

Merry Christmas
to all our readers

More Christmas messages inside from your favourite local businesses and trades



FREE INSIDE
2020 wall calendar

Driver crisis sparks Argyll charity to launch appeal

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

An acute shortage of drivers has forced an Argyll transport charity to appeal for urgent help as demand increases.

Mid Argyll Transport Volunteers (MATV) is trying to attract younger drivers in particular to maintain its lifeline service.

The charity provides a voluntary car transport service in Tarbert and across Mid Argyll for elderly and disabled people unable to use buses. Between November 11 and December 6, MATV volunteers drove 6,658 miles taking people to hospital and GP appointments, shopping trips, visiting relatives and other excursions. But there are not enough volunteer drivers to meet demand.

'Our drivers are dedicated and they enjoy it, but we have to remember many are themselves getting on a bit,' said MATV chairwoman Fiorna Cairns-Smith.

'Not everyone is keen to

travel to Glasgow, particularly in the middle of winter. We need new blood.'

MATV co-ordinator Catherine Kennedy explained: 'We do approx 37 long distance runs to Oban and Glasgow in a month, among a total of around 120 journeys.'

'Over a two-week period recently we had to cancel or decline 17 runs due to not having drivers.'

'It's a lifeline for some people...I hate not being able to help.'

'In the last few months we have had to close the diary on eight occasions due to lack of drivers. People with medical needs always come first, but sometimes we have to cancel these due to the high demand.'

'You worry that these people need to see a doctor, but we can do nothing if we haven't got anyone available.'

It's a lifeline for some people and we get attached to our clients. I hate not being able to help.'

Fiorna concluded: 'I want to appeal to people's community spirit in Tarbert and Mid Argyll in this festive season, particularly younger drivers.'

'It's far from a one-way street. It doesn't matter if it is just an hour a week you can spare, you will be helping others. And it can be great fun.'

If you drive and can spare a little time to help, contact Catherine Kennedy on 01546 603564 or the Mid Argyll Transport Volunteers Facebook page.



The magic of Christmas in Lochgilphead

Santa visited Lochgilphead's annual Rotary Christmas Fayre. Among the excited children there to meet the great man was wee Isla Davidson, who met Santa Claus on her first Christmas. Photograph: Verina Litster. More festive fun on page nine.

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POLICE FILES

Theft from Co-op

Police are investigating after a theft from the Co-op, Lochgilphead, was captured on CCTV on Tuesday December 10 at 3.40pm.

Drunk driver

Police stopped a vehicle around 11.50pm on Friday December 13 on Main Street, Inveraray. The 61-year-old driver allegedly provided a positive breath test and was arrested. He was released on an undertaking to appear in court at a later date.

Careless driving

At 11am on Saturday December 14, on the A83 at Inverneill, a male driver allegedly overtook a line of vehicles in the face of oncoming traffic, resulting in a collision. Police are appealing for witnesses to come forward.

Anyone with information in relation to the above should contact their local police station on telephone number 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 551111.

Lochgilphead set for 'big lift' in new year

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Two separate projects aimed at improving Lochgilphead have been given the backing of the town's community councillors.

At its December meeting, Lochgilphead Community Council convenor Andy Buntin praised the work carried out so far to prepare for a project to improve the front green.

With planning permission secured and invitations to tender due to be issued on January 6, Mr Buntin said: 'It's high time this project was done.'

He added: 'Throughout this process there has been a great deal of help from the design team and Argyll and Bute Council. All of our aspira-

tions have been met and, in some cases, exceeded.'

Much of the £1.7 million of funding allocated to the project will be spent on improving drainage on the site.

The fully costed plans also include a central public space or square to the rear of the war memorial, with a site for a Christmas tree where there will be potential for events. There will be a new play area, improved seating and better signs.

A planned cycle track will also have the potential to be connected to a wider network, as funding becomes available.

Mr Buntin reiterated his hope, expressed at an earlier community council meeting, that machinery will be on site by March 2020.

A separate project will improve buildings in the town centre. The town will

benefit from a Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS), thanks to a grant of £969,700 from Historic Environment Scotland backed with £386,000 in council funding and estimated contributions from building owners of £250,000 – taking the total budget to

£1.6m over the five years the CARS scheme will run.

Similar CARS projects have improved Campbeltown, Inveraray, Dunoon and Rothesay.

Addressing the community council at the December 9 meeting, Mr Buntin said he was hopeful the council

CARS project officer James Lafferty would speak at a future community council meeting.

Mr Buntin concluded: 'Between the front green project and the CARS scheme, hopefully they will give Lochgilphead the big lift it needs.'



Consultation events earlier this year on the front green project attracted a lot of interest. Now the project is set to begin. 51_a16FrontGreen13

Man spat on police officer

An Ardrishaig man who repeatedly spat on a police officer must pay him £750 compensation.

Frazer Mullaney, 27, of 14 Glenfyne Terrace, admitted assaulting a police officer on July 8 this year during an incident at Davaar Avenue and Hazelburn Business Park, Campbeltown, by repeatedly spitting on him, plus resisting and obstructing officers in the execution of their duty.

He also admitted failing to

comply with his bail conditions on December 7 this year and acting in a threatening and abusive manner.

In the latter incident, Mullaney was subject to a bail curfew but missed a bus home as it had arrived early. His defence agent said: 'His conduct was born of frustration and panic; he had not breached a curfew before.'

'This police assault is an appalling one,' said Sheriff Patrick Hughes, sitting at

Campbeltown, last week. He ordered Mullaney to pay compensation and to undertake a 12-month community payback order with 144 hours unpaid work in the community with a restriction of liberty order from 8pm to 7pm. The sheriff also deferred sentence for the other cases and ordered an updated report on Mullaney and his suitability for alcoholism treatment. The case will call again in January.



Davaar Island Safe Walking Times

	Morning	Safe Walking Times		Afternoon	Safe Walking Times	
	Low Tide	From	Til	Low Tide	From	Til
Sun, 1 Dec 2019	07:51	04:51	10:21			
Mon, 2 Dec 2019	08:37	05:37	11:07			
Tue, 3 Dec 2019	09:29	06:29	11:59			
Wed, 4 Dec 2019	10:29	07:29	12:59			
Thu, 5 Dec 2019	11:42	08:42	14:12			
Fri, 6 Dec 2019				12:56	09:56	15:26
Sat, 7 Dec 2019				13:57	10:57	16:27
Sun, 8 Dec 2019				14:46	11:46	17:16
Mon, 9 Dec 2019				15:26	12:26	17:56
Tue, 10 Dec 2019				16:02	13:02	18:32
Wed, 11 Dec 2019				16:37	13:37	19:07
Thu, 12 Dec 2019				17:12	14:12	19:42
Fri, 13 Dec 2019				17:50	14:50	20:20
Sat, 14 Dec 2019						
Sun, 15 Dec 2019						
Mon, 16 Dec 2019	07:48	04:48	10:18			
Tue, 17 Dec 2019	08:40	05:40	11:10			
Wed, 18 Dec 2019	09:37	06:37	12:07			
Thu, 19 Dec 2019	10:39	07:39	13:09			
Fri, 20 Dec 2019	11:48	08:48	14:18			
Sat, 21 Dec 2019				12:59	09:59	15:29
Sun, 22 Dec 2019				14:05	11:05	16:35
Mon, 23 Dec 2019				15:02	12:02	17:32
Tue, 24 Dec 2019				15:53	12:53	18:23
Wed, 25 Dec 2019				16:39	13:39	19:09
Thu, 26 Dec 2019				17:22	14:22	19:52
Fri, 27 Dec 2019						
Sat, 28 Dec 2019						
Sun, 29 Dec 2019						
Mon, 30 Dec 2019	07:32	04:32	10:02			
Tue, 31 Dec 2019	08:13	05:13	10:43			

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



www.explorecampbeltown.com

Argyll nurses' Queen's award honour



Maggie Wilkieson, left, and Joanna Taylor received the Queen's Nurse award.

Two community nurses from Argyll and Bute have been awarded the prestigious title of Queen's Nurse.

Maggie Wilkieson, from Gigha, and Joanna Taylor, from Lochgilphead, were selected earlier this year to take part in a nine-month development programme run by the Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland.

They were nominated by their employers at NHS Highland for providing high quality, compassionate care to people in their communities. After completing the programme, they were awarded the historic Queen's Nurse title along with 18 other community nurses at a ceremony in Edinburgh on Thursday November 28.

Maggie is based in Campbeltown where she works as the community Macmillan clinical nurse specialist, caring for people in their homes as well as in the community hospital.

She said: 'I meet people at various stages of their illness. My main work, however, is supporting those who require palliative and end-of-life care,

a role in which I feel both honoured and humbled to share with patients and their families. My job has evolved over the past 12 years, comprising mainly of a clinical role, but also leadership, service development, community engagement and education. My first community nursing post more than 20 years ago was working as a community nurse/midwife on Gigha where my mentor was a Queen's Nurse.

'She was an amazing person to work beside and really moulded the service to what the community needed. She was such a motivating person and a real inspiration to me. To follow in her footsteps and those of the other Queen's Nurses by receiving this title is a real honour for me and an ambition fulfilled.'

Joanna has recently changed post from a community staff nurse, a role she did for 18 years, to working as an advanced nurse for clinical education and a liaison lecturer for the University of the West of Scotland.

She said: 'My new role allows me to support and champion education for anyone working as

a nurse in Argyll and Bute or any students that come on placement here.

'I am based at the council building in Lochgilphead but I spend a lot of time visiting nurses working throughout the area, helping and encouraging them to seek access to education or training they need to enhance patient care.

'Bringing all the experience I've had, and the fact I was born and brought up in Argyll and Bute, means I have an intimate knowledge of the culture and the challenges that come with being a nurse in remote and rural practice and I'm passing on that knowledge to a new generation.

'I hope the Queen's Nurse title will enable me to inspire others as a champion for clinical education for nurses.'

Other community nurses from across Scotland in the group include a dementia specialist nurse, learning disability nurses and a nurse working in homelessness services, as well as district nurses, health visitors, school nurses and practice nurses.

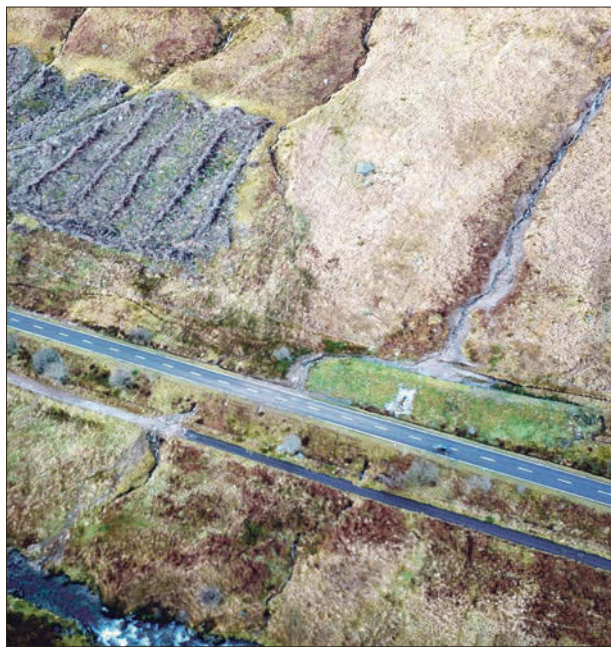
A83 landslip prevented

Landslip mitigation measures installed next to the A83 near Glen Kinglas have prevented a 300-tonne landslide from reaching the roadside, writes Rachel Carruthers.

The landslide was blocked from reaching the carriageway thanks to specially designed rock-bunds, which were the result of an innovative, sustainable engineering solution, using excavated rock during the construction of further landslip mitigation measures at the Rest and Be Thankful.

The rock-bunds form a barrier on the hillside parallel to the A83 and mean material from potential landslips are held behind the rock barrier. The 28,000 tonnes of rock used to create them was sustainably re-used during excavations of the nearby £2.24million catch-pit project at the Rest and be Thankful, where three large 'pits' were created to help provide further resilience against potential landslips in the area.

The excavated rock was transported three miles to Glen Kinglas and used to construct the bunds, providing a considerable reduction in carbon emissions with teams saving an estimated 50,000 lorry miles – roughly the same distance as travelling around the world twice



The 300-tonne landslide beside the A83.

– due to the huge reduction in haulage distance for the excavated rock.

The landslide occurred around 230m above the carriageway following a period of heavy rainfall around midnight on Saturday December 7 at Glen Kinglas, where teams from BEAR Scotland had been on high alert during the Met Office yellow weather warning.

Engineers estimate the rock bunds helped prevent the

A83 from being closed by up to two days as a result of the landslide, successfully avoiding disruption to road users.

Geotechnical engineers and teams from BEAR Scotland have assessed the slipway for safety with plans now under way to remove the debris from behind the bund. Short-term lane closures will be in place while teams mobilise plant and heavy machinery to remove the material from the bund.

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Brendan O'Hara re-elected as Argyll and Bute MP

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Scottish National Party candidate Brendan O'Hara has been re-elected as the Member of Parliament for Argyll and Bute with an increased majority.

The Argyll and Bute UK general election count began at Lochgilphead Joint Campus after polls closed at 10pm on Thursday December 12 and was carried out through the night, with the result declared at 5.45am on Friday December 13.

At the end of what can reasonably be described as a low-key constituency campaign in comparison to the rancour and division elsewhere in the country, Argyll and Bute's electorate handed SNP candidate Brendan O'Hara a majority of 4,110 votes over his nearest challenger,



Brendan O'Hara's daughters Charlotte and Niamh celebrate while dad speaks on camera to BBC ALBA on the platform behind them; Brendan O'Hara, right. 06_a51electioncount24

Conservative Gary Mulvaney, the result as follows:
Returning officer Rhea Louise Barnes, Scottish
Cleland Sneddon declared Labour Party - 3,248

Gary Mulvaney, Scottish Conservative and Unionist - 16,930

Brendan O'Hara, Scottish National Party (SNP) - 21,040
Alan Reid, Scottish Liberal Democrats - 6,832

The total electorate for Argyll and Bute was 66,525 with 48,192 votes cast. The turnout at the polls was 72.4 per cent.

A total of 142 votes were rejected. Ten were rejected for voting for more than one candidate and 132 were unmarked or void for uncertainty.

A delighted Brendan O'Hara said after the declaration: 'My first priority, as it always has been, is the people of Argyll and Bute, and to make the case for the constituency.

'I am very worried about the future of Argyll and Bute. We have a UK government that is hell-bent on Brexit. Boris Johnston, with his majority, will be looking to take us out of the EU as quickly as possible. A no-deal Brexit



is still on the table and after tonight is looming large. We should all be very worried at that prospect.'

Asked how he felt, Mr O'Hara replied: 'It hasn't really hit me yet. I didn't think the majority would be what it was, and I think this is a victory for the organisation of the SNP in Argyll and Bute.

'I am very, very happy and very, very tired in equal measure.'

Gary Mulvaney, who received 954 more votes than in the 2017 election, commented: 'I'm pleased our vote has increased, but I've felt like we have been swimming against the tide sometimes. I am delighted, however, that we now have a majority Conservative government. We need a strong Westminster government to get Brexit done and move forward.'

LibDem candidate Alan Reid was the constituency MP for 14 years from 2001 before being succeeded in 2015 by Brendan O'Hara. Mr Reid said: 'I am obviously disap-

pointed not to have won but I would congratulate Brendan on a convincing victory.'

A newbie to the political scene, Scottish Labour candidate Rhea Barnes remarked: 'It's been a well-fought campaign conducted in a well-mannered way and I thank the other candidates for that, and I congratulate Brendan on his election as MP.'

Alongside postal votes and proxies, votes made their way across Argyll and Bute in ballot boxes transported by car, boat, and helicopter to the Lochgilphead Joint Campus count centre.

Returning officer Cleland Sneddon said: 'We have a dedicated team of knowledgeable election staff which meant that everything went extremely smoothly, despite the unique challenges involved in administering a count on this scale.

'I would like to thank everyone involved for ensuring that Argyll and Bute's UK general election count went so well.'



Tension mounts as election agents peer across the counting tables. 06_a51electioncount03

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Above, Conservative candidate Gary Mulvaney. 06_a51elec-tioncount06; Above right, with the candidates gathered, returning officer Cleland Sneddon announces the Argyll and Bute result at 5.45am on Friday December 13. 06_a51elec-tioncount09; Above far right, keeping order at the count were, from left, PC Ross Griffin, Inspector Julie McLeish and PC Alistair Morrison. 06_a51electioncount07



LibDem candidate Alan Reid. 06_a51electioncount08



Scottish Labour candidate Rhea Barnes. 06_a51elec-tioncount10

Island ballot boxes were delivered to Lochgilphead by helicopter from Mull, Iona, Coll, Tiree, Islay, Jura, Colonsay, and Gigha. Pictured is one of the two helicopter pilots Steve Pinchbeck, right, with the council's David Logan. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.



Column sponsored by the Scottish Government

Become a Healthcare Professional and Get Ready for a Life-Changing Career.

A new campaign is shining a spotlight on a career in healthcare - highlighting the range of opportunities available and encouraging young people to consider it as a suitable profession.

A huge variety of careers (within nursing, midwifery, the allied health professions and healthcare science) are accessible and there are plenty of jobs available. What's more, you can work in a wide range of settings from hospitals, GP practices, care homes, community clinics, people's homes, or schools.

As well as an undergraduate bursary of £10,000 for those choosing to study nursing or midwifery from 2020, a healthcare degree is highly valued, both here in Scotland and all over the world.

It's a stable and valued career for life - more people studying nursing related degrees go on to find a job after their course than any other degree.

The new 'What did you do today?' campaign shows the significant variety of opportunities within all healthcare professions including nursing, midwifery, healthcare science and the allied health professions such as radiographers, dietitians and paramedics, featuring real people sharing their real stories.

If you're a young person or know one who's still trying to figure out their career path, then working in healthcare could be a great route. No two days are the same, it's rewarding, and you get to make a real difference to people's lives.

To find out more about the career paths available and where to study visit [CareersInHealthcare.scot](https://www.careersinhealthcare.scot)



LETTERS

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

Helping out

Many people can spare an hour or two here and there, so we would urge drivers to speak to Catherine at Mid Argyll Transport Volunteers and help people who need it. They enjoy the company and a wee bit of craic, and the benefit works both ways.

This statement would be true no matter which party triumphed in last week's general election – things are not going to get any better for ordinary folk any time soon. So helping others, stepping up to volunteer and working together seems like a sensible approach.

Out of politically-driven austerity might come some good if we begin to think of others a wee bit more, and work as a community to achieve results.

On the up

The prospects for Lochgilphead look a little brighter in 2020. We won't see the projects finished in the next calendar year, but it will be great to see work starting on the front green and, hopefully, on the town centre.

Festive cheers

Finally, Happy Christmas to all our readers, whether you enjoy the paper in print or online, and we hope Santa is good to you.

Lighting up Lochgilphead

Sir,
On behalf of the Lochgilphead Festive Lights Committee, I would like to say thanks to local contractors Macleod Construction Ltd and their staff for putting the lights up and looking after the electrics.

Thanks also to Argyll Insurance Services for finding the right insurance for the lights and their generous donation which is much appreciated.

The tree this year has been provided free of charge by RDS Forestry Ltd, and again I would like to thank them for this generous donation.

I hope everyone is enjoying the lights this year, but please note that this will be the last display in the town as there will not be enough money left in the kitty for next year.

I recognise that Christmas lights are not the highest priority with the world the way it is, but if you would like to donate to this year's lights, or for future displays, you can do so by popping into the local Clydesdale bank and donating to the Lochgilphead Festive Lights Committee account. Every penny raised in the past has been spent on the lights and this will continue to be the case for the future.

Have a very Merry Christmas.
Fergus Murray, Lochgilphead

Election deja vu

Sir,
It's deja vu all over again. The same dull, uninspiring and ineffective candidates in this election leads to the same result as last time.

The success of the useless man in the brown suit will again be measured by his failure to close Faslane and re-erect Hadrian's wall. The least said about our own Arthur Daley and his commitment to becoming our Tory MP, the better.

Yet again the Liberal Democrats secure victory for the SNP with their fantasies they could actually win. There are 6,832 Lib Dem voters who don't agree with the saying 'Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.'

So another five years of Nicola Sturgeon demanding a referendum she doesn't actually want.

I'm not sure what the PC term for manipulative dishonesty is nowadays.

Anne Baird,
Helensburgh

Christmas stamp collecting supports RNIB

Sir,
Christmas and New Year is a time of giving and goodwill, but with a seemingly endless list of presents to buy and parties to attend, it isn't always easy to find the spare cash to donate to a charitable cause.

This Christmas, you can help support sight loss charity the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) by collecting used stamps from the cards and parcels you'll no doubt be receiving.

To get involved visit www.rnib.org.uk/ stamps or call 0303 123 9999. Then all you

have to do is send your stamps using RNIB's freepost envelopes, and they'll take care of the rest.

Vanessa Feltz

Fuel poverty figures frightening

Sir,
Current estimates of fuel poverty which are based on home analytics data shows a very worrying and unacceptably high percentage of households in Argyll and Bute that have a likelihood of fuel poverty.

With the Scottish average of likelihood of households in fuel poverty being at 27 per cent the numbers for Argyll and Bute sadly dwarf the national average.

Argyll and Bute overall coming in at 43 per cent – Jura is at 46 per cent; Islay 54 per cent; Kintyre 63 per cent; and most shockingly of all the Isle of Gigha stands at 79 per cent.

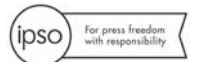
This once again shows the vast rural urban divide in Scotland with the urban belt obsessed Scottish Government being slow and uninterested in the vast challenges facing our rural and island communities.

The Kintyre and Islands ward is a huge success story with large scale economic and industrial growth particularly from our distillery industry.

This is yet another example of the tax and spend imbalance with hundreds upon hundreds of millions pounds in tax revenue coming from my ward yet so many of my constituents are at risk of fuel poverty.

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This rural urban imbalance must end.
Councillor Alastair Redman,
Kintyre and Islands ward

Scotland has the right to decide own future

Sir,
If the General Election in the United Kingdom has highlighted one thing, it is that we are far from being a united kingdom.

Scotland voted overwhelmingly to reject Brexit, to lock Boris Johnson out of Downing Street and for the right to hold a second referendum to decide the nation's future. South of the border a totally opposite path has been taken.

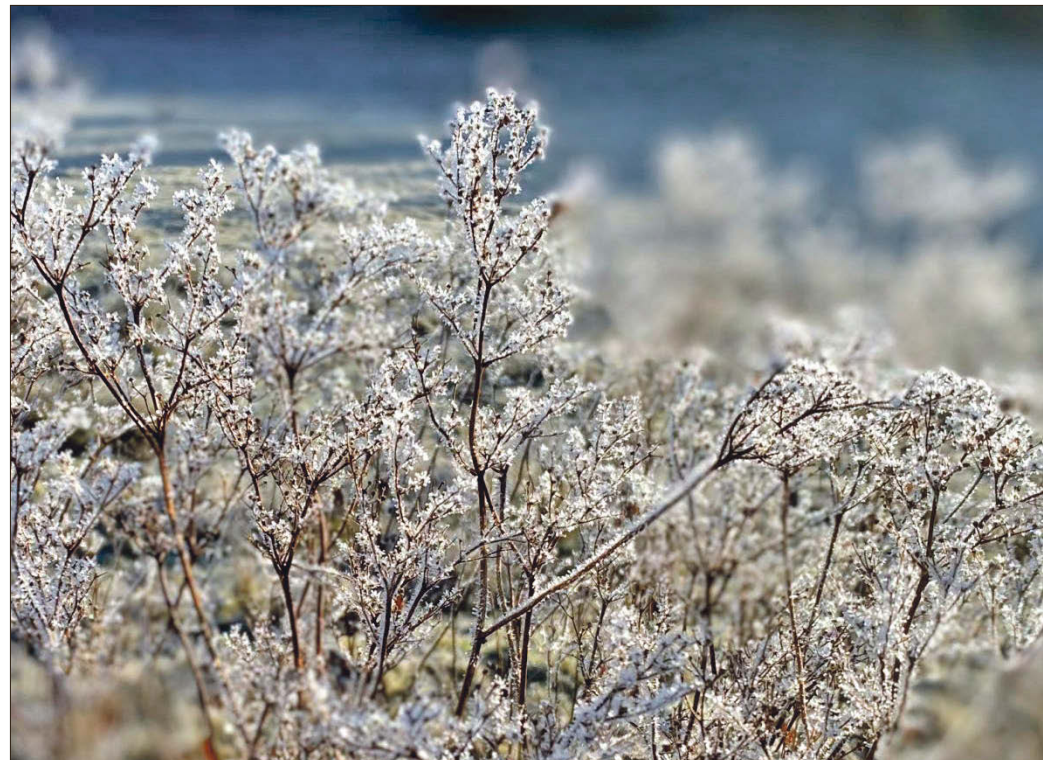
Nicola Sturgeon has now won four elections on a manifesto commitment to hold a second independence referendum. In simpler times, that great hero of the Conservative Party, Margaret Thatcher, famously commented that a majority of SNP MPs would be a mandate for Scottish independence.

Despite this, while Unionists bizarrely argue that there is no mandate for a second independence referendum as the SNP did not secure a majority of the votes, it is somehow okay for Mr Johnson, in very similar circumstances to pursue a damaging Brexit agenda.

Circumstances have changed since 2014 and it is difficult to see how Mr Johnson can continue to deny the Scottish people the democratic right to decide their own future.

Alex Orr, Edinburgh

YOUR PICTURES



Simon Macdonald, from Kilmichael, sent us this stunning photograph of a frosty Argyl morning. Playing on the the Christmas carol Good King Wenceslas, Simon called this image 'Crisp and even'.

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Wednesday 25th	Closed
Thursday 26th	Closed
Friday 27th	10.00 – 17.00
Saturday 28th	10.00 – 17.00
Monday 30th	10.00 – 17.00
Tuesday 31st	10.00 – 14.00
Wednesday 1st	Closed
Thursday 2nd	Closed
Friday 3rd	10.00 - 17.00

Merry Christmas from all the Glen Scotia team.

Ag's adventures in Asia – episode three

By Agnes Wilkie

Four years ago journalist Agnes Wilkie and husband Brian stopped working, built a house in Kilberry and moved to Argyll.

So far they have, in Agnes' words: 'Finished the house, massacred the bracken and made a garden, sailed their own boat across the Atlantic, cruised the Caribbean, become grandparents three times over, nearly walked the Kintyre Way and made many lovely new friends.

The couple's latest adventure has been crewing on friends' 51-foot catamaran across the South China Sea from Singapore to Langkawi in Malaysia.

Agnes says: 'It's quite a challenge but, hey, we've cruised West Loch Tarbert for years.'



Rats were an unwelcome addition to the list of terrors when sailing in the South China Sea.



Agnes, centre, with her neighbours who helped with an unwelcome stowaway on the yacht.

A four-letter word...rats

No doubt you will be familiar with the old saying about rats and sinking ships. But have you ever considered a much scarier proposition concerning rats and non sinking ships?

As our nautical adventures in the South China Sea continue, we have added rats to the growing list of terrors after dodging the killer unlit fishing boat nets, the gigantic juggernaut container ships that look more like floating multi storey monsters and the odd almost-too-low-for-our-mast bridge, we arrive in Malaysia to face Rodent Risk.

No sooner had we scraped under the almost-too-low

bridge and gingerly navigated our way up the not-so-deep river to the haven of Puteri Harbour in Malaysia, looking forward to cold beers and safe anchorages with supermarket, showers and Malaysian massages on the menu – than rats raised their ugly little heads and a new four letter word entered my lexicon of nautical nightmares.

Stowaway

It seems that one of our fellow travellers, on entering the harbour, had mysteriously taken on board an unwelcome stowaway. A large rat.

Don't laugh. Most of you will be reasonably familiar with boats and the myriad nooks and crannies they

entertain. A million holes to hide a slippery customer with teeth and tail.

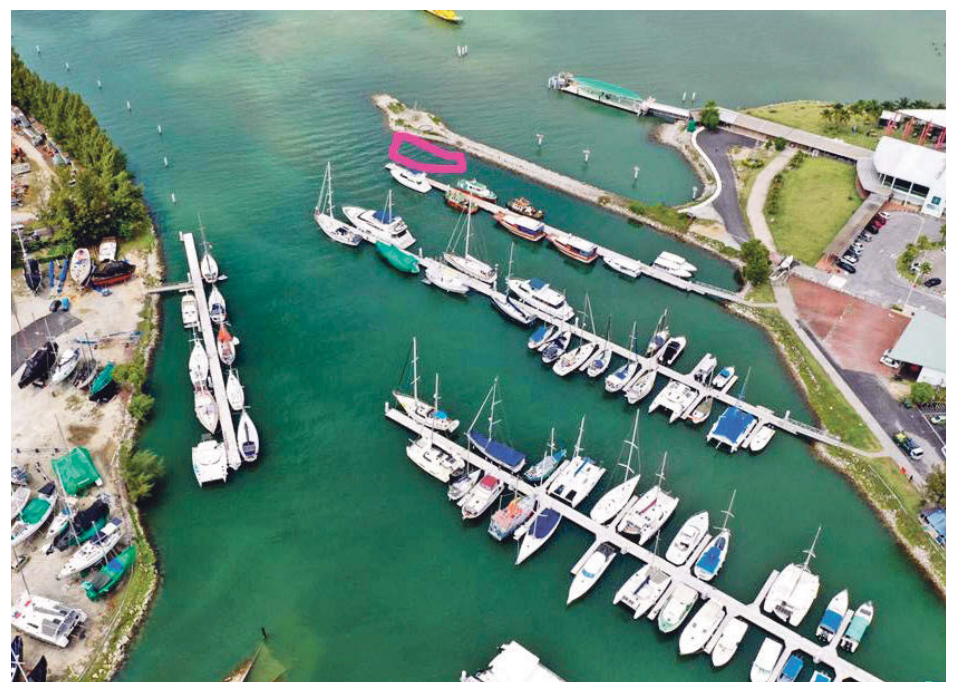
How to get it off became our neighbours' focus. Flood it out? Smoke it out? Torture it with non-stop Ed Sheeran?

I have no idea what the neighbours did in the end – but I have become obsessed about keeping them off our boat. I have lost all interest in anything else. Even pirates pale.

I am now on 24/7 rat watch. I'm investigating gun control regulations in Malaysia.

But no, I had a better idea. Forget showers. Stink them out. This is war.

Next: Are iPhones waterproof?



The haven of Puteri Harbour in Malaysia.

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Excitement galore as Santa comes to Lochgilphead

Elves happily worked while Santa handed out gifts to excited children, writes Colin Cameron.

Lochgilphead Parish Church Hall was packed for Santa's visit to the Mid Argyll Rotary Christmas Fayre on Saturday December 7.

Elves from 19th Argyll

Scouts were on hand to assist the Rotary, preparing refreshments and serving homebaking.

One side of the hall was taken up with Santa's grotto, where eager children queued with frazzled adults for their turn to see the jolly man with the white beard and red suit.

Stalls around the hall boosted funds, and the total raised on the day came to almost £700, which Mid Argyll Rotary will distribute to local good causes.

The Scouts were busy, too, raising money for a trip to an outdoor centre to mark the group's 50th anniversary.



Thrilled with their presents from Santa were, from left: Tom McMillan, five, along with brother and sister Steven, seven, and four-year-old Kacey Beattie from Lochgilphead.

51_a50RotarySanta05



Susan Peace and Jean Campbell were on hand to raise Rotary funds selling baked goods.

51_a50RotarySanta02



Lochgilphead's Isla Dunlop was still smiling despite an unlucky attempt to find the key to open the case containing a bottle of something nice.



Getting into the festive spirit were Scouts Joe Anderson, Ross Davidson and Dan Anderson.

51_a50RotarySanta03



Abby and Ruairidh Charnock get their gifts from Santa in Lochgilphead. Photograph: Verina Litster.

TAX RETURN DEADLINE

31 JANUARY 2020

The tax return deadline when filing your online Self Assessment for the tax year ending 5 April 2019 is midnight on 31 January 2020



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JANUARY

First New Year baby

Left: Nia Annie-Rose Robertson from Inveraray arrived at 1.10am on New Year's Day, making her the first baby to be delivered at Paisley's Royal Alexandra Hospital this year.

06_a02NewYearBaby_Robertson01



Inveraray Burns Club

Right: Inveraray Burns Club held its 13th annual Burns Supper in Inveraray Inn. Guests turned out to celebrate the work of Robert Burns. Iain Farrell and Jim McMillan entertained with 'The Twa Dugs'.



Fire guts former Ardrishaig church

The former Ardrishaig United Free Church building, since converted into a dwelling house, was gutted by fire on January 25. Thankfully the owners and their pet dogs escaped uninjured. 51_a05Ardfire06 and 51_a05Ardfire03



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FEBRUARY

Snowy scenes

Right: In late January/early February readers shared their favourite winter snaps as snowfall cloaked much of Argyll. An image of the contrasting peach sky over Loch Gilp, captured by Caitlin Bradley from Ardrishaig, was shared with the Argyllshire Advertiser Facebook page.



MARCH

Fantastic at forty

The 40th anniversary Mid Argyll Music Festival had more than 550 performers from as far away as Islay, Oban, Campbeltown and Glasgow. There was a touch of sadness as Fiona MacDonald stepped down after 25 years of service to the festival. Lochgilphead High School Wind Ensemble flautist Mary Moir is pictured



wearing the Strategem Management Consultants Trophy. 06_a13MusicFest_Saturday07



Friends, family and loyal supporters of the Dochas Centre, Lochgilphead, gathered together on February 28 to celebrate the centre's 21st anniversary. Catherine Paterson, founder of the centre, was presented with flowers, a 21st balloon and a birthday cake. 51_a10Dochas18



Fundraising success

Following a major fundraising drive, Maria MacKenzie and Yvie Young presented the Beatson Cancer Charity with a slightly belated Christmas cheque. The Lochgilphead ladies raised an incredible £7,500 to show their thanks after receiving treatment at the Beatson.

Continued on pages 12 and 13.



Determined dookers

Hairdresser and pioneer for Scotland's first healing community Lilia Sinclair led a team of determined volunteers into Loch Fyne to raise money for Heal Scotland. Fiona Dagleish, Laura Thomson, Lilia Sinclair, Nicky MacDougall and Marie Higgins took an icy plunge into freezing Loch Fyne.

51_a10dook06



Mini Kelpies at Pier

Drivers were doing a double-take as two mini Kelpies galloped into Ardrishaig. The scaled-down versions of the iconic Kelpies sculpture at the Forth and Clyde Canal arrived in Pier Square, proving a big attraction.

06_a14MiniKelpies07

HOGMANAY FIREWORKS!

The display starts at midnight, from McCaigs Tower.

Where will you watch it from?
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APRIL

Easter egg hunt fun

Blarbuie community woodland in Lochgilphead was filled with the excited shouts of children as an Easter egg hunt took place on Saturday April 21. No fewer than 150 chocolate eggs were supplied by Riverside filling station, the Co-op and Tesco in Lochgilphead and handed out within an hour to the lucky hunters. 06_a17Easter_Blarbuie03



Stronachullin hill blaze

As night fell on April 18, a fire broke out on the hills near Stronachullin, between Ardrishaig and Tarbert. Four firefighting crews attended and were joined by estate staff to help douse the flames.



Goodbye to blue tin shed

At the end of April, the tin-clad former garage building beside Ardrishaig swing bridge was demolished. Coatbridge-based specialist demolition firm MacWilliam started work on the building on the morning of Monday April 29. By lunchtime the local landmark was gone.

06_a18ArdGarageDemolition01

Festive Menu from 17th Dec to the 6th Jan

STARTERS

SPICED PARSNIP SOUP
with garlic and herb croutons, malted brown bread and butter * - £5

CULLEN SKINK SOUP
with a warm bread roll & butter - £6.50
Classic prawn cocktail with a balsamic reduction - £8.50

CHICKEN, PORK & PISTACHIO TERRINE
with a mango and apple chutney & toasted brioche - £9.50

OVEN BAKED CAMEMBERT
served with cranberry sauce and pitta bread - £9.50

MAINS

STUFFED SCOTTISH TURKEY BREAST
wrapped in pancetta with rosemary, bacon and garlic crushed potatoes, braised red cabbage, festive vegetables and gravy - £16.50

SCOTTISH SIRLOIN OF BEEF AND WILD MUSHROOM STROGANOFF
served with wild rice - £18

SCALLOP, HADDOCK AND SMOKED SALMON GRATIN
oven baked in a cream and leek sauce topped with crispy breadcrumbs served with rustic chips and vegetables - £19.50

MUSHROOM AND CHESTNUT WELLINGTON
with sweet potato mash, parsnip puree and braised red cabbage - £12

HAND DIVED TAYVALLICH LANDED KING SCALLOPS
with parsnip puree, toast-ed pine nuts, pancetta crumbs, blanched greens and sweet potato crisp - £27.50

DESSERTS

DRAMBUIE CRÈME BRULEE
with shortbread £6

CHRISTMAS PUDDING
with a whisky cream £6

WEE ISLE DAIRY ICE CREAM
£5.70

SELECTION OF SCOTTISH CHEESES AND BISCUITS £8

21st December
Quiz night raising funds for the RNLI

£3 per pub quiz entry.

From general knowledge quiz questions and answers to special interest questions, Brian the quiz master has put together a set of easy and hard trivia questions for the pub quizzers.



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From 17th December to 6th January

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MAY

Big 105 for Mary

Left: On Tuesday May 7, Tayvallich's Mary McLulich celebrated her 105th birthday surrounded by family and friends. Asked the favourite question of all interviewers – the secret to a long and healthy life – Mary replied: 'Moderation in all things.' She quickly added: 'Apart from sweets.'

06_a19MaryMcLulich05



JUNE

Armed Forces Day

In June, veterans from a wide variety of services and regiments joined with army, sea and air cadets from all over Argyll for Lochgilphead Armed Forces Day.

Among the old soldiers were, from left: Paul Bream, ex Royal Corps of Transport; former Argyll Campbell McAllister;



Jim 'Tiger' Lyon, another Argyll; Hector Crawford, ex Artillery; and Roger

Stewart, former Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry.

06_a25ArmedForcesDay57

Conquering the Kiltwalk

Lochgilphead's Eli Pickering and her son's partner Christine Irvine took on the 26-mile Mighty Hike challenge at the Aberdeen Kiltwalk on Sunday June 2. Helped by a top-up from the Hunter Foundation, the girls raised £1,270.08 for MS Society Scotland and £585.99 for the MS Centre Lochgilphead – a whopping total of £1,699.55.



A fantastic FyneFest

Wild and wet weather failed to stop beer and music lovers from attending this year's Fyne Fest near Cairndow.

Fyne Ales managing director Jamie Delap commented at the time: 'When you put on an outdoor festival in Argyll, you have to be prepared for every type of weather – quite possibly in the same day.'

06_a23FyneFest02



Susan's a winner

Lochgilphead's Susan Campbell won an award for her work with Glasgow drama group ShowDowns! At a ceremony in Edinburgh, Susan and other young people and adults living with Downs Syndrome received a Scottish Learning Disability Award for work in creative communities.

BEM for Donnie

Argyll and Bute's oldest serving councillor, Mid Argyll member Donnie MacMillan, received his British Empire Medal from the Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Patrick Stewart.

06_a20DonnieBEM01

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

ARDSHIEL
—HOTEL—
Restaurant & Whisky Bar

Icons of Whisky
Hotel bar of the year.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Betty
McNaughton, Killean
Place, Campbeltown.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

to all my relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Nancy Wilkin,
16B Calton Avenue.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all our relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Sheena & Alastair
Ward, Castlepark.



*Lucy
Cunningham,
Catriona &
David Vick
& family,
54 Kirk Street,
Campbeltown*

wish all relations,
friends &
neighbours,
far & near, a
Merry Christmas
& a Happy,
Prosperous,
Peaceful & Blessed
New Year.

**ALISON &
GEORGE,
17 WITCHBURN
ROAD**

wish you all the very
best for Christmas &
New Year.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all our relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Hamish Thomson
& Cathie, 4 Hazelbank
Court, Campbeltown.

Season's

Your personal Christmas messages
to friends and family, near and far

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all our relatives,
friends & neighbours
from John & Fiona
Mason, Castlepark.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

to all my friends,
neighbours & relatives
from Flora Brock, Stag
Park, Lochgilphead.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my family, friends
& neighbours from
Betty MacCallum,
115 Ralston Road.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all family, friends
& neighbours from
Catherine Cameron,
3 Dochas Place,
Lochgilphead.
With best wishes to all.

**FLORA
HENDERSON,
74 SMITH DRIVE**

would like to wish all
her relatives, friends
& neighbours a
Merry Christmas.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Hamish McMillan,
28A Calton Avenue,
Campbeltown.

*Dave & Isobel
Davis, Perth*

wish all their relatives
& friends a Merry
Christmas & a Happy
& Healthy New Year.

**DAVIE & JESSIE
MACPHAIL**

wish their relatives,
friends & neighbours
Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all our relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Angus & Anne,
Rockfield.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

to all our relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Margaret &
Ian Robertson,
84 Roding,
Campbeltown.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all our relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Jean & James
Smith, Shermore.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Donald Sinclair,
16 Glenfield, Tarbert.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Anne, Sarena and
Rhianna wish you a
Merry Christmas and
a Peaceful 2020.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives,
friends & neighbours
from May Currie,
Tayinloan.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my friends &
neighbours from
Gavin Muir.

**HUGHIE & KATE
MCNAIR**

Best wishes to
friends & family
for Christmas &
New Year.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Dougie McArthur,
Springfield Terrace.

**PETER DOCHERTY,
TANGY PLACE, HIGH
ST, CAMPBELTOWN**

would like to wish all
his relatives, friends
& neighbours a
Merry Christmas.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all our relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Hector &
Esther xx.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

With best wishes for
Christmas & New Year,
to family & friends in
Kintyre & Mid Argyll, from
Douglas & May Galbraith,
27 Craighall Crescent,
Erskine.

**ARCHIE & MARNA
DOCHERTY**

would like to wish their
friends, neighbours
& colleagues a
Merry Christmas & a
Happy New Year.

*Stuart & Gail
Gillespie*

would like to wish all
relatives, friends &
neighbours a Merry
Christmas & a Happy
New Year.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my family,
relatives, friends &
neighbours, with
love & best wishes
for 2020 from Cathie
Duncan xx.



greetings

See more of your personal greetings on page 28

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Ken Smith,
Peninver.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all our relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Donald, Margaret
& Donald Anderson,
Campbeltown.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Neil McEachran,
43 Calton Avenue.

**MARGARET &
JOHN FLETCHER,
ARDRISHAIG**

would like to wish all
relatives, friends &
neighbours a Merry
Christmas and a
Happy New Year.

*Wilma & John
Stevenson,
Campbeltown*

would like to wish all
their relatives, friends
& neighbours a Merry
Christmas & a Happy
New Year.

Matty McCallum

would like to wish all
her family, friends &
neighbours a Merry
Christmas & a Happy,
Healthy 2020.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my friends &
neighbours, love from
Nancy Shaw.

HUGH COLVILLE

would like to wish all
his relatives, friends
& neighbours a very
Merry Christmas &
a Happy New Year.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Mary MacBrayne,
Lorne Campbell Court.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

to all my relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Hamish Jackson.

*Alex & John
Johnston,
Stanley Place*

would like to wish all
their relatives, friends
& neighbours a Merry
Christmas & a Happy
New Year.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

to all my relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Colin Lang,
Castleacres,
Campbeltown.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

to all my relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Doris Newlands.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Betty Dawson,
Southend.

**RENE
DAVIDSON**

would like to wish all
her relatives, friends
& neighbours a
Merry Christmas.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all our relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Fiona & Billy
Bruce, 22 Castleacres.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Ailsa Scott.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all our relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Bobby & Janet,
Ralston Road.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my family,
friends & carers
from Annie Grumoli,
Campbeltown.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

In lieu of cards this
Christmas, I am
donating to the
Ardrishaig Church
Windows Appeal.
Helen Hope,
Lochgilphead.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Catherine Walker,
10 Ramsay Place.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

to all our relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Emily & Dick
McFadzean, 61
Roding.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my family,
friends & neighbours
from Muriel Deans,
30 Castleacres,
Campbeltown.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all our relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Ian Campbell &
Janette Gardner.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives,
friends & neighbours
from John MacMillan
MBE, Southend.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all our relatives,
friends & neighbours
from Pearl & Doug
McEachran.

**ELIZABETH
SEMPLE, 3 ST
COLUMBA'S WAY,
SOUTHEND**

would like to wish all
her relatives, friends
& neighbours a
Merry Christmas.

*Merry Christmas
& a Prosperous
New Year*

to all from Betty
Munro, 197 Ralston
Road, Campbeltown.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Wishing all our family,
friends & neighbours
a Merry Christmas & a
very Happy New Year.
Love, David &
Catherine Lang.

**FRANK & FIONA
BLAKE**

would like to wish all
their family & friends
a Merry Christmas &
a Happy New Year.

Cemetery needs under review

Planning to ensure that the council-run cemeteries can meet the needs of communities in the future is already under way.

Argyll and Bute Council's Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee agreed on Thursday December 12 that during 2020, residents should be asked about their personal choices and for their views and ideas for ways forward, so that a new set of cemetery policies can be proposed.

According to statute, local authorities are only required to provide one cemetery per area. Argyll and Bute has 65 cemeteries available for the purchase of lairs. There are 66 closed to the sale of spaces, and this has remained fairly stable since 2005.

There are a large number of lairs that have been sold, but 70 years have lapsed without them being used. One option – in areas of most need – could be to investigate if these are still needed and claim them back if not.

Community volunteers, in a small number of areas, are supporting council services by maintaining burial grounds and similar initiatives would be welcomed elsewhere.

Councillor Robin Currie, policy lead for Housing, Roads and Infrastructure Services, said: 'Caring for those who have passed away has been an important rite for human beings for many thousands of years – whatever our beliefs.

Winter safety advice from Argyll Talking Newspapers

Electrical items which have not been used for a while should not be left alone but monitored until it is clear they are working properly

Listeners to Argyll Talking Newspapers got a masterclass in staying safe this winter when Watch Commander Duncan Litster, of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, dropped in for a chat.

Duncan was invited to give some dos and don'ts to listeners at the time of year when we all start to feel the chill and plug in additional heaters, lighting and those lovely electric blankets – not to mention the tree lights and other electrical decorations which are such a part of the festive season.

Duncan's advice was recorded onto USB sticks and will pop through the letter boxes of 130 listeners all over Argyll and Bute, as well as further afield.

Important things to remember include not overloading plug extensions. A space heater on its own will be the maximum the extension can safely support, so it is best to

plug a space heater straight into a wall socket

Electric blankets should be stored rolled up, not folded which may cause damage, and do check for any worn, singed or discoloured areas. Switch the blanket on for a while to check it is working properly before putting it on your bed.

Electrical items which haven't been used for a while should not be left alone but monitored until it is clear they are working properly.

'For visually impaired listeners, it would be advisable to have a neighbour or family member helping with these checks,' said Duncan. 'Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, however, provides a free home safety advice service to help people understand potential risks in their home.'

Home safety visits are free. To apply call 0800 0731 999, text FIRE to 80800 from a



SFRS Watch Commander Duncan Litster recording winter safety advice with Lyndis at the recording desk, and readers Fiona, Moira and Sheila.

mobile phone or fill in the online form at www.firescotland.gov.uk

If you know anyone who has difficulty reading their local newspaper for any temporary or permanent reason, Argyll Talking Newspapers encour-

ages you to tell them about the group's service. Weekly audio services are recorded and prepared by the group of volunteers and sent out free of charge.

Newspapers read are The Oban Times, The Argyllshire

Advertiser, Campbeltown Courier, Dunoon Observer, Isle of Bute News and the Ilead.

To register or for more information, call 07710 242 915 or go to www.facebook.com/argylltalkingpapers.



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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT'S ON IN MID ARGYLL

Reflection, song and mince pies at Marie Curie carol service

A great night was had by all at the Lights to Remember carol service at Mid Argyll Hospital.

Organised by Mid Argyll Fundraising Group For Marie Curie the service, held on December 4, included Mid Argyll's own Bar None Community Choir.

With the mince pies and Christmas songs, there was some reflection as the lights were switched on.

Poignant

A particularly poignant moment came as a soloist sang Silent Night while the lights were switched on by Marie Curie stalwart Frances Fleming.

Hospital chaplain Raymond Deans was a fantastic MC and kept the night running smoothly.

Councillor Dougie Philand gave the opening address and local area HSCP manager Kate MacAulay



A song and some happy memories at Lights to Remember. Photo: Gavin Brown.

gave thanks at the end of the evening.

Mid Argyll cancer group then provided some hot drinks and mince pies. The evening is always a special one on the events calendar and allows us to take a moment to reflect on those passed while enjoying a sing song and sharing happy memories.

The Marie Curie fundraising group members would like to thank the choir for their music and wish all friends and supporters a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year and thank the community for their continued support. It is appreciated by all who use the services of Marie Curie and their families.

New home for Mid Argyll Music Festival

The 41st Mid Argyll Music Festival will welcome performers to a new home in Lochgilphead.

The festival's traditional venue, Ardrishaig Public Hall, will be undergoing refurbishment work at the time of next year's festival – to be held between March 16 and March 21, 2020 – so organisers have found a temporary home.

The festival is set to be

held in Lochgilphead Parish Church and the church hall next door. All evening classes will be held in Lochgilphead Joint Campus, as will the final day on Saturday March 21.

For more information,

email midargyllmusicfestival1980@gmail.com.

The festival syllabus is due to be published this month and will be available on the midargyllmusicfestival.webeden.co.uk website.



Plenty of prizes will be up for grabs in song and instrumental competitions. 06_a12MusicFest_Monday08



Young Inveraray singers Feorlin Renton and Rosie Blyth at the 2019 festival.

06_a12MusicFest_Tuesday03

Christmas jackpots in club lotteries

Numbers drawn in Kilmory Camanachd Club's lottery on Monday December 16 were 5, 14 and 16. There were no winners, so next week's jackpot will be £900.

Tarbert Football Club's lottery draw numbers on December 16 were 6, 12 and 14. There were no winners, so there will be £800 up for grabs in the January 7 draw. Four lucky winners scooped £50 each in the Christmas bonus draw.

Inveraray Shinty Club's lottery draw numbers were 1, 6 and 18. The jackpot next week will be £900 along with a Christmas bonus of four separate prizes worth £50.

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Christmas Crossword

ACROSS

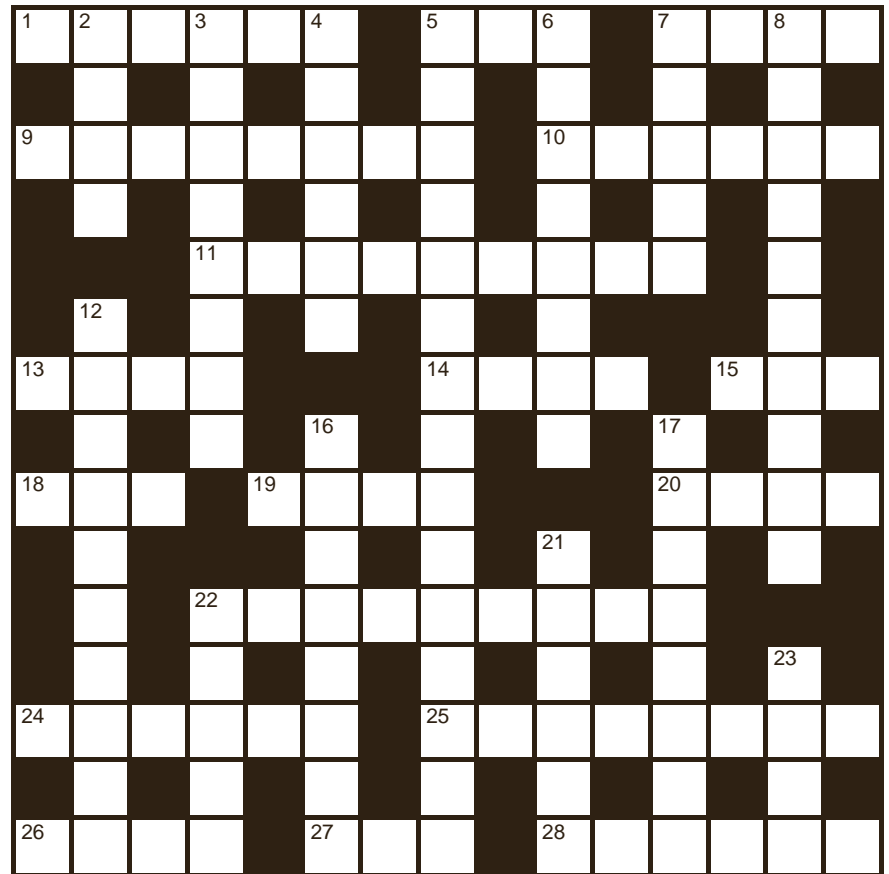
- 1 They may visit you at Christmas. (2-4)
- 5 One of Santa's little helpers. (3)
- 7 '_____ the night before Christmas'. (4)
- 9 You may work this if you are busy at Christmas. (8)
- 10 If you are lucky, you may be able to have one of these after lunch on Christmas Day. (6)
- 11 Make sure you have a good supply of these on Christmas Day for all those new toys. (9)
- 13 '_____ the thimble was a party game played at Christmas in Victorian times. (4)
- 14 A type of cheese enjoyed with fruit at Christmas. (4)
- 15 You may tie one of these when you wrap up a present. (3)
- 18 Watch out for this on the pavement if the weather is very cold. (3)
- 19 You will find these in Christmas crackers. (4)
- 20 Shepherds watched these when the angel of the Lord came down. (4)
- 22 You will do this when you receive visitors at Christmas. (9)
- 24 A person who speeds around the ice. (6)
- 25 Santa will be this on Christmas Eve. (2,3,3)
- 26 You wouldn't use a tortilla to do this to a present. (4)
- 27 The area of a bishop's ecclesiastical jurisdiction. (3)

28 Hopefully, the postie will deliver one of these to you at Christmas. (6)

DOWN

- 2 Part of the church that may be decorated at Christmas. (4)
- 3 You may see these if you go to a circus at Christmas. (8)
- 4 Very holy people. (6)
- 5 Jacob Marley visited this miserly money-lender on Christmas Eve. (8,7)
- 6 Many towns and cities hold one at Christmas. (8)
- 7 You might prefer artificial ones at Christmas. (5)
- 8 This scientist might happen to see Santa on Christmas Eve. (10)
- 12 The _____ is a ballet first, performed in Russia in December 1892. (10)
- 16 You may use these to light your way at a Christmas parade. (8)
- 17 Santa traditionally uses eight of these. (8)
- 21 If you are very lucky, someone might buy you one of these in Lapland. (6)
- 22 You will probably have to do this to leftovers after Christmas. (3,2)
- 23 You might play one of these on Boxing Day. (4)

■ The answers to the Christmas Crossword will be in next week's paper. Make sure you pick up your copy on December 27.



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Christmas Quiz 2019

Round one: Music – Christmas Number Ones

Name that tune from these snippets of lyrics...

1. Baby, if you've got to go away, I don't think I can take the pain
2. Here's to the God of the present, Here's to the God of the past, Here's to the hope in the future He brings, We will sing to Him, sing to Him
3. But you don't really care for music, do you?
4. And the Christmas bells that ring there, Are the clanging chimes of doom
5. Oh yeah I tell you somethin', I think you'll understand, When I say that somethin'
6. Scoop, Muck and Dizzy and Roley too. Lofty and Wendy join the crew
7. Beige, baked and golden, holier than grace, grab it whilst it's pipin' hot and shove it in your face
8. I need some love like I never needed love before, I had a little love, now I'm back for more, Set your spirit free, it's the only way to be
9. Far have I travelled and much have I seen, Dark distant mountains with valleys of green, Past painted deserts, the sun sets on fire
10. A ray of hope flickers in the sky,



A tiny star lights up way up high, All across the land, dawns a brand new morn

Round two –

Christmas general knowledge

1. In the song 'The Twelve Days Of Christmas', what did my true love give to me on the 11th day?
2. Born on Christmas Day 1954, who is the lead singer with the Eurythmics?
3. Who popularised the Christmas tree in England in the 19th century?
4. In Charles Dickens's Christmas Carol, what was Scrooge's business partner called?
5. In which American state would you find the city of Bethlehem?
6. What is the name of Aladdin's mother?
7. In which celebrated Christmas film does James Stewart star?
8. Who composed the music for the festive season ballet, 'The Nutcracker'?
9. How many points does a snowflake have?
10. What is the term for people who



are terrified of Christmas?

Round three – Sport

1. Name the Scottish golfer awarded the European Tour 'rookie of the year' title in 2019?
2. In which division does football club Lochgilhead Red Star currently play?
3. Which Mid Argyll teenager piped at the start of a Lochaber hill race in September - before changing outfits and winning a 10km race?
4. What is the name of the home of Tarbert Golf Club?
5. Which Mid Argyll shinty team were crowned Mowi South Division Two champions in 2019?
6. Where was this season's Camanachd Cup final played?
7. Who won the Camanachd Cup this year?
8. Which Mid Argyll community sports facility is planning a significant redevelopment?
9. What is the name of the swimming club in Lochgilhead?
10. Name the Lochgilhead club which hits the target every Tuesday?

Answers

- Round one: Music -
Christmas Number Ones
Stay another Day - East
17 - 1994
Saviour's Day - Cliff
Richard - 1990
Hallelujah - Alexandra
Burke - 2008
Do they know it's
Christmas? - Band Aid
1984; Band Aid 2 - 1989;
Band Aid 20 - 2004
I wanna hold your hand -
The Beatles - 1963
Can we fix it? - Bob the
Builder - 2000
We Built this City on
Sausage Rolls - Ladbaby
- 2018
Two become One - Spice
Girls - 1996
Mull of Kintyre - Wings
- 1977
When a Child is Born -
Johnny Mathis - 1976
Round two - Christmas
general knowledge
11 pipers piping
Prince Albert
Annie Lennox
- Round three - Sport
Jacob Marley
Pennsylvania
Widow Twankey
It's a wonderful life
Tchakovsky
Six
Clausrophobic!
Robert 'Bob' MacIntyre,
23, from Oban.
Scottish Amateur Football
League (SAFL) Premier
One.
17-year-old Louis
MacMillan from Tayvallich
won the 10km Loch Elde
Mor Race.
Glenalloch.
Kilmory Camanachd.
An Aird, Fort William.
Newtownmore, beating
Oban Camanachd in a
replay after rain washed
out the first match.
Mid Argyll Community
Pool.
Mid Argyll Dolphins.
Mid Argyll Shooting Club.



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Review: Primrose Path

A review of The Camans' EP, *Primrose Path*, by MOJO organiser Dan 'the man' Sloan-Griffiths.

The Camans' debut EP *Primrose Path* gives us two tracks of an earthy, rebellious, sometimes cynical nature aligned with delightful violin and guitar playing.

Determined vocals follow through the hearty punch beat and slick slide guitar of *In Control*. 'Take your stand' is the message in this song. The chorus really lightens everything with smooth violin and the instrumental part is a joy in its rhythm.

Loaded Gun takes you immediately to an atmospheric old world, with a brilliant guitar intro attaining into an almost Spanish flamenco-style piece, giving real depth and warmth.

The song is about the rights and wrongs and how the West was won with the bill of rights and a loaded gun. (How true!) The vocals here have an almost Chris de Burgh character about them and I love the pick of pace signalled by the electric guitar, the overall acoustic guitar sound and haunting violin.

The Camans will soon be delighting us with more of their homemade tunes as in January they will be recording for three days in Edinburgh as a start to hopefully producing their first album next summer.

For a sample of The Camans' vibe and to get your copy of the *Primrose Path* visit their Facebook page.

Keeping the MOJO burning – The Camans

by Rachel Carruthers
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Now the dust has settled on the MOJO stage, The Argyllshire Advertiser takes a look at what the talented Argyll musicians are up to following their rockin' performances.

The Camans, from Inveraray, are the well-known and regular covers band made up of Craig McIntyre on guitar and powerful lead vocals, Rhona Robertson skilfully on violin and ukulele and the multi-talented Scott Mirrlees on guitar, kick-drum and vocals.

Serving up their lush playing skills to many a delighted audience, the trio have successfully merged their original material into performances at gigs with a great enthusiasm gaining a welcoming response from fans everywhere they play.

The Camans' debut original set at MOJO this year certainly



Inveraray-based band The Camans are Craig McIntyre, Rhona Robertson and Scott Mirrlees.

made its intended mark on stage.

Lead singer Craig said: 'MOJO has certainly changed our musical direction.'

Dan Sloan-Griffiths, MOJO organiser, commented on the band's MOJO performance: 'Putting across their unique style

of lively folk, rock and country thrown in really got everybody's attention.

'A great live and memorable show of how to be at ease with your own music, playing well and having a good time.

'All this too after literally just

coming from playing another gig at Loch Lomond and travelling to Ardfern with not long to spare. Hats off to the buskers couldn't be more apt.'

For a special interview with The Camans, see your Argyllshire Advertiser website.

Well done to everyone this year.



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Get set for the 2020 Big Farmland Bird Count

Wildlife enthusiasts across the country are being urged to take part in the Big Farmland Bird Count (BFBC), which is back for the seventh successive year.

The UK-wide citizen science project calls on farmers, land managers and gamekeepers to spend 30 minutes spotting species on their land between the February 7 and 16, 2020.

Crucially, the results will aim to determine which farmland birds are benefiting from conservation efforts while identifying the ones most in need of help.

Organising the UK-wide count this year is Dr Roger Draycott, head of advisory services, the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT). He said: 'Farmers and gamekeepers are vital in helping to ensure the future survival of many of our most cherished farmland bird species like skylarks, yellowhammers, corn buntings and grey partridges.

'They are responsible for managing the largest song-

bird habitat in this country on their land but frequently their efforts to reverse bird declines are largely unrecorded. We believe the annual GWCT Big Farmland Bird Count will help remedy this.

'We understand the crucial role that land managers play in the survival of farmland birds and we want to give them an opportunity of showing what their conservation efforts deliver on the ground.

'It is also a satisfying way to discover the different range of birds that are on the farm and the results can be surprising. We hope it will spur land managers on to do even more work for their farmland birds in the future and that it will act as a catalyst for them to start building their own long-standing wildlife records.

'Last year was another record-breaking count with 1,400 people counting – a 40 per cent increase on the previous year, recording 140 species over one million



Chaffinch, one of the most commonly seen farmland birds in Scotland in the 2019 count.

acres. We are delighted that many landscape-scale farmland conservation projects are now taking part in the count and we are now able to feedback results at the landscape level as well as the individual farm level.'

Encouragingly, a total of 30 red-listed species were recorded in 2019 in the UK count, with five appearing in the most-commonly seen species list, including fieldfares, starlings, house sparrows, yellowhammers and

song thrushes, with the first four seen by over 30 per cent of the farms taking part. In Scotland, the most-commonly seen in the 2019 count were blackbird, blue tit, chaffinch, pheasant and robin.

The BFBC was launched in

2014 to highlight the positive work done by land managers in helping to reverse the decline in farmland birds. The count offers a simple means of recording the effects of any conservation work currently being undertaken by farmers and gamekeepers on their land, such as supplementary feeding birds through winter or growing crops specifically to provide seed for birds.

At the end of the count, the results will be analysed by the GWCT. All participants will receive a report on the national results once they have been collated.

How to take part in three simple steps:

■ Download your count sheet from the BFBC website www.bfbc.org.uk.

■ Count your birds. On a day between February 7 and 16, 2020, spend about 30 minutes recording the species and number of birds seen on one particular area of the farm.

■ Once you've completed your count, submit your results at www.bfbc.org.uk.

Union's post-election plan already in place

Following the conclusive result of the UK General Election on Thursday December 12, NFUS Scotland (NFUS) has kick-started an extensive programme of engagement with Scotland's intake of MPs and the new UK Government.

Writing to every MP in Scotland this week, NFUS has invited early meetings to progress dialogue on the 10 key priorities set out in its election manifesto document – which address the pressing Brexit issue, as well as climate change, animal welfare, opportunities for new entrants and food producers' standing in the supply chain.

NFUS will also extend an invitation to the Secretary of State for Scotland, once appointed, to attend and address the upcoming NFUS AGM in February 2020.

NFUS's political affairs manager

Clare Slipper said: 'With the dust from last week's election settled, now begins the hard work with Scotland's representatives in Westminster. Let us be clear: NFUS will engage with all MPs, of all parties, to ensure the best outcomes for our membership.

'As well as organising meetings with Scottish MPs, we are also seeking early engagement with key appointments within the government.

'Having looked at the policies within the Conservative's manifesto line-by-line, there are areas of strength and opportunity: and other areas that our members will find more challenging. Our role is to bridge that gap.

'Clearly, Brexit is the most pressing issue. It is almost certain that the UK will be leaving the EU on January 31, and NFUS will work closely with

UK Government to ensure that this transition is as smooth as possible.

'After that point, the UK, the EU and the international community will enter an intense negotiating period on the terms of future trading relationships. NFUS will build on the strong markers it has already



NFUS Scotland

laid in terms of maintaining our world-class standards of production and protecting the UK's agri-food market from substandard imports. The Prime Minister must deliver on the previous government's commitment to establish a Commission on Standards.

'We welcome the Conservative government's commitment to

extend the current annual budget to farmers throughout the duration of the next parliament. We will seek certainty on this staying ringfenced to agriculture, as well as the quantum of funding that will be delivered from now through to 2024.

'The new UK Government must work with the devolved administrations to recommence negotiations on how future financial, regulatory and policy frameworks will operate across the UK to ensure the Scottish Government can make the right decisions on future agricultural policy for Scottish farmers and crofters.

'We are interested by the policies within the Conservative manifesto concerning regulatory simplification and streamlining the tax system – both which could provide positive opportunities to boost rural business.

'There are more challenging aspects to the Conservative government's proposed policies where we must ensure that there aren't negative consequences – intended or unintended – for our members. These include the party's uninformed position regarding the movement of live animals – an issue on which NFUS lobbied the previous government hard.

'A further issue is the future points-based immigration system. NFUS completely rejects the suggestion that routes to permanent residence for "low skilled" workers should be shut off. This would be extremely damaging to the whole of the UK agri-food sector. We want the government to secure a comprehensive immigration system that is based on the needs of the labour market.'

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We still have a fantastic range of Christmas cards for all the family, for those of you who like to do things last minute.



YOU CAN NOW FIND US ON FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/couriercentre



THE GLEN BAR & RESTAURANT CARRADALE

May and Bill wish all their customers a Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you at the Glen in 2020.
Carradale, Argyll, PA28 6QG
Tel 01583 431105

COWAN & MACBRAYNE LTD JOINERS & BUILDERS LOCHGILPHEAD

would like to wish all their customers, past and present, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Telephone: 01546 603851

COUNCILLOR
RORY COLVILLE
EXTENDS SEASON
GREETINGS



"May the best ye've ever seen, Be the worst ye ever see".

He can be contacted on
01586 820 209
E-mail:
rory.colville@argyll-bute.gov.uk

A.G. Barr Optometrists

would like to wish all their patients a Very Merry Christmas and



58 Longrow Campbeltown
Tel: 01586 554400

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS 2019
Closed from 5pm on Monday 23rd,
Open Friday 27th and Monday 30th.
Closed from 5pm on 30th and reopen
Friday 3rd Jan 2020.

Merry Christmas

FROM YOUR
LOCAL
BUSINESSES
AND
TRADES

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Christmas Holidays - Closed Wednesday, Thursday – 25th / 26th December – Re-open Friday 27th December 2019.

New Year Holidays – Closed Wednesday, Thursday – 1st / 2nd January 2020 - Re-open Friday 3rd January 2020

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our customers and suppliers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SERVING KINTYRE and MID-ARGYLL
OUR NAME IS YOUR GUARANTEE

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All Joinery work undertaken

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(Lochgilphead)

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Wishing all our customers a
Very Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!
12-14 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead
01546 603217

DUNLOP & CO CA
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Wishing all our
customers a
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and a Prosperous
New Year.
Dunlop & Co Chartered Accountants aim
to provide a professional and friendly
service tailored towards the need of the
individual client.
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CAMPBELTOWN 01586 552906
11-13 Woodside Terrace Lane
GLASGOW 0141 332 7587
Email **Efric A McNeil**
efric.mcneil@dunlopca.co.uk
Efric M McNeil
efricm.mcneil@dunlopca.co.uk
www.dunlopca.co.uk

**Councillor
Anne Horn**
wishes everyone
in Kintyre and the
Islands a Happy
Christmas and a healthy
and peaceful New Year
Telephone 01880 820496

N McCormick Steel Fabrication & Welding Contractor
Please contact for pictures
and examples of ornamental
steelwork, e.g. rails, gates,
house names etc which can
be e mailed to you.

**Archie wishes all his customers
a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year**
3 Range Road, Campbeltown, PA28 6LL
(workshop at Limecraigs, Campbeltown)
Tel: 01586 550027, Mobile : 07920 422452
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all our customers and wish them
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Happy & Prosperous New Year.**

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Festive Opening Hours

Christmas Eve 6am-9pm
Christmas Day Closed
Boxing Day 9am - 6pm
New Years Day Closed
27th - 31st December 7am - 10pm
January 2nd 9am - 6pm
As normal from 3rd January 6am - 11pm

**Merry Christmas
and Happy New
Year to all our
customers**

There for you Riverside Filling Station
Oban Rd, Lochgilphead. Tel 01546 603858

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM McIVORS CAMPBELTOWN

**We would like to take this opportunity to thank
all of our customers for taking the time to shop
locally and for supporting our family business
throughout 2019.**

There is still time to deck your halls and arrange gifts
for loved ones so we welcome you to visit the shop on
Longrow Campbeltown, or give us a jingle on
01586 552386.

We have a range of beautiful Christmas trees, handmade
holly wreaths, floral arrangements, hampers and a host of
festive gifts to ensure your festive season is full of cheer.



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We would like to thank all our customers for their continued support and wish them a Merry Christmas and Good New Year

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email hardwarestores@btconnect.com

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thanks you to all customers past and present for your continued support over the last 20 years.

First Floor,
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Campbeltown
Tel: 07979 810576
c.msemple@live.co.uk

Fyne HOMES LTD.
Scottish Charity No. SC009152

WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Our Campbeltown, Lochgilhead, Rothesay and Dunoon Offices Will close at 1pm on 24th December 2019 and reopen 6th January 2020.

The 24-hour Freephone Emergency Number will of course continue to operate throughout this holiday period

REMEMBER – 0800 592276

Happy Holidays

From local businesses and trades

ARGYLL BOOK CENTRE

We wish all our customers past and present a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Lorne Street,
Lochgilhead
Tel 01546 603596

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to all of our customers near and far from Wee Isle Dairy

STUART CRAWFORD
Joiner/Builder

STUART AND THE BOYS WISH ALL PAST AND PRESENT CUSTOMERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

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PA31 8NX
07557123804
crawfordstuart@hotmail.co.uk

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Tel: 01586 553624
Email: glensidetractors@btconnect.com
Website: www.glensidetractors.co.uk

Wishing all our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thanking them for their support over 2019.

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Argyll, PA31 8PY
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WISHING ALL OUR CUSTOMERS A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS



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Car Repair & Service - Tyres & Brakes - Diagnostic & more...

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MOT Testing, Repairs & Servicing to all makes of vehicles.



Wishing all customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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4 Wheel alignment with full printout
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TIMBER
AND
GENERAL
HAULAGE
CONTRACTORS

We wish all our Customers a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Darlochan Yard, Kilkennie
by Campbeltown

Telephone 01586 820258 : Fax 01586 820488

Campbeltown Motor Company

The Management and Staff of Campbeltown Motor Company wish all customers the compliments of the season. Thank you for supporting us and we hope to be of service to you during 2020.

Tel: 01586 552030 / 553200
Campbeltown Motor Company
Snipefield, Drumore, Campbeltown

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MOTS GARAGE SERVICES

A Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to all our customers



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*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my friends & neighbours from Patsy Johnston, Ardrishaig.

season's greetings

Your personal Christmas messages to friends and family, near and far

SEASON'S GREETINGS

to all our relatives, friends & neighbours from Roy, Davie & Donnie Mitchell, 10 Muasdale Cottages.

MARION & GEORGE REID

would like to wish all their relatives, friends & neighbours a Merry Christmas & Good New Year.

JAMES MCCONNACHIE, 9 BROOMFIELD, CARRADALE

would like to wish all his relatives, friends & neighbours a Merry Christmas.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all our relatives, friends & neighbours from Lizzie & David, Davaar Avenue, Campbeltown.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all our relatives & friends from Sandra & Willie McMillan, Springfield Terrace, Campbeltown.

NANCY MACPHERSON, 30 LORNE CAMPBELL COURT

wishes all relatives, friends & neighbours a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

NANCY BLACK, 32 LORNE CAMPBELL COURT

would like to wish family & friends a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Dot & Teddy Russell, Campbeltown

wish all family, neighbours & friends all the very best for the festive season.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives, friends & neighbours from Isobel MacKay, Campbeltown.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all our relatives, friends & neighbours from Richard & Nettie Semple, Achabhrad.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all our relatives, friends & neighbours from Neil & Mary McKay, 1 Harbour View.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my friends, neighbours & family from Catherine Ann.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives, friends & neighbours from Elizabeth McGuire, Campbeltown.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives, friends, neighbours and all the staff & nurses at Lorne Campbell Court from Rachel Lang.

David & Helen Shaw, Castlepark

would like to wish all their friends & neighbours a Merry Christmas & all the best for 2020.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all our family, friends & neighbours from Katie McNaughton & Danny.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

to all relatives, friends, staff & residents at Kintyre Care Home from Annie Thompson.

PEGGY WAREHAM, 5 CASTLEHILL COURT

would like to wish all her family, friends & neighbours a Merry Christmas & all the best for 2020.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my friends & care home staff from Mary Scally, Kintyre Care Home.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives, friends & neighbours from John Harvey, 39 Lady Mary Row.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives, friends & neighbours from Mary Paterson, Drumlemble.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

to family, friends & neighbours of Ramsay Place, with personal thanks to Janette & Peter, from Jenny Tyrrell.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all our relatives, friends & neighbours from Eddie & Beryl MacCallum, Peninver.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my friends in Kintyre. Miss you still. Trish Pearson.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all family, neighbours & friends from Cathie Armour, Glebe Street.

*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my friends & neighbours from John MacVean, 15 Lynn Court, Oban.

**WISHING ALL OUR READERS AND ADVERTISERS
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

argyllshire advertiser
Incorporating Campbeltown Courier

campbeltown courier
Incorporating Argyllshire Advertiser

OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY 25TH AND THURSDAY 26TH DECEMBER

MID ARGYLL

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCHES (SCO13787)

Friday 20th December

7.00pm All Saints, Inveraray
Ecumenical Carol Service

Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christ Church, Lochgilphead

Christmas Day

9.00am St Columba's, Poltalloch
Sung Holy Communion
11.00am Christ Church, Lochgilphead
Eucharist with Carols

ST MARGARET'S RC CHURCH, LOCHGILPHEAD and ALL SAINTS, INVERARAY SC002876

Tuesday 24th December

Carol Service followed by Vigil Mass of the
Nativity of the Lord
8.30pm St Margaret's

Christmas Day

Mass of the Nativity of the Lord
10.00am St Margaret's
12.30pm All Saints

Thursday 26th December (St Stephen's Day)

Mass 10.30am St Margaret's
No services 27th & 28th

Sunday 29th December

Sunday Mass

10.00am St Margaret's
12.30pm All Saints

Monday 30th December

Mass 10.30am St Margaret's

Tuesday 31st December

10.30am Mass - St Margaret's
9.00pm Prayer Service - St Margaret's

Wednesday 1st January

Mass 11.00am St Margaret's
No services 2nd, 3rd & 4th

Sunday 5th January

Sunday Mass

10.00am St Margaret's
12.30pm All Saints

GLASSARY, KILMARTIN & FORD PARISH CHURCH, KILMARTIN Sunday 22nd December

11.30am

Rev Robert MacLeod

Tuesday 24th December

11.30pm Christmas Eve Service
Carols and Lessons

Sunday 29th December

11.30am

Mr James McLellan

All Welcome

Services beginning 5th January 2020 10am
start

ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES Sunday 22nd December

Advent 4

'The Birth'

Ardrihaig at 11.00am

Achahoish at 12.30pm

Christmas Eve

Carol Service

Achahoish at 7.00pm

Watchnight Service

Ardrihaig at 11.30pm
(Carol Singing from 11.15pm)

Sunday 29th December

Escape!

Ardrihaig at 11.00am

Achahoish at 12.30pm

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH SC001002

Christmas starts with Christ
Celebrate with us this year

Sunday 22nd December

10.00am Bellanoch Church
Advent Worship

Tuesday 24th December

4.00pm Tayvallich Green
Carols on the Green

11.30pm Kilmartin Church
Watchnight Service

Christmas Day

11.00am Bellanoch Church
Christmas Celebration

All Welcome

www.northknapdale.org

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND WEST LOCHFYNESIDE

Friday 20th December

Ecumenical Service

All Saint's Inveraray 7.00pm

Father Simon Mackenzie and Wilf Stout

Sunday 22nd December

Joint Service Inveraray Church 11.30am

Margaret Sinclair

Tuesday 24th December

Watchnight Services Cumladden Church

7.30pm

Margaret Sinclair

Inveraray Church 11.30pm, Margaret Sinclair

Mulled Wine & Mince pies after service

Christmas Day

Inveraray Church, 10.30am

Caroline Wood & Margaret Sinclair

Sunday 29th December

Lochgair Church 10.00am

Inveraray Church 11.30am

Margaret Sinclair

TARBERT LOCH FYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH LINKED WITH SKIPNESS CHURCH

Sunday 22nd December

Skipness 10.00am

Rev C Fulcher

Tarbert 11.30am

Rev C Fulcher

Join us for the Sunday School Nativity - all
welcome

Kilberry 2.00pm

Rev C Fulcher

Christmas Eve

Kilberry Church Christmas Eve Torchlight
Carol Service

6.30pm, led by Peter Minshall

Please bring a torch - all very welcome

Skipness Church 7.00pm - all very welcome

Sunday 29th December

Skipness 10.00am

C Holden

Tarbert 11.30am

C Holden

LOCHGILPHEAD PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Christmas Services

Sunday 22nd December

Family Service with Nativity at 11.00am

Christmas Eve

Watchnight Service at 11.15pm

(Carols, mulled wine and mince pies
from 10.45pm)

Christmas Day

Family Service at 11.00am

(A chance for the children to show off their
presents from Santa)

KINTYRE

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday 22nd December

11.00am All Age Service

with Nativity Play:

Little angels, sheep and shepherds welcome
and

6.30pm Carol Service

For all the family

Wednesday 25th December

10.30am Christmas Morning Service

SKDT Hall, Kirk Street

www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk

SC043322

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Sunday 22nd December

Family Communion Service 11.00am

Tuesday 24th December

Carols By Candlelight 6.30pm

Christmas refreshments will be served

All are welcome

Pastor Steve Davies

Sunday 29th December

Family Communion Service 11.00am

All are welcome

Pastor Steve Davies

ST KIERAN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Saturday 21st December

Rotate Mass 6.00pm

Sunday 22nd December

4th Sunday of Advent, Mass 10.00am

Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass of Christmas 9.00pm

Christmas Day

Holy Mass 10.00am

followed by Christmas refreshments in the hall

Wednesday 1st January 2020

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Holy Mass 11.00am

Fr Tony Wood

PARISHES OF SADDELL & CARRADALE LINKED WITH SOUTHEND

Christmas Services 2019

AT CARRADALE

Tuesday 24th December

8.00pm Christmas Eve Carols
at the Church

Wednesday 25th December

10.45am Christmas Day United
at Episcopal Church, Campbeltown

AT SOUTHEND

Friday 20th December

6.30pm Carol Singing in the village
8.00pm Carols in the Argyll Arms

Tuesday 24th December

11.30pm Watchnight Service
at Southend Church

Wednesday 25th December

11.45am Christmas Day United
at Episcopal Church, Campbeltown

WEST KINTRYE & GIGHA CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

www.westkintyreandgighachurchofscotland.org

A'CHLEIT

Sunday 22nd December

Advent 4: 11.30am with Baptism

Christmas Eve

Watchnight Service 11.30pm

CLACHAN

Sunday 22nd December

Advent 4: 10.00am

Christmas Eve

Family Carol Service 7.00pm

GIGHA

Sunday 22nd December

Carol Service 11.00am

Christmas Eve

Watchnight Service 11.30pm

A genuinely warm welcome awaits one and all
Come and meet our friendly new minister,
Rev Scott E Burton

Why not also make a new start in the new year
and join us for regular worship?

A new Sunday School has begun in A'Chleit,
children of all ages are very welcome

A very Merry Christmas and Happy 2020 to
one and all



*'Jesus - He's the reason
for the Season'*



West Coast MOTORING

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01292 880440

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Closing Date for Applications: 31st December 2019



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Qualified Engineer and Apprentice Engineer required
An opportunity has come up to work with a rapidly growing successful engineering company in the Oban area. One position is for a fully qualified engineer with experience in hydraulics. Our main concern is hydraulic hoses however our team are all qualified to a level 3 plant maintenance level to carry out all levels of work for our marine, forestry and agricultural customers.
We are also looking for an apprentice engineer, applicants must be 18 years or over with a minimum of 1 years' experience in mechanics.
We offer a competitive rate and will be decided on applicant's experience. Please visit our Facebook page for more information on what we do.
Send all CVs to info@pmg-services.com.

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For an application form contact manager
Morag A Telfer. 01631 562168
Email info@northargyllhouse.org

Career opportunities 

CONSTRUCTION SITE MANAGER – OBAN
We are looking for an experienced Site Manager to join our team in Dunbeg Development in Oban. The successful candidate will be responsible for organising & monitoring progress, meeting deadlines and ensuring a safe working environment. This a full time/permanent position 8am-5.30pm (Mon-Fri).
Please send CV to jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk or call 01546 602989 for further information.



Rannoch Estate seeks Cattleman
to look after a small herd of cattle while summer grazing on hill, wintering on lower ground. Also to help with stalking and other estate duties. Excellent accommodation. Must have cattle experience.
Apply with references to:
lordpearsonofrannoch@gmail.com or in writing to: **Rannoch Barracks, Rannoch Station, Perthshire, PH17 2QE.**

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Argyll and Bute Council
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS
Mid Argyll
Refuse collections (general waste) due on Wednesday 25th December will be collected on Monday 23rd December.
Recycling collections due on Wednesday 25th December will be collected on Saturday 28th December.
Refuse collections (general waste) due on Thursday 26th December will be collected on Friday 27th December.
Recycling collections due on Thursday 26th December will be collected on Saturday 28th December.
Refuse collections (general waste) due on Wednesday 1st January will be collected on Monday 30th December.
Recycling collections due on Wednesday 1st January will be collected on Saturday 4th January.
Refuse collections (general waste) due on Thursday 2nd January will be collected on Friday 3rd January.
Recycling collections due on Thursday 2nd January will be collected on Saturday 4th January.
All other days will be collected as normal.
Lingerton recycling and civic amenity site will be closed on 25th/26th December and 1st/2nd January.
Kintyre
Refuse collections (general waste) due on Wednesday 25th December will be collected on Thursday 26th December.
Refuse collections (general waste) due on Thursday 26th December will be collected on Saturday 28th December.
Refuse collections (general waste) due on Wednesday 1st January will be collected on Thursday 2nd January.
Refuse collections (general waste) due on Thursday 2nd January will be collected on Friday 3rd January.
Gigha recycling collection due on Wednesday 1st January will be collected on Tuesday 31st December.
Recycling collections by Kintyre Recycling due on Wednesday 25th December will be collected on Friday 27th December.
Recycling collections by Kintyre Recycling due on Wednesday 1st January will be collected on Friday 3rd January.
All other days will be collected as normal.
The Roading recycling and civic amenity site will be closed on 25th/26th December and 1st/2nd January.
Information is also available from the Council website and from your local office.
To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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closer to home

Argyll and Bute Council
PLANNING
These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD. They can also be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at **www.argyll-bute.gov.uk** and at your Local Customer Service Point (check opening times).
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
19/02497/PP	Amended design relative to planning permission 18/00816/PP – extensions and alterations to existing dwellinghouse (retrospective)	Alma Cottage, Big Brae, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute, PA29 6UQ
19/02535/PP	Repainting of shop front elevation from black to lavender grey	31 Longrow, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute, PA28 6ER

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online **http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications** within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.
To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



PUBLIC NOTICES

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

CONSTRUCTION OF MAINLAND TO JURA POWER DISTRIBUTION REPLACEMENT CABLE, JURA SOUND

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of replacement of mainland to Jura power distribution cable at:

Cost	£3,000,000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Jura Sound	56° 02.290 N	005° 38.651 W
	56° 02.036 N	005° 38.282 W
	56° 01.658 N	005° 38.276 W
	56° 01.648 N	005° 39.060 W
	56° 01.861 N	005° 39.312 W
	56° 02.225 N	005° 44.435 W
	56° 02.226 N	005° 45.534 W
	56° 02.861 N	005° 45.334 W
	56° 02.897 N	005° 44.881 W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Argyll & Bute Council, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD and Jura Community Store, Craighouse, Isle of Jura PA60 7XS

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: 07190 and Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc.

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

SCOTTISHPOWER RENEWABLES (UK) LTD

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

ELECTRICITY (APPLICATIONS FOR CONSENT) REGULATIONS 1990

Notice is hereby given that ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Ltd, (company registration number NI028425 registered address The Soloist, 1 Lanyon Place, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT1 3LP) has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate Sheirdrim Renewable Energy Development on land approximately 11 km south of Tarbert on the Kintyre Peninsula in Argyll and Bute (Central Grid Reference 181302, 657098). The proposed Development would have an installed capacity in excess of 100 MW comprising of up to 19 turbines with a ground to blade tip height of up to 149.9 metres, with an installed capacity of around 114 MW and two ground mounted solar arrays with an installed capacity of around 20 MW, producing a combined output of around 134 MW. A battery storage facility would also be installed with storage capacity of around 38 MW of energy. The proposed Development is subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and an EIA Report has been produced.

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

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

Location Name	Normal Opening Hours	Address
Argyll and Bute Council, 1A Manse Brae	Monday – Friday: 9.00am to 4.00pm	1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD

and is also available at the following location, during the opening hours of that facilities:

Location Name	Normal Opening Hours	Address
Whitehouse Community Hall	When the facilities are open for activities	Whitehouse PA29 6XR

The EIA Report can also be viewed at the Scottish Government Library at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ; on the application website at https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/sheirdrim_renewable_energy_development.aspx; or at www.energyconsents.scot.

Copies of the EIA Report may be obtained from ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Ltd (telephone: 0141 614 0451) at a charge of £1,000 hard copy and £15 on CD/DVD or USB. Copies of a short non-technical summary are available free of charge.

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

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

All representations should be received not later than 31st January 2020, although Ministers may consider representations received after this date.

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

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

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

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

General Data Protection Regulations

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

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6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

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

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West Coast CLASSIFIEDS

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

LIMITED EDITION WHISKY - Signed, limited edition, no.32 of 68, 10 yr old GLENTURRET single malt whisky, "THE CAPTAIN", one of 6 issues, signed by Roy Barry. Campbeltown, £75.00 Telephone 01586 554537

VARIOUS MUSIC LP'S - Various music LP's for sale including Scottish, Country and Latin American, Telephone 01859 511207

AA AUTOMOBILE BADGES - 1950'S, 1960'S original Automobile Association car grille badges. Restored and in very good condition. A Christmas stocking filler £20.00 each collected from Oban or £23.00 including postage, Telephone 01631 564578

AUDIO EQUIPMENT

PULSE PORTABLE PA SYSTEM - + iPod dock and mic Model: Trekker i300 £60.00 Telephone 07821 970536

BICYCLES

CHILD'S PINK PEDAL GO KART - suit age 4-6, in Campbeltown, £15.00 Telephone 07778 942287

LADIES RALEIGH PIONEER BICYCLE - Rarely used, kept indoors, VGC, recently serviced, advised worth £150, Quick Sale £90.00 Telephone 07557 375026

CHILD'S PINK BIKE - SUIT AGE 4-6, in Campbeltown, £15.00 Telephone 07778 942287

BUILDING / DIY

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

CAR ACCESSORIES

FIVE ALLOY WHEELS - to fit Vauxhall Corsa/VW Polo, used, good tyres, four stud. Non-matching spare, £85.00 Telephone 07456 434363 or 01586 301240

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BMW E46 3 SERIES COUPE SILL - Genuine BMW part and unused, £80.00 ono Telephone 01631 564578

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GENTS PADDED COAT (LANDS'

END) - Small 6-8, Olive Green. Perfect condition. Buyer collects, £30.00 Telephone 01546 600045

JACK MURPHY RAINCOAT - Ladies lined raincoat. UK 8, Wine, Perfect Condition. Buyer collects, £30.00 Telephone 01546 600045

CHRISTMAS JUMPERS - £5 each, Telephone 01397 701742

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

BOSCH FRIDGE FREEZER - large upright, fairly good condition, can deliver, £80.00 Telephone 01631 730323

AEG DOUBLE OVEN - in brushed stainless steel. 8 years old, used and in reasonable condition, £80.00 Telephone 01631 730323

DYSON BALL UPRIGHT CLEANER - Small, good working condition with instructions or nearest offer, £45.00 Telephone 01546 602563

EQUESTRIAN BLACK

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

FURNITURE

PIANO STOOLS - 2 piano stools. For details please contact, £5.00 each Telephone 01586 550075

FURNITURE

6 SCHEIBER DINING CHAIRS - 1970's. In need of refurb. A good project, £10.00 Telephone 01586 550075

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

VINTAGE CART WHEELS - and smaller implement wheels. Colourful garden display items, £30.00 Telephone 01631 564578

VINTAGE CHIMNEY POTS - in various sizes and styles, make lovely garden planters. Prices from £40.00 Telephone 01631 564578

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VIBRAPOWER ACTIVE - Very good condition. Stand on it, it vibrates, keep fit. Free Telephone 01631 565404

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OUTBOARD 4HP YAMAHA 4-STROKE - Yamaha (2012) 4hp I/s, used in fresh water only. Serviced annually - last used Sept. 2018 v. reliable. Trolley &

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MISCELLANEOUS

WOODCHIP WALLPAPER - 7 rolls, £10.00 Telephone 01397 701742

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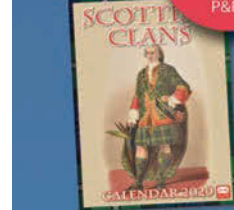
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PERSONAL NOTICES



Happy 70th Jimmy

Lots of love from all the family xxx



Happy 60th Birthday Granda John

Lots of love, Emma and Amy xxx

CAMPBELTOWN CAT RESCUE

would like to thank everyone for their support at the annual coffee morning.

The event raised £1,136.

Thanks also to all who have donated cat food via our drop off boxes in the Coop and Tesco stores.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all.



Celebrate your Graduation

Only £24 inc.VAT

Call 01586 554646 / 01546 602345

CAMPBELTOWN

A council contribution of £270,000 capital funding towards a flood protection scheme for Campbeltown will go forward to be considered as part of the budget process in the 2020/21 financial year.

This was agreed by Argyll and Bute Council's Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee on Thursday December 5, which also approved the preliminary confirmation of the Campbeltown Flood Protection Scheme (CFPS).

The scheme involves a flood storage area in the Millknowe area of Campbeltown and a partial upsizing of the surface water culvert running down Dalaruan Street, from the proposed storage area. In addition, surface water management will be implemented to other areas within the town at The Meadows and Burnside Street to further reduce the risk of flooding to the town.

PORTAVADIE

The newly refurbished waiting room at Portavadie Ferry Terminal has opened to passengers.

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL), which owns the building, has completed a project to extend and upgrade the facility.

The gable end of the existing building was demolished to create an extension and internal alterations were made to the building layout to form new male and female toilets, an accessible toilet with baby changing facilities, as well as a larger waiting room. The exterior is covered in grey fibre cement weatherboard cladding to reduce future maintenance and bring the building into line with CMAL's construction style, which has already been rolled out at Fishnish, Largs and Lochranza.

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

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



OBAN



Drax's technical apprentices Iain Macpherson, left, and Joshua Smith.

Two apprentices from Oban are kick-starting their careers with Drax after the company extended its apprenticeship scheme to budding engineers across Scotland.

Drax's technical apprenticeship scheme gives new recruits the opportunity to gain skills and expertise by working alongside highly qualified engineers. It is a four-year programme, and specialises in three engineering disciplines: mechanical,

electrical and control and instrumentation.

Iain Macpherson, 17, from Oban, has joined Drax's Cruachan power station as a technical apprentice. He said: 'I have always been interested in engineering. While I was at school I was fortunate enough to do work experience here at Cruachan Power Station. Since then, I knew engineering was for me. Drax is a brilliant company to work at, so becoming an

apprentice was an opportunity not to be missed.'

Oban's Joshua Smith, aged 24, said of his new apprenticeship at Cruachan Power Station: 'An apprenticeship is a great way to learn, you get the chance to learn new, hands-on skills. At college, you only learn the theoretical side, but doing this apprenticeship I'm learning so much more. Drax has great values and really cares about all of their employees.'

Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Shedden

Have you finally stopped?

Is the shopping done? Are the presents wrapped? Is the dinner organised?

Have you remembered to send a card to the person who sent you one unexpectedly last year?

Have you finally stopped?

How often did you say: 'I'll be more organised next year?'

How often did you say: 'I can't believe how much I've spent?'

How often did you say: 'I have no idea what to get these people?'

How often did you wish it all wasn't so commercialised?

In this age of consumerism, we bleat about prices like weary sheep knowing we are being fleeced in so many ways.

What do you give the person who has everything?

What could you give the person who has nothing?

What do you wish for those you love the most?

The first Christmas gift was simply the gift of love.

It all sounds so easy; it all sounds so simplistic.

What will this gift cost? It will cost nothing and yet it will cost everything.

Love is the ultimate gift, and love is the most precious gift.

God gives us this gift and by his giving he encourages us also to give.

By God's grace and care, we are to reflect his selfless love.

Love comes in many guises, but never better than when it comes in person.

Love is at its best when it is unconditional; love is at its best when it is selfless; love is at its best when it thinks more of the one who receives it than the one who gives it.

Love is of God.

May love be your gift this Christmas – given and received.

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instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

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

DEATHS

MACDONALD - Suddenly, but peacefully, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, after a short illness, on December 16, 2019, Geordie MacDonald (Duncan), in his 83rd year, of 45 Glenfyne Park, Ardrishaig, formerly of Ashfield, and Ellary Estate, beloved husband of the late Jean MacVean and much loved father of Malcolm. Dear brother of Jean, Mary, Lilly, Ena and Minnie, much respected brother-in-law, uncle and cousin to all the family, and a good neighbour, dear friend and work colleague to many. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilphead Parish Church, on Monday, December 23, 2019, thereafter to Achnamara Cemetery. Donations to British Heart Foundation and Mid Argyll Hospital.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GALBRAITH - The family of the late Archie (Baldy) Galbraith would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy extended to them in so many ways during their recent sad loss. Grateful thanks to staff at Mid Argyll Community Hospital; to the Rev Hilda Smith for her very comforting service; and to Donald MacDonald, funeral directors, for their caring and professional service. Many thanks to the Stag Hotel for their excellent purvey. Finally, sincere thanks to all who paid their last respects, and who donated generously to the retiral collection, which raised £710 for British Heart Foundation.

WALLACE - Peacefully at the Campbeltown Hospital, on December 17, 2019, Jessie Stark Wallace, in her 85th year, 3 Wallace Cottages, Southend, dearly beloved daughter of the late Alexander and Jessie Wallace, much loved sister of Helen and May, sister-in-law of Tommy and Billy and a loving aunt of Lynn and David. A graveside service will be held in Keil Cemetery, Southend, on Saturday, December 21, 2019 at 11.00am, to which all friends are respectfully invited.

IN MEMORIAMs

ADCOCK - Keira, August 11, 2000 to December 19, 2003. Silent thoughts of our time together, Hold memories which will last forever. Missed today and every day!
- Love from Mum, Dad, Cassie and Annie xxxxx. Jah Bless.

ADCOCK - Keira, August 11, 2000 to December 19, 2003. Loved and missed always.
- Love, Nana and Grandad xxx.

ANDREW - Treasured memories of Bill, a dear husband, dad, papa and grand papa, died December 24, 2015. Forever in our hearts.
- Jessie, Lorraine, Susan and families.

BRODIE - Edward Brodie, died December 17, 2018. Forever in our thoughts.
- Barbara, Christine, Martin and Kenneth.

BURNETT - In loving memory of our dear mum and granny, who passed away December 9, 2013. In our thoughts always.
- Love, Annamarie, Allan, Jacqueline and Linda xxxxx.

CAMPBELL - Treasured memories of Marion McKenzie, who died December 19, 2009, a much loved and missed wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Your presence we miss, Your memory we treasure, Loving you always, Forgetting you never. Forever in our hearts.
- Her loving husband Archie, Moira, Fionnaigh, Christine and families.

GATNER - In loving memory of Andy, who died December 22, 2005. Sadly missed, loved and remembered always.
- Love, Sarah, Rita and Andrew.

JOHNSTONE - In loving memory of Archie, who died on December 10, 2016. Until we meet again.
- From his loving wife and soulmate, Agnes.

MACAULAY - In loving memory of a dear dad and grandpa, Tommy, died December 18, 2012. Loved, missed, always near,
Forever in our hearts.
- Love, Julie and Chloe xx.

MAUCHLINE - Treasured memories of Duncan, died December 19, 2018. Loved and missed every day.
- Jane and family.

MCGLYNN - In loving memory of a dearly loved father and grandfather, Dugald (Tat) McGlynn, who passed away December 29, 2016. Loved and remembered every day.
- Kenneth, Kerry and Ben.

SMITH - In loving memory of our dear mum, Betty. Always in our hearts.
- From your girls and their families.

TAYLOR - In memory of Nicky, our friend and workmate, who passed away on December 26, 2014. Sadly missed every day.
- John and Kieran.

COURIER ANNOUNCEMENTS ADVERTISER ANNOUNCEMENTS COURIER

WEDDING



GILLESPIE - RENDALL

Lyle Gillespie and Gemma Rendall were married on June 1, 2019 at St Magnus Cathedral, Orkney. Gemma is the daughter of Colin and Fiona Rendall of Kirkwall and Lyle is the son of Stuart and the late June Gillespie of Campbeltown.

CHURCH NOTICES

HIGHLAND PARISH CHURCH



SC002493

Sunday 22nd December Children's Service for Christmas

The service will be conducted by Rev Anne McIvor and will be held in the church at 11.15am
All welcome

LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity Number SC 11686

Saturday 21st December

Peace at Christmas 3.00pm New Hall
A service to remember loved ones departed
Everyone welcome

Sunday 22nd December

11.15am Morning Worship
Joy at Christmas
Choir items, BBs
Nativity Story Gen 1 and Triple C
Rev W Crossan

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



75 Longrow, Campbeltown

Sunday 22nd December Family Communion Service 11.00am

Tuesday 24th December Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm

Christmas refreshments will be served
All are welcome
Enquiries 01586 551200
www.springbankchurch.org.uk
SCO14646

ST KIARAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Sunday 22nd December Advent 4
Holy Communion 10.45am

Wednesday 25th December
Christmas Day
Holy Communion 10.45am

Enquiries tel: 01586 551141
The Scottish Episcopal Church is a Province of the Worldwide Anglican Communion

ST KIERAN RC CHURCH

St. John Street, Campbeltown
01586 552160
Rev Tony Wood
stkieransrc.org

Saturday 21st December

Rotate Mass 6.00pm
Sunday 22nd December
4th Sunday of Advent,
Mass 10.00am
Christmas Eve
Vigil Mass of Christmas 9.00pm
Christmas Day
Holy Mass, 10.00am followed by Christmas refreshments in the hall
All welcome
(SC002876)

SALVATION ARMY



Sunday 22nd December

No Morning Service
3.30pm Corps Family Carol Service
(with Army Kidz)
Followed by tea/coffee and eats
No Evening Service
Wednesday 25th December
Christmas Day
10.00am Christmas Celebration
(Please note time)
All welcome
Scottish Charity Number SCO09359

CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH

George Street, Campbeltown
free church of scotland

Sunday 22nd December

11.15am Christmas Service
Rev Rodger Crooks
11.15am Sunday School
Monday 23rd December
4.00pm Road to Recovery
All welcome
www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

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CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH



Sunday 22nd December
11.00am All Age Service with Nativity Play
6.30pm Evening Carol Service

For all the family
Wednesday 25th December

10.30am Christmas Morning Service
Pastor Mark Jasper
pastor@campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk
www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk
SC043322
We meet at the SKDT Hall, Kirk Street PA28 6BL

ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES

Sunday 22nd December
Advent 4
What's Behind Window 4?
The Birth Services in Ardrishaig at 11.00am and Achahoish at 12.30pm
Please see page 29 for festive services
All welcome

CHRIST CHURCH SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Bishopton Road, Lochgilphead (SC013787)
Sunday 22nd December
11.00am Eucharist & Coffee
Please see page 29 for festive services
All welcome
Father Simon Mackenzie
01546 602315

ST MARGARET'S RC CHURCH

Lochgilphead
Holy Mass Sunday 10am
All Saints, Inveraray
Holy Mass Sunday 12.30pm
Please see page 29 for festive services
Fr Ronald Campbell
01546 602380
All Welcome
(SC002876)

GLASSARY, KILMARTIN & FORD PARISH CHURCH

Kilmartin
Sunday 22nd December
Kilmartin 11.30am
Rev Robert MacLeod
Please see page 29 for festive services
All very welcome
(SC0 02121)

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

Charity number SC001002
Christmas starts with Christ
Celebrate with us this year
Sunday 22nd December
10am Bellanoch Church
Advent Worship
Saturday 21st December
10.30am - 12.30pm
Achnamara Hall
Café Connect
Tuesday 24th December
4.00pm Tayvallich Green

Carols on the Green

Wednesday 25th December
11.00am Christmas Celebration
Retiring Offering for Glasgow City Mission
All welcome
www.northknapdale.org

SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 22nd December
Skipness Service 10am
Tarbert Service 11.30am
Kilberry 2.00pm
All services Rev C Fulcher
Please see page 29 for festive services
All welcome

Tarbert and Kilberry Charity No: SC002622
Skipness Charity No: SC004280

For all church enquiries and pastoral care contact CFulcher@churchofscotland.org.uk

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND WEST LOCHFYNESIDE

Church of Scotland
Sunday 22nd December Joint Service
Inveraray Church - 11.30am
Margaret Sinclair
Please see page 29 for festive services
Cumlodden and Lochgair

Charity No. SC016097
Glenaray and Inveraray Charity No. SC016665
All welcome

COURIER ANNOUNCEMENTS ADVERTISER ANNOUNCEMENTS

In three phrases – what Christmas mean to you

With Christmas just around the corner, our roving reporter Liberty Hampton – with the Argyllshire on work experience – took to the streets of Lochgilphead to ask festive shoppers what Christmas means to them, in three sim-

ple words or phrases. It was just a bit of festive fun, but answers were nevertheless intriguing.

'In three phrases, what does Christmas mean to you?'



Sarah Brolly, owner of West Coast Home in Lochgilphead. Sarah's thoughts were: 'Cold and sunny winter days; happy family time; and pretty decorations.' 51_a49Christmasvoxpop02



Amanda Duffy Brown and Verina Litster in Amanda's D&D Wool and Crafts shop, Lochgilphead. Amanda's response was: 'Tinsel; lots of glitter; and Santa.' Verina said: 'Tangerines; Christmas songs; and cinnamon.' 51_a49Christmasvoxpop04



Norma Mackenzie and Lilyanne MacDonald from Tarbert. Lilyanne said: 'Time together with the family; holidays; and not the same with no small children.' Norma's answers were: 'Feeling good; people smiling; and family.' 51_a49Christmasvoxpop01



Tom Murray and Robert West from Montrose were visiting Lochgilphead while on holiday in the area with their wives. Tom gave the answers: 'Birth of Christ; togetherness; and Santa Claus.' Robert replied: 'Thinking of others; benevolence; and feasting on food.' 51_a49Christmasvoxpop05

Marion Sinclair from Lochgilphead was too shy to have her photograph taken, but gave the answers: 'Lovely Christmas lights; sitting around the table with family for festivities; and giving presents and feeling happy at this time of year.' Anne Xxxxxxxx, working in Danny's Ironmongers and pet shop in Lochgilphead, said: 'Family time; gin; and lots of gifts.'

t does



Alistair Dewar from Lochgilphead.
Alistair said: 'The grandchildren;
Christianity; and having a good time.'

51_a49Christmasvoxpop03



Janeann Reppke from Tarbert.
Janeann replied: 'Buying lots of gifts and
presents; eating delicious food; and getting
together with friends and family.'

51_a49Christmasvoxpop07



Camera-shy Lynne McDonald with her dogs
Jet, three, and Toby, two, from Ardrishaig.
We're not sure what Jet and Toby make of it
all, but Lynne's thoughts were: 'Christmas
lights; Baileys; and time with family and the
dogs.'

51_a49Christmasvoxpop06

new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

Win!
THIS WEEK'S
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£4150

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We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph below. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

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

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

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 2pm Monday 13th January 2020. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline. You may hand it into any of our offices - The Oban Times, Lochavullin, Oban; The Lochaber Times, High Street, Fort William; The Campbeltown Courier, Main Street, Campbeltown or The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted. **Competition rules**
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes. Winners' names and home towns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/destroyed within 30 days of the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.



Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB or hand in to any of our offices as detailed above.

Name

Address

Tel No

Please
tape your
£1 coin here
(only if posting)

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

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

- J Cullen, Oban
- T Campbell, Oban



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Christmas Shield anglers battered by the elements

Hail, wind and tangles just about sums up the day for the five hardy Loch Fyne SAC members who ventured out on Loch Etive for the annual Christmas Shield competition.

Part of the fun of this event is the 'compulsory' festive fancy dress and the boys entered into the spirit of the day with their outfits on Saturday December 14. This year's winner, picked by the skipper, was Robert 'Grinch' MacBrayne.

The day started off as expected, pretty cold with a few light showers. Fishing was slow at first with roughly an hour passing before the first catch came aboard, but after that it was non-stop until lunchtime.

The quality of spurs and whiting was better than expected, with very few under-sized caught. Most made the measure and on average spurs



The lads getting into the Christmas spirit. Robert 'Grinch' MacBrayne, centre, was the winner of the festive fancy dress.

hit the 30-50cm mark with a couple of decent ones coming in at 70cm tipping the scales at 4lbs 7oz.

As the day progressed the weather deteriorated with heavy showers, hail and really strong gusts spinning the boat leading to the inevitable Etive tangles.

A decision was made to cut the day short and lines up was called at 3pm.

Given the conditions everyone coped well and at the end of the day four species, spurs, whiting, lsd and pouting, added to the tally of 52 counting fish.

Highlight of the day were

the two sea eagles that flew in quite close on the hunt for food but they had their work cut out with so many greedy gulls around. Food wasn't an issue for the boys though, with homemade soup, tablet, shortbread and ginger wine all hitting the spot.

Back ashore and the scores

tallied up, the winner of this year's Christmas Shield was Gordon Law with Robert MacBrayne in second place.

Results

1. Gordon Law 98pts;
2. Robert MacBrayne 72pts;
3. Andrew Jamieson 42pts;
4. Ronnie McGinty 41pts;
5. Steven MacBrayne 33pts.



Competition winner Gordon Law with a spur.



Robert MacBrayne with a spur.



Left: A pouting.

Six of best for Red Star youngsters

A fine end to 2019 saw Red Star 2004s travel to Cathcart and a superb display secured all three points, with a 6-1 win.

After a few slow starts to recent games the Star youngsters played with intensity right from the first whistle to the last.

Star raced into an early lead as McMurphy finished a fine move. A second followed when a nice cross field pass left Aitken clear and he coolly put the ball behind the keeper.

Cathcart tried to stage a fight back and pulled a goal back as Star stuttered for a few minutes but McMurphy restored Star's two goal lead when he finished from a tight angle. Half-time 3-1 for Star.

The second half was again dominated by the Lochgilphead boys. The fourth goal was an excellent solo effort from Caskie and effectively killed the game as a contest.

Aitken added goal number five when his fierce strike from wide zipped into the net. The sixth and final goal came in the final minutes when the Cathcart keeper parried a long range effort which was pounced on by West who placed the rebound beyond the unlucky goalie.

A great result against second placed Cathcart, which hopefully sets Star up nicely for the rest of the season.



The indoor action in full swing at Lochgilphead Bowling Club.

Lochgilphead take early lead in Tayvallich indoor contest

The first leg of the Marie Douglas Trophy was held at Lochgilphead Bowling Club on Saturday December 7.

The match, between the host club and Tayvallich bowlers, was won by Lochgilphead 65 shots to 46, leaving them in a solid position for the return leg.



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