakfasts, light lunches, cakes and drinks. The priority is to provide an enjoyable service while keeping staff and customers safe. Masks are obligatory for staff and customers, choices are displayed on a blackboard rather than individual menus, and personal contact is minimised.



A cheery welcome Tayvallich Café and General Store from Rosie Burrell (left) and Freya Aitchison.

For manager Abigail Haworth, lockdown has reinforced the value of local shops and businesses, able to respond quickly to changing demands.

'The village would be worse off,' says Abi, 'without this facility to meet the challenges of times like these.'

Challenge

At Leachive Caravan and Camping Park, the 2020 season finally got under way on Saturday July 4. Open initially for private static caravans only, the welcome will be extended on July 16 to pitches for tourists with their own toilet and bathroom facilities. Closure of the toilet and washing facilities means the site cannot accommodate campers with tents. For owners Roly and Fiona MacArthur, there's a challenge in striking a balance between offering a traditional welcome

and reminding visitors of physical distancing and other safety precautions.

Sandy Campbell, skipper at Venture West boat trips, plans to restart sailing in the Sound of Jura from July 15. Given the difficulty of keeping physical distance on a small deck, trips will be restricted to single-family groups of up to 12 people. The fortuitous launch earlier this year of Venture West's second vessel means that boats can be alternated to accommodate cleaning regimes. Like other businesses, Sandy has signed up to 'We're Good To Go', the UK-wide industry standard and consumer mark, which signals that a tourism and hospitality business has worked hard to follow government and industry Covid-19 guidelines and has a process in place to



Leachive Caravan and Camping Park is over the rainbow.



Anchors aweigh again for Venture West.

maintain cleanliness and aid social distancing.

Meanwhile, Will Self of Wild Argyll, which offers bespoke guided adventures, is taking a slow approach to resuming his kayak excursions, temporarily limiting these to experienced paddlers only.

Self-catering holiday cottages with their own front door are now able to receive visitors and other properties will follow suit from July 15, with strict

cleaning regimes in place to protect guests' safety.

So, it may not be business as usual, but Tayvallich is certainly good to go. Businesses are keen to resume, in a way that safeguards the health of their visiting customers and the community they serve. As the village adapts to the new normal, the old favourites are still there and ready to welcome visitors with traditional warmth and hospitality.



The Tayvallich Inn – food, drink and a view.

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LETTERS

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

People remarked on the freshness of the air. Others noticed birdsong. Some even thought the sky had become bluer. Wildlife appeared in places formerly too crowded with people to venture into during daylight.

Remember the start of lockdown? Cars, buses, lorries and planes suddenly vanished almost completely and we seemed to see the environment improving before our eyes.

Our imagination could have been at work, but there were also statistics showing a rapid drop in pollution around cities during lockdown – so perhaps there was something in it.

Which is why we really owe it to ourselves, our descendants and every living thing to try to change the way we live.

And before we start any what-aboutery (aye, but look at China; what about the USA...etc), we need to start somewhere and each do our wee bit.

That could be as simple as buying local, supporting local food and drink producers and thinking about plastic usage.

More power to the elbow of the young people of Mid Argyll driving the agenda and bending the ears of politicians.

Let's hope they are listening.

Gerard Butler in Mary's Meals film

Sir,
A beautiful new film about the charity Mary's Meals, featuring Gerard Butler, has just been released. Love Reaches Everywhere sees the Hollywood actor visiting schools in Liberia and Haiti in the 30-minute feature.

Mary's Meals normally serves nutritious meals in schools, attracting impoverished children to the classroom where they can gain an education that will one day be their ladder out of poverty. During the Covid-19 pandemic, we have developed safe methods of distribution



Gerard Butler and Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow in Liberia. Photograph: Chris Watt.

which allow almost all the children who normally enjoy our meals to eat at home instead.

Love Reaches Everywhere shows Gerard, who has starred in films such as 300 and PS I Love You, immersing himself in community life – teaching a maths lesson, planting crops in a school garden, carrying water from a local well, and even sharing acting tips with some children.

It is available to watch for free now at marysmeals.org.uk/lovereacheseverywhere.

I hope it will be a tonic for your readers at this uncertain time, showing the difference donations made here in the UK can make to little ones living in some of the world's poorest countries – and proving that love really does reach everywhere.

Daniel Adams,
UK executive director of Mary's Meals

St Valéry heroes remembered

Sir,
On Friday June 12 more than 550 pipers across the world played the haunting march 'The Heroes of St Valéry' from doorsteps, gardens and streets.

This recognised the service of the Second World War 'forgotten' 51st Highland Division which remained on the continent to fight the Nazis after the evacuations from Dunkirk. Despite their incredible bravery, around 10,000 men were finally encircled and captured at the Normandy fishing port of St Valéry-en-Caux on June 12, 1940.

The aim of our 80th commemoration was to

ensure these men were remembered. St Valéry impacted on every town, village and hamlet across the Highlands and beyond. Eighty years on, those same communities were joined by pipers from across the globe as they paid their respects.

As well as becoming the largest piping ensemble in history, a day-long programme of virtual events, learning resources for young people and social media tribute messages achieved a reach of 169 million people.

The event was supported three armed forces community charities: Poppyscotland, Legion Scotland and RCET: Scotland's Armed Forces Children's Charity. Each does vital work today.

We offer our thanks to each and every piper who took part, and we are very grateful to those who support the work of those charities.

Most of all, to the men of the 51st, our thanks, gratitude and respect.

Sir Alistair Irwin KCB CBE, president of Legion Scotland and Poppyscotland and vice president RCET – Scotland's Armed Forces Children's Charity; Neil McLennan, trustee and convenor, St Valéry 80 committee

Bikers beware as restrictions are eased

Sir,
Despite making up just two per cent of Scottish road users, bikers make up a disproportionate number of those who are killed and seriously injured every year, with a high number of incidents happening on rural roads.

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; 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. 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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Volunteers now required in Mid Argyll. Call **01546 60 5550** or email info@abcab.org.uk to find out more.



The Better Bikers campaign, run by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), aims to increase the uptake of post-test training for Scottish motorcyclists.

With the easing of coronavirus restrictions we're expecting to see a large increase in the number of leisure rides and drives across the country, and we are really concerned that this might lead to a sudden spike in motorcyclist casualties.

Those who already ride rural roads will know of their dangers – sharp bends, blind corners, other motorists and poor road surfaces – but it's likely to have been a while since they experienced these conditions, so may need to re-familiarise themselves.

There are also likely to be those who are not as experienced on rural roads who will be getting out and about this weekend, so they really need to be aware of the inherent dangers.

Motorcyclists are generally the best-trained motorists on the road due to the extensive nature of the test and licence requirements, but despite them being very vulnerable on the road, few then continue with their learning once they have passed. We want them all to be even better bikers.

The fact is, further training will make you an even better biker, improving your rides by giving you planning and observation skills, making you smoother and putting you in more control, with the added bonus of increasing your safety.

To find out more about the campaign, visit the website, www.BetterBikers.org.uk

Nick Lloyd, RoSPA head of road safety

YOUR PICTURES



Ardrihaig reader Cheryl Ratcliffe-Nye supplied this week's featured photograph, showing a fingerpost as Loch a' Bharain, a reservoir for the Crinan Canal.

Cheryl said: 'It is used by Mid Argyll Radio Sailing Club, and I'm told it's a popular spot for fishing and

swimming. There must be a few good fish as well, as an osprey had been a recent visitor.'

Send your favourite photographs for publication to editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

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The Editor welcomes letters and emails for publication, however we reserves the right to shorten, amend or refuse to print them. Names and addresses MUST be supplied to indicate good faith, although details can be withheld from publication. Phone numbers, if available, should be included. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Please write to: Letters, The Argyllshire Advertiser 44 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8NB. Email editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

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More cash available from An Suidhe wind farm fund

A grant fund linked to a wind farm in the hills between Loch Fyne and Loch Awe has increased the maximum amount of funding for which groups can apply.

The upper limit for community grants from the An Suidhe wind farm fund has risen to £9,000 per project, up from £7,000. The move comes in recognition of increasing project costs faced by community groups.

Decisions on how the fund is spent are made by a panel of local representatives, and panel member Janet Riddoch of Inveraray said: 'Given that some people are still shielding and there is not the usual amount of conversation in the street, the panel is keen to get the word out and ensure all groups who are entitled to apply to the fund are aware of the new grant size in good time, so that they can put forward



a well-researched application.'

The fund is administered by independent grant-making charity Foundation Scotland, which also support the panel.

Tom Black, the foundation's community engagement manager said: 'The An Suidhe Wind Farm Fund offers financial support for com-

munity-based projects that provide a lasting legacy. We are delighted to announce that support is increasing to keep pace with the real costs of purchasing goods and services, and the fund can continue to make a real difference in the four communities.'

Since 2011, the An Suidhe

Wind Farm Community Fund has provided financial support to charitable projects and services in the areas served by the community councils of Glenorchy and Innishail (Eredine only), Inveraray and Furnace and by Dalavich Improvement Group. An annual donation, rising in

line with inflation (retail price index), is paid into the fund by the majority owner of the wind farm, Innogy Renewables UK Limited, over the operating life of the wind farm.

In 2019 the donation was just over £36,000.

In 2019, five awards totalling £25,905 were made to local

groups, including £7,000 to install outdoor gym equipment in Furnace; £2,405 for safety equipment for Loch Awe Coastal Rowing Club; £5,500 to buy a storage container for Inveraray Shinty Club, pictured, that will also double as a changing facility for the girl's team; £4,000 for Cairndow Community Childcare to buy white goods to support a new soft play facility; £7,000 to Dalavich Improvement Group to upgrade the community centre toilets and improve access to the existing disabled toilet.

The next deadline for applications to An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Fund is October 5. For further information visit www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/an-suidhe or contact Tom Black by email tom@foundationscotland.org.uk or call 07584 323850.

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Happy lockdown birthday!

Having a birthday during lockdown is strange, to say the least.

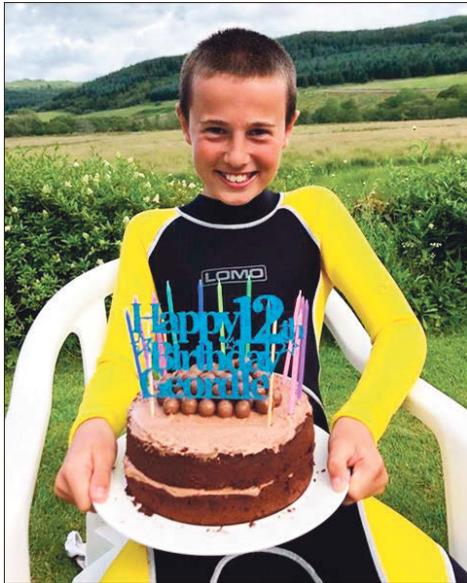
While government guidelines on minimising social contact are in place, sadly we can't enjoy a birthday celebration with friends and family.

You can, though, have your birthday celebrated in the Argyllshire Advertiser.

Send us a photograph of your family member or friend enjoying their special day and we will publish it and wish them a happy birthday.

Remember to include their full name, age, where they are from and a bit about what you did to make the day at home special.

Send your photographs to editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk



Georgie Todd from Lochgilphead celebrated his 12th birthday on June 27. He had a great day with his brothers Rory and Stuart.



Geordie's cousin, Katie Ramsay from Lochgair, celebrated her 13th birthday earlier in the month on June 4, enjoying a lovely time with her mum, dad and sister Iona.



Bill Gay reached the milestone of his 90th birthday on July 7. Qualified helicopter pilot Bill was born near Southampton in 1930 and has lived all over the world, including Saudi Arabia and Spain. Now very partially sighted, he is ably assisted by his black guide dog called Zooby and is a member of the Scottish War Blind association. Speaking ahead of his birthday, Bill's daughter Lynn Garrett said: 'He has been shielding since late March so the celebrations will be small but perfectly formed!' Bill (Neil) is pictured with his wife Val and guide dog Zooby.



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Getting back to work with

Thousands of companies have been taking advantage of an unprecedented package of UK Government support to protect jobs and support firms as they attempt to get back to business during the coronavirus outbreak.

As more and more companies continue to get back to work, we look at how the financial support is helping firms across the nation to adapt, innovate and protect jobs.

Here are examples of how companies have been helped, and what support is available.

CASE STUDY MADEMOISELLE MACARON

RACHEL HANRETTY, of Mademoiselle Macaron, fell in love with macarons while living in Paris.

After eating far too many patisseries, she enrolled at the Alain Ducasse cookery school to learn how to make macarons.

She said: "They're just so pretty. They're so delicate. And they're quite hard to make because there's a lot that can go wrong."

Once Rachel returned to Edinburgh and noticed a gap in the market, she decided to set up her very own macaron business.

She said: "I wanted to have that little bit of Paris with me. I focused on taste bud tourism, so when you eat these macarons you're transported to the Champs-Élysées." After nine months of

trading from home and going to food markets, Rachel set up her first bricks-and-mortar store.

She said: "It was in the centre of Edinburgh, it had a view of the castle. It was beautiful."

But since launching their online store in 2015, and realising that they could send macarons across the country, plus the fact that they had large bookings from both wholesale and wedding customers, the bricks and mortar became unnecessary.

The company, which employs eight people, lost all their wholesale customers overnight due to Coronavirus.

Rachel said: "It was really scary. All the weddings, all the wholesale customers, and the bulk of our production disappeared. And then, of course, you have phone calls from people wanting to cancel future orders and refunds.



PICTURE: CAROLYN HENRY

TASTY TREATS: Rachel Hanretty, below, has used the furlough scheme to keep Mademoiselle Macaron going.

"We entered the cash flow situation whereby the wholesale customers stopped paying the invoices. And we've now got over £30,000 worth of overdue invoices."

But, it's not all doom and gloom, as Mademoiselle Macaron has started to see an increase in online orders. It's thanks to the UK Government's furlough scheme that her business has kept afloat. Rachel said: "The furlough scheme has been a real lifeline in this time of crisis. I asked people to volunteer for furlough. So the people who wanted to and were happy to, they were the first ones to go. I cried.

"I just felt like I was stuck in this moral quandary. Do we keep going and safeguard the business, so there's a business for everyone to come back to? Or do I shut down because I can

see that this is causing people severe anguish? We managed to recall stock that was sitting in hospitality clients freezers. That is the only reason we survived. What

you make, you keep in the freezer and you use when you need to. It's not like it's a cupcake, if we were perishable goods we would never have survived."

Now everyone is back at work at Mademoiselle Macaron, they've had to be creative in terms of changing shift patterns and splitting the team in half, so there's less contact.

"We have a big kitchen so the space isn't the issue. It's more that we wanted to keep the team safe," adds Rachel.

Mademoiselle Macaron's online sales have increased so much that they're potentially in a position to hire more people on temporary contracts. Ideally, Rachel would like to help younger people and develop a training program with a college. "They've been so much more affected, and it's just something close to my heart," she said.



Keep our distance, wash our hands, think of others and play our part.

financial support package

‘We were able to pay our creditors’

CASE STUDY THE SEREN COLLECTION

WITH PLANS for a new spa at his five-star hotel, a Michelin-star chef in his restaurant and the launch of a tour operator business underway, Neil Kedward was looking forward to a good year in 2020.

But when the Covid-19 pandemic struck, the managing director of Wales-based The Seren Collection required urgent assistance from the UK Government's support schemes to pay his creditors and maintain supplier relationships.

Mr Kedward and his wife Zoe entered the hospitality industry almost by accident in 2007.

He said: “We just happened to come home to South Wales for the weekend and stumbled across The Grove. It was a calamitous trip with lots of wrong turns and family arguments, but we found the owner in, made our offer and that was that.

“Our aspiration was much smaller than that, in fact we just wanted to convert the six outlying

buildings into self catering units – now we're a 25 bedroom hotel.”

Neil and Zoe went on to open two restaurants in Saundersfoot and Oxwich on the back of the success of The Grove.

As if that weren't enough to keep the team busy, he also spotted a gap in the tour operator market.

Neil said: It struck me that there weren't enough tour operators bringing people into the country. So we started a business called routescape.com, which had a hugely encouraging start, launching at World Travel Market before a big business development trip in 2019. We had built up all our bookings for this financial year.

“And then of course the whole project was wiped out by the virus. We lost every single booking. Not just for Routescape, but for The Grove too.”

Neil added: “The loan from the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme has allowed us to pay off all our creditors and we will be able to relaunch owing nobody any money.



FINANCIAL AID: Neil Kedward, of The Seren Collection.

Help available to companies and workers

Here are some examples of the support available for businesses and workers.

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has enabled businesses to put employees on a period of temporary leave (furlough) and apply for a UK Government grant to cover 80 per cent of those workers' usual monthly wage costs, up to £2,500 a month.

The Self-Employment Income Support Scheme will allow eligible self-employed individuals to claim a taxable grant of 80 per cent of their average monthly profits, up to £7,500.

UK VAT-registered firms have been given the option to defer VAT payments until the end of June. There will be no interest or penalties on any amount deferred.

Commercial tenants who cannot pay their rent because of coronavirus will be protected from eviction.

The UK Government's Bounce Back Loans Scheme provides loans of up to £50,000 to small businesses, with a 100 per cent government-backed guarantee for lenders.

The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme is available for loans or finance of up to £5m. The UK Government will provide the lender with an 80 per cent guarantee to support the lending.

The Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme will repay employers the current rate of Statutory Sick Pay they pay current or former employees for sickness starting on or after March 13, 2020.

The Future Fund will issue loans between £125,000 to £5 million to innovative companies which are facing financing difficulties due to the coronavirus outbreak.

VISIT THE WEBSITE
Details of the support available to businesses across the UK can be found at [gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support)

‘Loan and furloughing helped keep us solvent’



ON THE RIGHT ROAD: Norman Kerr, of Kerr's Tyres & Auto.

CASE STUDY KERR'S TYRES & AUTO

WHEN COVID-19 struck, one of Northern Ireland's leading providers of tyres and automotive services, had just invested £2.5m in a new head office and distribution centre in Antrim and cash reserves were low.

But thanks to their ability to adapt, diversify as well as the invaluable support from the UK Government, Kerr's Tyres & Auto has been able play a vital role in servicing and keeping the province's key workers on the road.

Managing director Norman Kerr said: “The Antrim site used up our cash reserves and had a big impact on our cash flow.

“Unfortunately the coronavirus kicked in three months later, when we still didn't have a chance to build up any cash reserves that we would normally have. So it had a massive impact on ourselves.

“But the problem was we had to continue trading because we supply the food sector and the white delivery van man.

“So our business had to continue. We had to pay suppliers, we had no choice in it.”

However thanks to a UK Government Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme loan of £500,000 through the Ulster Bank, as well as the furlough scheme, the family-run business was able to remain solvent and save over 50 jobs.

Norman said: “Had we not been able to get the UK Government loan scheme, it would have had a huge impact on our business. Our business, in essence, dropped probably 75 per cent within the first month.

“Thankfully that has grown steadily back since then.”

Small but mighty navy boats deployed off West Coast

Three of the Royal Navy's P2000 Archer class patrol boats have been visiting the west coast of Scotland as part of their summer deployment.

The ships – HMS Biter, HMS Charger and HMS Express – support University Royal Naval Units (URNUs) are spending a fortnight training on the west coast of Scotland.

Between July 6 and July 20 the vessels will stop off at various harbours and lochs between conducting waterborne training where they will practice maritime skills.

Captain Chris Smith, naval regional commander for Scotland and Northern Ireland, said: 'The P2000s may be small, but they pack a punch and regularly exercise around the UK and

Europe as well as supporting the fleet.

'Usually we would be hosting visits from local groups and organisations, but, with the current situation, this is unfortunately not possible. We still hope to engage with local organisations across social media and using new technologies, however, if people spot the ships in their area please do give them a wave!'

Each of the vessels is affiliated to universities around the country and has a core crew of full-time Royal Navy sailors, which in normal times would be augmented by members of the University Royal Naval Units (URNUs). As this is not possible this time due to the current restrictions, each vessel will use new technologies to have a weekly virtual drill night with their associated URNU.



Four Archer class P2000 patrol boats together at sea.

At just over 20 metres long, the P2000s are some of the smallest ships in the fleet and perfect for navigation and seamanship training. It also means they can access small-

er harbours which, because of their size, usually can't host Royal Navy ships.

The Royal Navy has 14 Fast Inshore Patrol Craft which together form the

First Patrol Boat Squadron. Although their primary role is to support the URNUs, two of them, HMS Tracker and HMS Raider, are permanently based at HMNB

Clyde where they are part of the team safeguarding the nuclear fleet.

At the same time as Biter, Charger and Express undertake their west coast deployment, four boats – Trumpeter, Archer, Explorer and Example – will sail up Scotland's east coast.

The three ships were at Port Ellen from July 6 to 8, Oban from July 8 to 9 and will be Fort William from July 9 to 11. Further ports of call are planned, including; Kyle of Lochalsh, Ullapool, Stornoway, Lochboisdale and Tobermory, with dates to be confirmed.



LATEST NEWS from The Tayvallich Inn

The Tayvallich Inn is getting ready to be back - with a few changes!

A little taste of what to expect.

We've replaced our deck and reduced the number of tables inside the bar and restaurant.

We will have a reduced menu to start with but still with all the favorites, and everything will be available to take away.

We'll be providing table service only and we will ask you to phone or email ahead to book a table in the bar, restaurant or outside.

Look out next week for our new website launch, full information about how to book and hopefully a final opening date!



Seafood, sunshine and spectacular views



We can't wait to welcome you back very soon

Tayvallich, Lochgilphead, PA31 8PL Find us on Facebook:



Caring, confident Amy wins Schools Link award

Inveraray teenager Amy Owen has been named the Argyll College 2020 Schools Link Student of the Year, beating off stiff competition from local winners from all over Argyll.

Amy recently completed the Skills for Work Health Sector

programme, delivered for Lochgilhead Joint Campus senior students by Argyll College UHI.

Amy was nominated by tutor Linda Brown who said: 'As part of the course, I formed a working relationship with the

MS Centre (Lochgilhead) to enrich learning and bring what was delivered in the classroom to life in the real world of work. Amy embraced every opportunity and worked exceptionally well with the members of the Brain Fog Group on a Monday. She supported them with activities including Christmas party and charity events such as the fire walk where Amy helped with making posters and T shirts to promote the event.'

Pioneering

Amy was one of a number of Lochgilhead High School sixth year pupils taking part in the pioneering Digesting Science programme at the centre.

Linda Brown said of all the pupils: 'They are a credit to Lochgilhead.'

MS Centre outreach worker Claire Cameron added: 'Amy did amazingly well and made a huge impression on every-



Amy with her certificate.

one She became a trainer for Digesting Science and showed a lot of care and skill when delivering the training to other volunteers at the MS Centre.'

'I was very shocked to receive the award, but also very

pleased,' said Amy. It's been a great year and I had an amazing tutor.'

Asked to sum up Amy in three words, Linda said: 'Caring, confident, and determined!'

Help available to keep children safe online

Argyll and Bute Child Protection Committee (ABCPC) is urging people to find out how to help children and young people stay safe online.

This messages comes amid concerns from Police Scotland about online child abuse crimes.

As children and young people spend more time online there is an increase in the chances they will see something which isn't intended for them, be targeted by cyberbullies or online criminal offenders.

Help is available in understanding risks and steps to take to help keep children safe. This includes support and confidential helplines for anyone with concerns about, or affected by online abuse or cyberbullying.

The ABCPC lists available help on its website, and if you are aware of online crime you can report this to Police Scotland by telephone 999 (emergency), 101 (non-emergency) or in person at any police station. You can also report a crime anonymously online with Crimestoppers.



Pictured in March at the MS Centre during the Digesting Science course. From left: Claire Cameron, Linda Brown of Argyll College, MS Centre volunteer Morag MacDonald and students Yasmine Bowden and Amy Owen.



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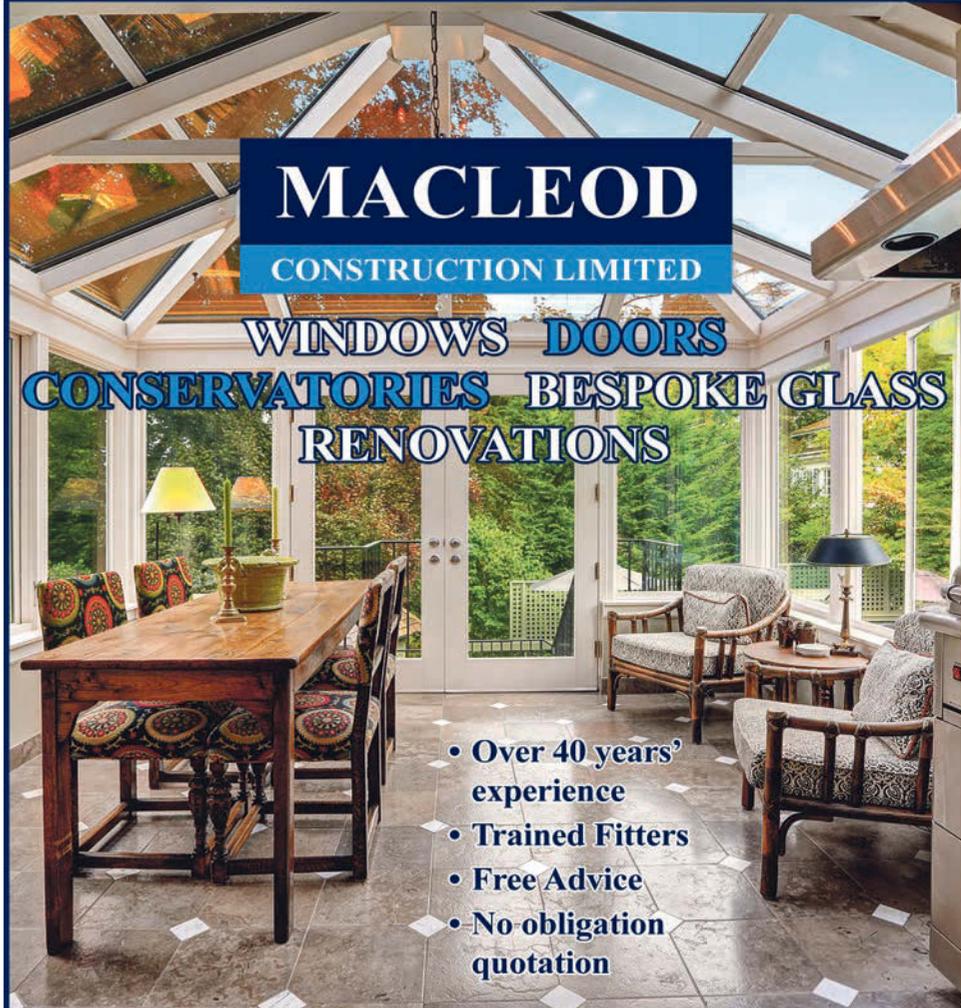
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Please feel free to get in touch with us if you would like to feature your business, or know a business that should be included. Email nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk or get in touch via our Facebook page on messenger.

Let's spread the word as much as we can!

MID ARGYLL

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RS McColl's Inveraray

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Inveraray Pharmacy

Open 9am-4pm, Mon-Fri & 9am-1pm Sat (for general supplies)
Dispensing for acute prescriptions available 9am-1pm, Mon, Wed, Fri (collection only thereafter)
Social distancing and safety measures in place including hand sanitizing on entry and sneeze guards. 1 in, 1 out policy.
Tel: 01499 302133

Argyll Pharmacy

Lochgilphead
Open Mon – Fri 9am-5.30pm, Sat 9am-5pm
Please only order what you need, check prescriptions are ready for collection BEFORE coming to the Pharmacy, please phone where you can for pharmacy advice
This goes against everything we believe in as 'good customer service' however we will be here to support you in the best way we can under these exceptional circumstances.
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Social distancing & safety measures in place
Tel: 01546 602240 or email dalriadavets@btconnect.com

EXTRA HELP FROM COMMUNITY HEROES

Inveraray Community Council

Are you in self-isolation?
If you are following government guidelines and self-isolating due to a new cough or fever, we have set up a volunteer group for anyone in Inveraray needing essential groceries or prescriptions from local shops or chemist to be picked up and delivered to your doorstep.
Call Linda on 07388165366 or Aly on 07717885404. Open to Inveraray residents only.
Payment on delivery please. If you would like to volunteer to deliver goods please let us know.

West Coast Motors Deliveries

West Coast Motors are offering FREE travel to NHS workers and are also offering a FREE service for pick up and delivery from Lochgilphead and Inveraray.

When placing your order with the store, pay over the phone by card. Let them know that your order will be collected by West Coast Motors. Email or phone Robert Mackay on r.mackay@westcoast-motors.co.uk. Arrange a 01586 555883 (leave a message with your number if he's out) to arrange the pick up from the shop/chemist. Arrange for yourself or a volunteer to meet the bus at the bus stop in your town/village. PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL STORES WHERE POSSIBLE.

Information correct at time of going to press. Check www.argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk/openforbusiness for updated information. This page will run in the Argyllshire Advertiser every week for as long as necessary - printed information will be updated weekly.

KINTYRE

SUPERMARKETS & FOODHALLS

Tesco Metro

0345 6779130
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Good Friday, Easter Sunday & Easter Monday
8am-8pm
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Key worker exclusive access: Mon-Sat 8am-9am,
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Wednesday--Southend area & Town
Thursday - Kilkennie, Glenbarr, , Muasdale, Tayinloan & Town
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Friday - Peninver, Torrissdale, Saddell, Carradale & Town
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Collections Mon, Wed, Fri
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Or via FB. Payment by card/bank transfer please
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Kintyre Food Bank

Campbeltown Town Hall from 10am to 12pm on Tuesdays and Fridays.
Anybody who is self-isolating and in need can contact the food bank by telephoning 07936 034600 to arrange delivery.

Harlequin Tearoom & Gift Shop, Campbeltown

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TRANSPORT & DELIVERY

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A Thomson Painters & Decorators West Coast Motors

Look up FB pages for more information on local services:
Look online at www.campbeltowncourier.co.uk, Kintyre Forum and Explore Campbeltown on Facebook.

Information correct at time of going to press.

Check www.campbeltowncourier.co.uk/openforbusiness for updated information. This page will run in the Campbeltown Courier every week for as long as necessary - printed information will be updated weekly.

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Highlands and Islands lose sight of optical service

Specsavers has withdrawn its Highlands and Islands rural service due to the impact of coronavirus.

Six staff members have been made redundant as a result of the closure which means there will no longer be a visiting opticians service at centres in 15 locations across the area.

The Highlands and Islands service visited Lewis, N/S Uist, Barra, Lochcarron, Gairloch, Lochinver, Lairg, Strontian, Mallaig, Portree, Kyleakin, Islay, Campbeltown, Arran and Benbecula when it was operational.

Specsavers admitted the decision to close its Highlands and Islands optical service had been a difficult one but said that the service was no longer sustainable.

'The Covid-19 pandemic has had a big impact across all areas of the Specsavers business and the company has had to make some tough decisions to ensure it continues to be viable,' said a spokesperson for the company.

Posting on its Facebook page, the Mallaig Community Centre wrote: 'This was a well-used service and a regular source of income for the Community Centre, and we'd like to thank the team who came regularly. Our thoughts are with those who have lost their jobs.'

Specsavers has said that all impacted customers are being contacted with details of alternative Specsavers options for their eye care needs.

Farmers' leader thanks public for support

NFU Scotland President Andrew McCornick has written an open letter to Scottish consumers thanking them for their ongoing support for Scottish farmers, growers and crofters during this health crisis.

He states that the backing given to Scottish farming, food and drink throughout the pandemic has been unprecedented and calls on the public to go one step further to ensure that the positive lessons on food security and standards are preserved.

At the start of the pandemic, Mr McCornick pledged that Scottish farmers and crofters would do everything they could to ensure that the nation's plates and glasses remained full.

That commitment has seen those supermarkets, stores and shops able to trade safely in the past four months rewarded with soaring sales for Scottish produce and growing customer numbers. In a recent trading update, one supermarket chain



NFU Scotland President Andrew McCornick.

highlighted that sales had increased by around £1 billion during the 13 weeks to 30 May 2020.

However, there are unconfirmed reports this week that a major food retailer is already

looking to its suppliers to change contracts and reduce prices.

In his letter to the public, he writes: 'With your support, we can ensure that risk and reward across the whole food

supply chain – from farmgate to supermarket shelf – is shared fairly. I ask that you to further support our domestic food production by writing to your elected politicians and supermarkets on the impor-

tance of domestic production.

'Highlight that you want our production standards to be protected now and in the future, and that you want enhanced country of origin labelling so that you can buy Scottish or British when given the choice.

'We also seek your support in calling for retailers to deliver a fairer share of risk and reward to everyone in our food chain. Your backing for home-produced food and drink during this pandemic, and the response of farmers and crofters during the crisis shows that positive change is possible.

'Small steps can make a big difference and the public has the ability to vote with their feet and support those businesses where the best interests of Scottish food and farming in the future are being served.'

Fyne Ales stars in supermarket festival

Cairndow-based Fyne Ales is showcased in the 21st Aldi in-store Scottish Beer Festival, featuring 30 outstanding craft beers from 13 local breweries.

The family-owned and run brewery, based on a working farm in Glen Fyne, produces high quality year-round classics and farmhouse beers.

Customers can try Fyne Ales' flagship session blonde ale, Jarl, their fruity blonde ale, Hurricane Jack, and their

punchy and bittersweet Scottish amber ale, Highlander, which was the first beer Fyne Ales ever made and is still brewed using the same recipe today.

Matt Tomasson, national and export sales manager at Fyne Ales, said: 'Fyne Ales is delighted to be part of the Aldi Scottish Beer Festival. It's fantastic to showcase our beers to a wider audience, alongside a variety of established Scottish breweries.

Graham Nicolson, Group Buying Director, Aldi Scotland added: 'Year after year, our Scottish Beer Festival supports and recognises the very best of Scottish craft beer and the breweries behind them.

Impressive variety

'We are very much looking forward to showcasing an impressive variety of premium lagers, amber ales, stouts and IPAs from 13 exceptional breweries

located throughout the length and breadth of Scotland.'

'I'm pleased our customers can enjoy exploring some of the finest local craft beers Scotland has to offer while helping small breweries during these challenging times.'

The festival opened on July 2 in stores across Scotland and is worth an estimated £85,000 to the breweries involved.

Spaghetti Carbonara

With just a handful of ingredients, this lightened-up carbonara is a dinner-time hero. It has all the taste of the creamy Italian classic without the Syns!



Ingredients

400g dried spaghetti
Small handful of fresh chives, finely snipped

4 tbsp fat-free natural fromage frais
6 back bacon rashers, visible fat removed
2 level tbsp grated fresh Parmesan

Method:

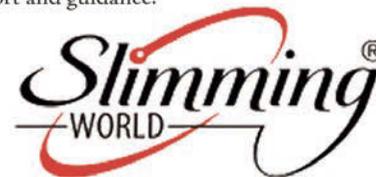
1. Cook the spaghetti according to the pack instructions. Drain well and return to the saucepan.
2. Meanwhile, place a large non-stick frying pan over a high heat. Add the bacon and dry-fry for 2-3 minutes, then turn off the heat.
3. Lightly beat the eggs, season lightly and stir in the fromage frais, 1 level tbsp Parmesan and most of the chives.
4. Add the bacon to the drained spaghetti and mix well over a low heat, then remove from the heat and stir in the egg mixture. Toss thoroughly so that the eggs thicken in the residual heat, making a sauce that coats the pasta.
5. Divide the spaghetti between 4 bowls, then divide over the remaining Parmesan and chives. Serve hot.

½ Syn per serving 20 minutes Serves 4

PLEASE NOTE:

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Call for wage proposals to take exceptional times into consideration



Current wage proposals must take exceptional times into consideration according to NFU Scotland.

NFUS recently submitted a response to the Low Pay Commission (LPC) consultation on increases to National Minimum Wage (NMW) and National Living Wage. The submission from NFUS was informed by feedback from more than 100 members who responded to the Union's 2020 Employment and Wages survey – providing a very strong evidence base.

The work of the LPC has both a direct and indirect impact on Scottish farm businesses. For Scottish agricultural workers,

minimum standards continue to be set by the Scottish Agricultural Wages Board (SAWB), whilst minimum pay for workers in diversified parts of businesses, for example processing or hospitality, may be set by the national wage regulations.

The LPC consultation explored aspects such as: the economic outlook of businesses as we enter 2021; affordability of any change to minimum rates of pay and implications on businesses and employment; the impact of changes to minimum rates of pay on apprentices or young workers and accommodation offset rates.

Although the consultation

has officially closed, the LPC is still accepting written submissions due to exceptional circumstances. Individuals who would like to contribute can access the consultation on the LPC website.

In its submission, NFUS highlighted the continued complexity of minimum standards within Scottish agriculture by having two separate pieces of legislation to comply with – SAWB and NMW.

Looking ahead, the Union urged the LPC to consider the uncertain economic outlook for agriculture, including challenging market conditions following Brexit and the un-

known economic implications of Covid-19.

A roundtable meeting was held on July 2 for NFU Scotland members to share their views with Low Pay Commissioners. Spaces are limited and members who want to get involved are urged to contact their regional manager.

Chair of the Union's Legal and Technical Committee, Tom French, said: 'We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the consultation. The outstanding response from members to our survey highlights how concerned members are over wages and they will have an opportunity to feed in those views at the roundtable

discussions tomorrow.

'Any changes to National Minimum & Living Wage must be delivered in light of unprecedented levels of uncertainty being driven by both Brexit and Covid-19.

'It is in our economic interests that businesses, and therefore employment, must be protected and flexibility around wages be introduced to ensure businesses have time to adapt to our post-Brexit future.'

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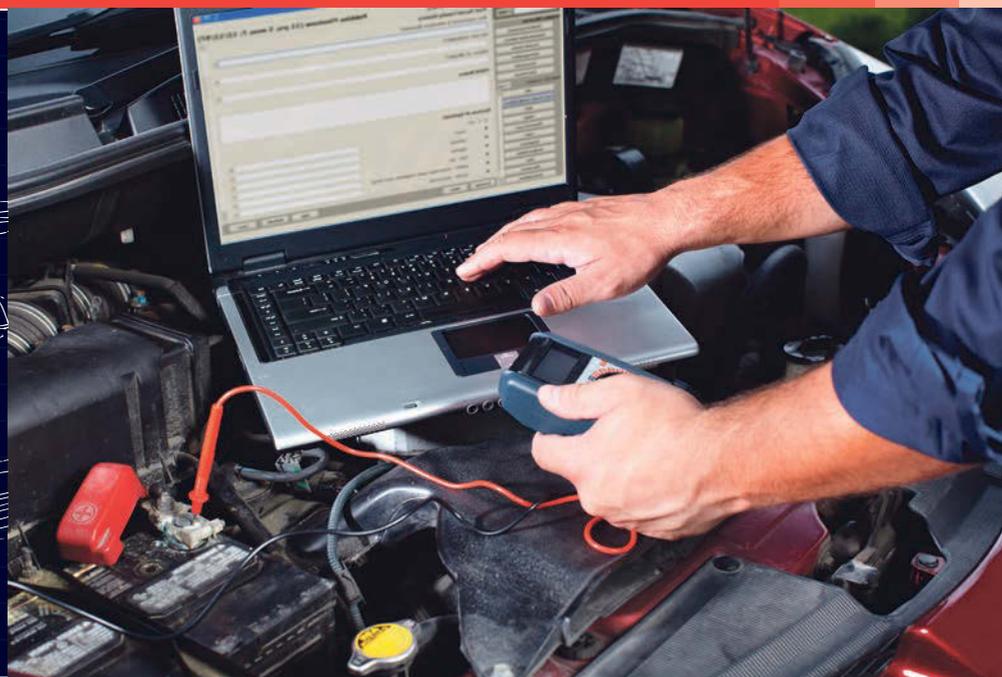
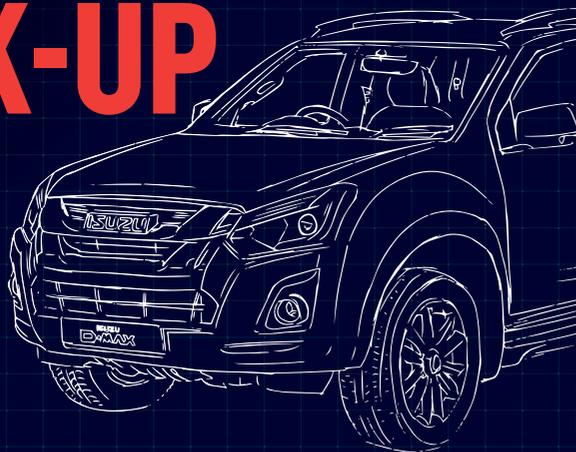
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PUBLIC NOTICES



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Opportunities for Local Businesses



RES is committed to maximising the local economic benefit of the wind farms that we construct and operate. In these challenging times, we believe it is important to utilise local contractors where possible.

Later this year RES plans to start the main civils construction at Blary Hill Wind Farm. The project has the potential to deliver approximately £3.9 million in the form of jobs, employment, and the use of local services, into the local economy.

On 16th July 2020 we will be holding a virtual meet the buyer event where local businesses can learn more about the opportunities associated with the construction and operation of this site.

We will be offering time slots by telephone or video conference, for businesses to register their interest and discuss the opportunities in more detail.

A similar event held prior to the construction of Freasdaill Wind Farm, near Whitehouse resulted in more than £6 million being spent in the local economy and many local businesses worked with us to construct the project.

Some of the skills, services and materials which are likely to be required are as follows:

- » Civil engineering
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- » Plant hire
- » Crane hire
- » Concrete
- » Aggregates

For more information on the project please visit www.blaryhill-windfarm.co.uk

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

The applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Having regard to Schedule 6, Part 3, s10 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020, documents are only available to inspect electronically at this time. Customers requiring assistance can contact us by e-mail: planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk or tel. 01546 605518.

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
20/00871/PP	Erection of office building (retrospective)	Inverliever Lodge Ford Lochgilphead Argyll And Bute PA31 8RH
20/00885/PP	Construction and operation of a underground fibre optic cable and associated works	Land Between Lochgilphead And Port Ann Argyll And Bute

Written comments can be submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> or to Argyll and Bute Council, Development Management, Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT 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 on the Councils website. Customers are requested to use electronic communication where possible during the coronavirus pandemic as our ability to process postal mail is restricted.

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

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https://www.coulterproperty.co.uk/first-time-buyer-changes

You can clearly see that in Scotland, house prices have risen by 205.40% but earnings have only risen by 77.37%. The deposit as % of earnings has increased by 21.20%.

How Has Housing Affordability Changed in the UK?

In 1999, the average house price in the UK was just £77,961. Fast forward twenty years and that figure has almost trebled, to £230,735.

At the same time, the average income has also increased, but only from £17,803 a year to £30,353, an increase of 70%.

In 1999, a 10% deposit would have worked out at about 43.8% of your annual salary, these days, that figure has risen by about three quarters to 76%.

PROPERTY

	1999	2020	10 YEAR DIFFERENCE (£)	10 YEAR DIFFERENCE (%)
House Price	£49,924	£152,469	£102,545.00	205.40%
Deposit	£4,992	£15,247	£10,255	205.43%
Earnings	£16,914	£30,000*	13,086	77.37%
Deposit % Earnings	29.50%	50.70%		21.20%

*2019 earnings data used

Thought for the Week
with Marilyn Shedden

The word 'change' normally refers to new beginnings. But the mystery of transformation more often happens not when something new begins, but when something old falls apart.

We will normally do anything to keep the old things from falling apart.

Human beings are often reluctant to embrace change and we like things to remain in familiar territory.

There is a certain attitude that 'we've aye done it this way, and it worked just fine'.

Over these past three months, we have all adapted to change, though not necessarily embraced it.

As constraints begin to relax, I am trying to remember exactly what it was like at the beginning of lockdown.

There was more time to 'be', as the roads were so much quieter; there were no appointments or meetings in the diary, and to some extent there was a sense of peace.

There was a renewed sense of 'the other' as we worried about neighbours and phoned or 'distance' called to ensure all was well.

There was a renewed sense of community as folk stood together and clapped for the heroes of these strange times.

There was a renewed sense of what was important. The worry about lockdown hairstyles paled into insignificance as deaths rose from this awful virus.

We became a better people, more focused on the things that really matter.

We really and truly counted our blessings, especially those of us who live amidst beaches and hills and unending horizons.

What will we take with us into the future from this time?

Let it be hope, let it be love, let it be patience, let it be a vision of a new and better world for all.

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ISLAY



Ryan Woodrow, centre, presenting the cheque to Bowmore Primary School head teacher, Maureen MacDonald, left, and his former class teacher, Linsay MacArthur, right.

Souper star Ryan dishes up school donation

An Islay schoolboy with a passion for cooking has made a generous donation to the primary school from which he has just graduated.

Before leaving Bowmore Primary School in June, 12-year-old Ryan Woodrow presented a cheque for £745 – the proceeds from the sales of his own soup cook book – to the school's head teacher, Maureen MacDonald, and his class teacher of the last five years, Linsay MacArthur.

Ryan spent nine years at the school, first attending pre-school when he was three, the same age as he was diagnosed with high functioning autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The money he has donated to the school will help to fund resources for future children with ASD and special needs.

Ryan's mum Lorraine, who helped him compile the cook book, which features 50 soups and is being sold for £10, said: 'Cooking and baking has always been a keen interest for Ryan, and a lovely way for us to interact with him. It's a joy

to watch him having fun, making and eating his creations.'

The pair began working on the book in 2017, gathering ideas from Lorraine's hairdressing customers and online, as well as making up a few of their own 'weird and wonderful' recipes along the way!

'We cooked lots of different soups, from classic and traditional, to unusual and experimental,' Lorraine said. 'Some have not made the book, having been experiments gone wrong, but we have been left with 50 soups that seem to have Ryan's approval.'

Lorraine thanked everyone who has purchased a book so far, adding: 'The school has been amazing, and always provided fantastic support to our family, and we just wanted to show our appreciation.'

There are still some books left – anyone wishing to purchase a copy can contact Lorraine via Facebook or telephone 07881 926231.

JURA

Small Isles scoops fifth Eco-Schools flag

Primary pupils on Jura are celebrating after their school scooped its fifth Eco-Schools Green Flag.

To earn the award, students at Small Isles Primary School have been following the seven elements of the sustainable schools programme run by Keep Scotland Beautiful.

The children took part in a project on reducing food waste, recognising it as a form of litter, and set up recycling stations for various items such as crisp packets and toothbrushes. They also studied the way water goes 'from the taps to our tummies', even testing water from taps across Jura.

The award assessor praised the school's efforts, saying its application was 'one of the strongest to the programme that they have ever assessed' and that, as a school community, they have worked hard to ensure that their work has an



Staff and pupils at Small Isles Primary School are celebrating after being awarded their fifth Green Flag.

impact both within the school and also within the local community.

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education, Councillor Yvonne McNeilly said: 'What a great achievement. The pupils, staff and parents should be extremely proud of themselves.'

'The Eco Schools programme is a great way to teach children about the importance of looking after the world around them and provides a useful framework for learning, in line with the curriculum of excellence. Well done to everyone at Small Isles Primary School.'

The children have also won parliamentary recognition after Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron submitted a motion praising their achievement.

He said: 'It is very encouraging to see how our younger generations are taking care of their local environment.'

'Jura is a special place and it is clear from this latest distinction that the island will remain in very good hands for many years to come.'

Councillor Alastair Redman added: 'The entire community will be very proud of this achievement by its youngest members. Let's hope they can go on to make it a sixth flag in due course!'

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MARRIAGE

MULLEN - BELL - Both families are delighted to announce the marriage of David John Ross, son of Neil and the late Mary McEachran to Lesley Carlen, younger daughter of Walter and Maureen Bell, on Saturday, July 4, 2020 in the grounds of Drumore Park. A wonderful day was had by all.

DIAMOND WEDDING

WILSON - WALLACE - On June 25, 1960 at Blythswood, Glasgow, Thomas to Mary. Present address: Southend, Campbeltown.

DEATHS

MACPHAIL - Peacefully at Mid Argyll Community Hospital on July 4, 2020, William (Billy) MacPhail, aged 99, of 3 Jubilee Terrace, Lochgilphead. Brother of the late Angus, Alice and Mary MacPhail, uncle of Douglas and the late Edith and June MacPhail. Private family service will take place at Achnabreac Cemetery on July 13, 2020.

MCINTYRE - Eleanor (Nell). Passed away suddenly at home on Thursday, July 2, 2020. Beloved wife of Bob, sister-in-law of Joyce, aunt to Sandra, Jim, Jill, Andy, Colin and Cath and great aunt to Cara, Louisa, and George all of whom loved her dearly. A service will be held at Woodside Crematorium on, Monday, July 13, 2020, at 2.00pm. Invited family only due to current restrictions. Family flowers only but if wished donations may be made to ACCORD Hospice, Paisley.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACFARLANE - The family of the late Sheila

MacFarlane, would like to thank everyone, for the many kind expressions of sympathy and support received in their recent sad loss. Special thanks to all involved in her care, the doctors, district nurses and all at Tarbert Medical Practice, Naomi and Tanya from NC Support, the team at Carr Gomm, the Tarbert Pharmacy and the Marie Curie nursing team for all the kind care and attention she received. Thanks also to Rev Ian Miller for a comforting and appropriate service at Cardross Crematorium, Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for professional services, John Hunt for his excellent renderings on the pipes and finally to the neighbours and the villagers of Tarbert who lined the route and paid their last respects, as the cortege passed on route to Cardross.

MCMILLAN - Iain, Iain and Gary would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their many kind expressions of sympathy and support following the sad loss of Margaret. To all that came out to pay their respects in her much loved garden at Belmara and on her final journey to Kilkerran Cemetery, the family really appreciate the love shown for Margaret. Special thanks for their care and compassion to Dr Lazarus, Maggie Wilkieson and staff at Campbeltown Hospital; Dr Venugopal, Nicola and Marie at the Beatson Cancer Centre and the staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Our sincere thanks to Rev. Scott Burton for his personal service in the garden and at the graveside, to T.A. Blair Funeral Directors

especially Kenny for their professionalism and compassion, and to Andrew at Kilkerran Cemetery. Finally our heartfelt thanks go to her loving sister Maureen for caring for her over the last few months. We can never repay the love and kindness shown.

MCMILLAN - The family of the late Peter McMillan (Bender) would like to thank everyone who sent expressions of sympathy after his passing. A huge thanks is extended to all relatives, friends and neighbours who turned out to see Peter on his last journey around Campbeltown. A special thanks to Rev. Chris Holden for prayers and comforting words in Campbeltown and to Rev. Ann Knox for her very fitting service in Cardross. We are also grateful to Kenny Blair for all funeral arrangements and a heartfelt thank you to Anne and Margaret for help with transport. We are truly thankful for the excellent care given to Peter by the teams at Knapdale Ward, Lochgilphead and Ardenlee Care Home, Dunoon.

IN MEMORIAM

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather Archie, who died July 10, 2012.

You still live on in the hearts and minds

Of the loving family you left behind.

- Forever remembered, Anna and family.

MCGEACHY - **RENTON**. Amanda. In everlasting memory of our most beloved, cherished daughters, Mandy, who

died on July 9, 2019 and her sister Isabell, who died aged two and a half months on September 21, 1961.

Your hand we cannot touch or your face we cannot see

But you are in the sunshine and the soft breeze touching me

The golden threads not broken and the bond we shared remains

And it will hold forever, 'till we meet again.

Most loved by Mum and Campbell.

'Ae fond kiss and then we sever

'Ae fareweel alas, forever.'

MCGEACHY - **RENTON**. Amanda. In loving memory of Mandy our dearly loved and missed sister, sister-in-law and aunt, who died at Crosshouse Hospital, Ayrshire on July 9, 2019.

Dear Mandy, that's a year gone by, an anniversary with no cheer.

It's been so hard without you, hours, days, months, a year.

Dearest sister you are always with us and in our hearts you will always remain.

And the family bond will reunite when we are all together again.

Loving you always, forgetting you never.

- Your sisters and brother, Linda and Adam, Diane, David and Doreen, Kathleen and Keith and your nieces and nephews.

TAYLOR - In loving memory of my dear mum, Jane Brown Bell, died July 14, 1985.

Although it is many years since you passed away

I still love and miss you every day.

- Love Norma, Jim and family.

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Wanted: local heroes for volunteer sports awards

Never has there been a more appropriate time to celebrate the hundreds of volunteers in our communities who have helped keep people of all ages healthy and active both during lockdown and outwith, writes Fiona Scott.

Charity-based leisure trust LiveArgyll has launched its 2020 Volunteer Sports Awards and nominations can now be submitted until Friday July 17.

The awards, which run annually in partnership with sportscotland, aim to celebrate and reward the success and achievements of coaches and volunteers in Argyll and Bute school and community sports clubs. Nominations are open to both volunteer sport coaches and club volunteers with non-coaching roles.

LiveArgyll's Active Schools and Sport Manager Alex Edmonstone said: 'Volunteers are the lifeblood of community



sport in Argyll and Bute. The commitment which so many people show, allows sport to thrive in our towns, islands and villages.

'These awards help us celebrate and say thank you to a few of those people who have made a positive difference in supporting their community live richer and more active lives.'

If you have someone at your sports club or school who has made a real difference over the last year and beyond, you can complete the short nomination form on the LiveArgyll website.

Nominations can be submitted for volunteers who are in coaching, as well as in non-coaching roles.

The 2020 winners and run-

The 2019 winners.

ners-up will also have their entries entered into the national sportscotland Coaching, Officiating and Volunteering Awards.

All nominees of the LiveArgyll Volunteer Sports Awards 2020 will be announced in August on the LiveArgyll webpage and social media platforms, and the Argyllshire Advertiser.

Final winners will be announced in early September.

Alex Edmonstone added: 'In Argyll and Bute, volunteers put in hours of their time and are crucial to the running of our clubs and providing sport to our communities.'

During lockdown the important roles of sports club volunteers has been even more evident. From running online activity to getting out there themselves and helping in the

communities, heroes one and all.

For the 2020 awards there are six categories which volunteers can be nominated in. For full nomination criteria and how to nominate please visit the LiveArgyll website.

Categories are as follows:

- Volunteer coach
- Young person's coach of the year (coaches under-18s)
- Coach of the year (25 +)
- Young coach of the year (25 and under)
- Disability coach of the year
- Non-coaching Volunteer
- Lifetime volunteer achievement
- Volunteer of the year (25 +)
- Young volunteer of the year (25 and under)

Nominations close at midnight on Friday July 17.

For further information please email LiveArgyll's Community Sport Hub Officer at cshub@liveargyll.co.uk

Ladies Centenary Stableford at Lochgilphead

Saturday July 4 was a day of two halves weather-wise for the Ladies Centenary Stableford at Lochgilphead Golf Club.

The morning was wet, but that didn't deter Jane Hepburn who returned a fantastic 40 points beating Ele Hunter by six points. Jane is really on her game just now, reducing her handicap every time she plays.

The gents who were brave enough to weather the rain on Sunday played for the Bookers Trophy. Douglas Whyte recorded a superb under-par score of a net 63 strokes, beating Sandy Crawford by just two strokes.

The club hopes to give details soon of the ladies and gents opens, as soon as guidance is issued by Scottish Golf.

Big turnout set for Glenralloch

Tarbert Golf Club held its second midweek stableford on Wednesday July 1, with Peter McLean junior take the honours on 37 points.

Jim Brownlie came second, with 35 points and Bruce McLean third on 34 points.

Members are looking forward to another stableford this weekend with the first round of the Archie MacNab Memorial Cup. With the weather set fair, club Captain Kenny MacFarlane is anticipating a large turnout. scottishgolf.org/coronavirus-covid-19-updates

Golf clubs set to benefit from Covid support fund

Golf clubs that have been affected financially by the coronavirus pandemic are being offered support via a funding package funded by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, writes Fiona Scott.

In total the funding is worth £685,000 and clubs affiliated to Scottish Golf can apply for grants being made available via two separate allocations; the Covid-19 Fixed Costs Grant and the Club Relief Fund.

Fixed Costs Grant will enable every affiliated club in Scotland to apply for a maximum of £500 for costs specifically associated with preparing for safe play and club/course management following the lockdown in early March.

These can include but are not exhaustive of sanitation products, Covid-related health and safety equipment, professional fees, signs, training, video conferencing licence (e.g. Zoom)

and any other Covid-related spend. The Club Relief Fund has been created to provide financial support to clubs who have been impacted by the pandemic and is concentrated on enabling clubs to reinstate or to increase expenditure in key areas to either improve member experience or boost income generation potential.

Clubs applying to this fund are required to complete a four-stage application to ensure the review committee

have the correct information available to allocate funds.

The information required includes:

- Standard Club Criteria and Agreement
- Commitment to Growing the Game
- Financial Information
- Impact of Funding

A Scottish Golf spokesperson said: 'While the provision of this funding is most welcome, we do anticipate the volume of applications to be high and the

criteria outlined will be strictly applied to ensure that the funds available are distributed where most needed.

'We continue to explore other funding options for clubs to access and will communicate any additional opportunities should these arise.'

The application process for both grants is open now until Friday July 24. More information and application forms can be found on the Scottish Golf website.



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