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Clock Lodge project hope, but Harbro store shelved

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Brexit uncertainty means plans for a new country store next to Lochgilphead's Clock Lodge have been shelved for now.

There is, however, hope a youth arts project within the Clock Lodge building may go ahead.

In a statement Chris Baxter, managing director of Harbro Limited, the company behind the commercial development, said: 'It is with regret we have taken the decision to delay the project which we had intended to commence early in 2020.'

'We will hopefully have a better understanding in 2020 of what Brexit means for agriculture on the west coast of Scotland.'

Until the Brexit fog clears and a decision can be made on the new Harbro country store, the livestock feed and rural supplies firm will continue to operate from its existing site at Kilmory Industrial Estate.

Mr Baxter continued: 'I would like to thank Harbro's excellent team and customer base in the Lochgilphead area for their patience and support.'

He went on to confirm that while the development has been delayed, essential electricity and water services will be connected - potentially allowing Lochgilphead Phoenix Project to continue with its plans to develop a community arts centre in the Clock Lodge.

'We've never given up hope the building can be brought back to life as a youth arts base.'

An electricity supply is already connected in the Clock Lodge and it is hoped the water supply will be installed early in 2020.

Phoenix Project secretary Malcolm Sinclair said: 'We have never given up on the hope that the building can be

brought back to life, primarily as youth arts base.'

'We have a costed feasibility report which your readers can view on our website and our friends at the Templar Arts and Leisure Centre in Tarbert remain enthusiastic.'

'It will not be easy, but this latest information from Harbro is enough to allow us to at least re-open discussions with potential funders.'

The Lochgilphead Phoenix Project was established in 2009 by residents determined to improve the town.

The Grade B listed Clock Lodge dates from around 1850 and was formerly one of the gate lodges to Kilmory Castle.

The building had been vacant for more than 30 years before the Lochgilphead Phoenix Project decided to pursue its use as a community centre. The group entered into a lease arrangement with owner Harbro Limited and the derelict lodge was made wind and watertight by Harbro in 2017 to meet planning requirements.

Mirror, mirror on the wall...



It wouldn't be the festive season without a pantomime - oh no, it wouldn't! Mid Argyll did not miss out as youth drama group Acting Up Argyll staged the annual Ardrishaig panto - this year a production of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs - to great acclaim. Pictured is a touching moment as Prince Ferdinand - Logan Allan - proposes to Snow White, played by Nina Marie Crossey. Full story, page 11. 06_a51ActingUpArgyll09

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POLICE FILES

On Friday December 13 at around 11.25pm, a vehicle was stopped by police on the A83 at Inveraray. Checks revealed the vehicle had an expired MOT and the driver, a 28-year-old man, was charged and issued with a £100 fixed penalty.

At around 7.10pm on Wednesday December 18, on Riverside Drive, Lochgilphead, a man, 26, was stopped and searched by police and found in possession of a small amount of cannabis. The man was charged and issued with a recordable police warning.

Sometime between 10pm on Friday December 20 and 1pm on Sunday December 22, in Coronation Terrace, Oban Road, Lochgilphead, the front wing of a silver Fiat Panda was damaged when it was hit by another vehicle which failed to stop and report the collision. Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for anyone with any information to contact them.

Anyone with information in relation to the above, or to any incident, should contact their local police station on telephone number 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

BBC Alba cameras follow Father Ronald

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Mid Argyll's recently appointed priest features in a new BBC ALBA documentary screened over the festive season.

The three-part programme, Sgoil nan Sagart, or Priest School, follows Ronald Campbell from Benbecula while he studies for the priesthood at the Pontifical Beda College in the historic city of Rome.

The programme covers his time in Rome before he eventually returns to the Western Isles to become a priest.

Father Ronald arrived at St Margaret's Church in August 2019 to succeed Father David Connor in looking after congregations in Lochgilphead and Inveraray.

He worked in a number of different jobs before training as a priest. After leaving school, he worked for five years in his father's electrical business before



Father Ronald Campbell and, right, an audience with the Pope.



Photograph: BBC ALBA

He found the work energised his faith and in time he undertook training to become an ordained priest. Following Father Ronald's ordination in Benbecula, Bishop Brian McGee appointed him to St Margaret's, with the administrator of St Columba's Cathedral in Oban, Monsignor James MacNeil, acting as parish administrator.

Sgoil nan Sagart/Priest School was aired on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and December 27 on BBC ALBA and is now available on the BBC iPlayer.

training in community education in Glasgow at Jordanhill.

He became a family literacy worker with Stirling Council, moved to West Dunbartonshire working in youth literacy and

found himself increasingly taking his skills into schools. This led to a post-graduate course in primary education and six years teaching in St Clement's and St Vincent's primary schools in Dundee.

Warning to shoppers – be alert when using cash machines

Festive shoppers in Argyll and Bute are being warned against the latest ATM scams hitting high streets across Scotland this Christmas and New Year.

The Scottish Business Resilience Centre (SBRC) has issued a call for extra vigilance when withdrawing cash over one of the busiest periods of the year for shopping.

Mark Anderson, business resilience adviser, said: 'Almost every one of us will go to take out cash from an ATM at some point over the festive period.'

'Criminals and scammers can manipulate ATMs in the most discreet ways. You might not even notice any difference or danger. Alongside physically tampering with ATMs, another tactic scammers use is to distract shoppers mid-transaction.'

SBRC points out four tell-tale signs an ATM may have been affected:

Hidden cameras: shield the keypad when entering a PIN number as pinhole cameras can be placed anywhere on the machine.

Skimming devices: bulky covers might be evidence of



Be careful when using an ATM.

a skimming device which records card details. If there is a bulky cover over the card slot, and if it becomes loose or falls off, the ATM should not be used.

False fronts: if the PIN pad feels spongy or if the front moves when shaken, this may be a sign that it is fake. To draw more victims to a false ATM, criminals may also place paper, rather than electronic, 'out of order' signs on working ATMs to force them to find their rigged alternative.

Distractions: if a card

becomes stuck in a machine, don't fall into the trap of becoming distracted. Contact the card provider to cancel the card immediately.

Mark Anderson continued: 'It really helps to use ATMs in daylight only, if at all possible. It's also important to have your card ready, cover your pin with your hand, and make sure no-one is around looking over your shoulder.'

'If you're ever unsure about the safety of an ATM, it's important to leave the machine alone and report it to Police Scotland on 101.'



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

More budget detail required, says Mid Argyll councillor

by Colin Cameron
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Two new measures have been identified which could help meet an anticipated budget gap next year of £9.2 million at Argyll and Bute Council.

But there is frustration among councillors at a perceived lack of information about the latest proposed savings measures as departments continue to look for savings.

Initial proposals were published in October ahead of final budget decisions expected in late February.

Mid Argyll councillor Sandy Taylor was left frustrated at the latest meeting of the council's Policy and Resources Committee. At the December 17 meeting he said: 'I am dismayed we find ourselves in this position and still don't have any detail

coming forward from officers in relation to policy savings.

'We knew in October that we had a shortfall, notwithstanding the uncertainty surrounding ferry services.

'Why are we not finding out what people are working on? Are there more savings to come?'

The council's head of financial services Kirsty Flanagan replied: 'We are about to conduct a review of loan charges and that will give us savings, should members wish to take that up. That is one area which could bridge the gap.

Ms Flanagan continued: 'In the last couple of weeks we have also looked at the fleet [of vehicles]. There should be a saving there that was identified after I pulled together this report.

'So there are a couple of savings options which are not being reported at the

moment. I will have the opportunity to report them at our members' seminar on January 27.'

Councillor Taylor responded: 'I am lost for words that I should find this out today.'

Speaking to the Argyllshire Advertiser following the meeting, Councillor Taylor said: 'It is not clear as yet, if the size of saving available would allow us to revisit some of the less acceptable savings offered up to members to date.'

More detail on some of these proposed 'less acceptable savings' in next week's Argyllshire Advertiser.

Councillor Sandy Taylor was left frustrated at the lack of detail in the proposed budget savings.



New indoor play area to open in January

Argyll's newest indoor play area opens to the public in two weeks.

Fyne Den, part of the Cairndow Community Childcare charity, will have its home in a new purpose-built centre at the head of Loch Fyne.

The Fyne Den play area is suitable for children from six months and older accompanied by an adult.

Cairndow Community Childcare has built Fyne Den, based on natural wood products, to be an 'inspiring, creative and totally immersive place for children to do what they do best, which is to play'.

Coffee will be on sale and free wi-fi is offered for adults supervising their child's play session. Fyne Den is due to open on Saturday January 11 from 10.30am.

GET INVOLVED
email editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Woodwind band wows adjudicators

Lochgilphead High School Wind Ensemble, led by music instructor Miriam MacKay, has recently returned from a successful trip to Livingston to take part in the Scottish Concert Band Festival regional heats.

The group performed a programme of music from Queen to Elgar for the three adjudicators, battling for a place in the finals on the Perth Concert Hall stage in March.

Qualifying for the finals, the adjudicators praised the group commending them of their 'fantastic ensemble playing' which was 'evocative' and performed with a 'great sense of style', while another adjudicator said: 'The ensemble had achieved much already and had great potential for even bigger musical success to come.'

Spurred on by the praise from all three adjudicators, the group, with an average age of just 13, are now aiming to do even better for the finals in early spring.

Woodwind teacher Miriam MacKay said: 'This is a huge opportunity for these talented young performers who have never played on such a big stage



Celebration silliness for Lochgilphead High School Wind Ensemble with music instructor Miriam MacKay, centre.

before. They were the only representatives from Argyll and Bute and have worked so hard to get there. They are a credit to themselves and their parents. Working with such motivated pupils is the highlight of my week

but it is not just about the music. We have such fun.

'The camaraderie among the girls is superb. It was such a proud moment seeing them all do so well and competing amongst some of the best in the country.'

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Ardfenaig festive sing-song cheer

Memory choir brings smiles to residents

by Rachel Carruthers
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

The Forget-Me-Not Memory Choir brought smiles to Ardfenaig Care Home residents at a festive sing-song.

The choir, which was started by Louise Curtis and Val Parnaby and includes some of the Ardfenaig residents, was set up for those with dementia to sing together and spend

time with friends. Louise said: 'It started when I was watching the Our Dementia Choir with Vicky McClure programme and I thought 'we could do this'. So I got in touch with Val and we got the ball rolling. The last six months have been brilliant. I leave every session with a smile on my face. It's amazing to see couples become couples again and for there to be that connection once more

as they sing and to witness those who normally have communication difficulties sing confidently and happily,' added Val.

'It started as an hour-long session but this has been extended at the choir's request.'

Louise said: 'Thank you to everyone involved, including Catherine Paterson who accompanies on piano and has helped us find our voices, and Hendrix Genetics Salmon UK which sponsors us by paying for the use of the Mid Argyll Youth Development Services hall and has bought a keyboard for us.'

Following the afternoon performance on Tuesday December 17, Ardfenaig manager Nan Anderson said: 'Thank you to the Forget-Me-Not Choir for coming down.'

'It was great to see our residents singing along. We hope to see you again soon.'



Members of the Forget-Me-Not-Memory Choir performed at Ardfenaig Care Home. 06_a52ForgetmenotChoir01



Choir founders Val Parnaby and Louise Curtis with Hendrix Genetics Salmon UK general manager Jarl van den Berg and accompanist Catherine Paterson, front. 06_a52ForgetmenotChoir02



Santa's helpers: Nicole, shop manager Meg, Helena, Nina, Rebecca and angel Ava. 06_a52RedCrossSanta02

Santa visits Red Cross shop

The British Red Cross Shop in Lochgilphead hosted a special visitor who generously came bearing gifts.

The shop's changing room was transformed into Santa's grotto as he took a sleigh ride to the lochsides town on Saturday December 14.

With his special helpers on hand serving delicious sweet treats, shoppers were treated to festive cheer as they browsed the rails of the charity shop.

Shop manager Meg Jamieson said: 'We wanted to do something a bit different and to spread some Christmas cheer, so thank you to Santa for dropping by.'

'Also thanks to Argyll Cafe, Cafe 35, The Square Peg, Tesco, The Sweetie Jar, the Co-Op, Dinah Stewart, Helena Guinness and everyone else for the generous donations of baking.'

'I have been in the job for a year and the British Red



Chloe, Abby, Rubie and Ava were excited to visit Santa. 06_a52RedCrossSanta01

Cross is a brilliant charity to work for. The volunteers we have here in Lochgilphead are fab but we really need more. I would ask anyone who is interested in volunteering to get in touch with me or pop into the shop.'



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Bothy's brilliant bike repair day

MS Centre gin raffle gets supporters in the festive spirit

Sales for the Multiple Sclerosis Centre Argyll's annual gin raffle rocketed this year with people desperate to get their hands on the hamper full of gin goodies.

With a whopping £2,605 raised for the centre, Lochgilphead's Helen Batchelor was the lucky winner.

The toy raffle, which included a doll made and donated by Lorna Powers, raised £302 and was won by Eilidh Cameron from Cairnbaan.

MS Centre manager Karen McCurry said: 'Thanks so much to Claire Cameron for organising this year's gin raffle and to her sister Paula for organising the toy raffle.'

'The centre thanks Bruichladdich distillery, Lussa Distillery, Nerabus Gin and Beinn an Tuira Kintyre Gin for the kind donations of bottles for the hamper.'

'Thanks also to everyone who donated other prizes, those who sold tickets and those who bought tickets across Argyll and beyond. Prizes were won from East Kilbride to Islay, Inverness and many places in between.'



Lucky winner Helen Batchelor with Claire Cameron from MS Centre Argyll.

A bike maintenance day proved popular with cyclists, with mechanics arriving to a mountain of bikes needing attention.

Offering to cover the cost of labour, The Ardrishaig Bothy made sure bikes across Mid Argyll were in tip-top condition, only asking for the parts for bigger jobs to be paid for by cyclists.

Mechanics from Billy Bilsland Cycles travelled from Glasgow to repair the bikes that had been dropped off in advance – adjusting brakes, gears, tyre pressures and more complex jobs.

Coinciding with the bike maintenance day on Saturday December 14, free try-outs of the hub's electric bikes, including mountain, folding and cargo versions, were offered to those willing to brave the wind, rain and hail.

Alec Ohnstad, The Ardrishaig Bothy project co-ordinator, hopes to arrange another trial for these bikes when the weather is a bit kinder, so keep an eye out on The Ardrishaig Bothy Facebook page for updates.

Based at the Scottish



Pavel Dimitrov and Barry Wilson, of Billy Bilsland Cycles, with project co-ordinator Alec Ohnstad and The Ardrishaig Bothy volunteers Duncan McDonald and Sue Carter. 06_a52BikeBothy02

Canals' building in Pier Square, Ardrishaig, bothy volunteers, in partnership with MACPool, offer services from one-to-one confidence building bike rides and night rides to led walks and strength and balance based walks.

The Ardrishaig Bothy works with Scottish Canals and Cycling UK to engage with other organisations to enhance and develop opportunities for walking and cycling in Mid Argyll.

With a varied selection of bikes available to try, there is something for everyone and in spring next year an all-abilities project will be run, using tandems, hand pedalled, side-by-side and trike bicycles.

Further volunteers are being sought to train as community ride leaders.

For information on activities and events, or how to volunteer, email Alec Ohnstad at alec.ohnstad@cyclinguk.org or by phone on 07887 567578.

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What a year that was...

Looking back over the last 12 months, no single story has dominated the headlines, but there have been important themes.

There are the negative trends, of course. Amenities continue to retreat from Argyll; our public services are under constant and growing financial pressure; while underlying and influencing it all our population continues to decline, with an increasingly elderly age profile.

But enough of that.

As the old song goes, let's accentuate the positive.

Over the past year we have seen Lochgilphead front green plans rapidly develop; Lochgilphead will join Inveraray and Campbeltown in benefiting from town centre regeneration funds; Tarbert harbour and Ardrishaig Pier are looking good; Inveraray Pier's prospects look bright; The Rural Growth Deal is happening; communities are working together to make things happen.

There is a sense our young people in Argyll have a new-found confidence and that is the future.

And the former eyesore Clock Lodge may soon be brought back to life.

And let's not forget, we live in one of the most beautiful parts of the world.

We wish our readers a happy, healthy and hopeful new year.

Scotland has right to second referendum

Sir,

Anyone who doubts Scotland's ability to be a successful independent nation should visit the Business for Scotland website.

And anyone who thinks, after the General Election, the SNP does not have a mandate for another independence referendum with 45 per cent of the vote in Scotland should consider Brexit is going ahead under a Conservative government with 43.5 per cent of the UK vote.

The people of Scotland have a quadruple mandate for another referendum. If you do not wish independence you can vote against it. What no one should deny is the right to hold a referendum.

For those who maintain the independence referendum of 2014 was a once in a generation event, I refer you to the Report of the Smith Commission for further devolution of powers to the Scottish Parliament November 27, 2014:

Chapter 2

Heads of Agreement: Introduction

18. It is agreed that nothing in this report prevents Scotland becoming an independent country in the future should the people of Scotland so choose.

Two General Elections and one Referendum held by the Tories in Westminster since 2016 makes it clear democracy is an ongoing process in these islands.

On December 11: Jackson [Carlaw] and Ruth [Davidson] held a rally to tell voters they have

'one last chance' to stop Sturgeon's #IndyRef2 becoming a reality by Friday.' This is a direct quote from the official Twitter account of the Scottish Conservatives.

As the result of the General Election was an unequivocal defeat for the Scottish Conservatives, will they now desist from campaigning against the holding of another independence referendum?

Elaine Mackenzie, Tarbert.

Thank you

Sir,

I would like to thank everyone who voted for me in the General Election and the many people who helped in my campaign.

I congratulate Brendan O'Hara on his re-election and wish him well in his job of representing the people of Argyll and Bute at Westminster.

Alan Reid.

Campaigning – a new national sport

Sir,

I should like to send my thanks, appreciation and respect to everyone who campaigned so energetically, enthusiastically and committedly throughout the recent General Election. Without these people's efforts, democracy in the UK would be weaker.

These are the enthusiasts; the team players; the dedicated. They are prepared to sacrifice. They give up holidays; climb shaky ladders to erect posters; staff gazebos at temperatures

below zero; receive abuse on doorsteps and cancel lunch appointments with friends. For them it is the taking part that inspires. A win would be a bonus, but not an essential.

Of course, many campaigners are disappointed and glad it is over. However, after a great Christmas with family and friends, enjoyable drams at Hogmanay and Celtic Connections in January, they will be ready to go again.

There can be no thought of a Westminster five-year term. Already the PM has indicated he will review the fixed-term parliament. There will be Scottish Parliament and local authority elections on May 6, 2021.

The First Minister is calling for polling before then. Nicola Sturgeon is the ultimate campaigner. Her body almost burst with joy when the election of 48 SNP MPs was announced.

The strength of political campaigners is also their weakness. When elected, they seldom establish good administrations. Just look at the performance of the 10-plus years in office of the SNP.

Falling standards in education; a Scottish NHS in crisis; drug levels among the highest in Europe; poverty and homelessness.

The message is clear – those who enjoy political campaigning seldom run the best governments. Perhaps we should introduce a new national sport – campaigning. In this way, we could all have the joy of participating and leave the running of the country to the civil servants.

Finlay Craig, Cove.

Press policy

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Thanks for the support

Sir,
On behalf of everyone at Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland, I want to say thank you to everyone who has supported us this year.

We have had an amazing year supporting people across Scotland and none of it would have been possible without your help. We have successfully campaigned to bring Thrombectomy back to Scotland. More than 5,000 people have signed our petition to bring back the life-changing stroke operation.

Thanks to everyone's efforts we are now working with the Scottish Government and the NHS to get this service back in Scottish hospitals. This is a massive step forward and one that has only been possible thanks to our wonderful supporters and inspirational stroke survivors campaigning for change.

I also want to say thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time to support us - whether it is through working in our shops, taking part in our fundraising events or helping care for people through our rehabilitation support service. We would not be able to support the people who need us without your generosity. None of the work we do would be possible without the invaluable contribution of our staff, volunteers and participants who have taken part in our fundraising events and all the people who have donated money to us over the year. There is so much more still to do though and I hope we will have your continued support in 2020.

Jane-Claire Judson, Chief Executive, Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland.

YOUR PICTURES



Royal Burgh on a beautiful winter's day

Neil Lea, from Dunoon, took this fantastic shot of Inveraray. Taken from St Catherines, across the water, the image captures the Royal Burgh on a beautiful winter's day. Send your favourite photographs for publication to editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

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Happy New Year to all.

Watch out for special
deals coming soon.

Memberships now available for 2020

Ag's adventures in Asia



That smile almost saved him.

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

It was going so well, our awfully big Malaysian sailing adventure.

We'd navigated the Indonesian waters and their visa systems; dodged titanic tankers and borderline bridges; and now had a seemingly successful rat defence system.

I was just beginning to think the time was nigh to relax and enjoy our waft up the west coast of peninsular Malaysia when fate struck its mightiest blow yet.

He Who Shall Not Be Named - but suffice to say he is closely related to me by marriage - our marriage -

took our mobile phones for a dip in the South China Sea.

To be fair, if there is anything fair in love and war, he fell in accidentally while stepping from pontoon to bouncy boat.

Forgiveable but for the fact he had both our iPhones in his pocket at the time. For safety, in case I should have one of my legendary mishaps. Hmmm.

I tried to focus on getting

Episode four - forget rats, it's the iPhones that have drowned

my - formerly - best-beloved back on board in the dark, fully clothed and, as previously revealed, laden with expensive iPhones containing all our lives' rich electronic tapestry of essential contacts, tickets, passwords, irreplaceable photos of the grandchildren and the like, but frankly, saving his life was eclipsed by fear of a mobile-less future.

Only for a few seconds, you understand, then sanity returned as I realised the only way I was going to see my iPhone again was by getting my 12 stone drowning husband back in the rubber dinghy. Try it some time. I can

guarantee it won't be easier in the icy waters of Loch Fyne than in the balmy bath waters of Malaysia.

But I did it. He is alive and well. Not so the iPhones. Dead as dead dodos.

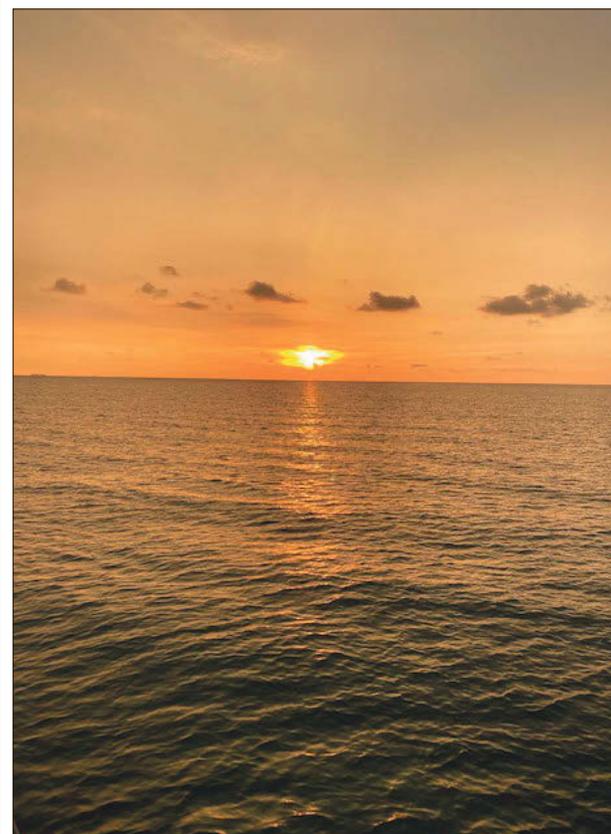
Which is why, instead of sailing northwards to Melaka, we are currently catching a fast cab south to Singapore to do some emergency mobile phone shopping.

And pray our mobile life is still living somewhere in 'The Cloud'.

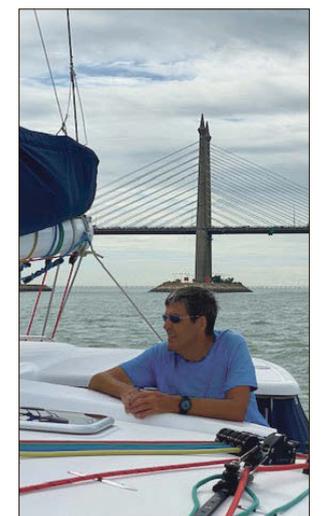
Watch this space for the next exciting instalment. Or not, depending on how it goes.



Shall I make Him Who Will Not be Named walk this rather long plank?



And the sun sets beautifully on a catastrophic day in the South China Seas - captured on a new phone.



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Leonard and Catherine McNeill from Minard.
06_a52DochasParty03



Santa's helper Tricia Morrison with Santa (Baxter Nisbet).
06_a52DochasParty05



Jimmy and Helen Watson travelled from South Kintyre for the afternoon. 06_a52DochasParty06

Carers enjoy festive cheer

by Rachel Carruthers
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Carers from across Argyll were treated to an afternoon of good food and laughter as they gathered for a special Christmas lunch.

The lunch, at Stonefield Castle Hotel on Thursday December 12, was the perfect opportunity for carers and those they care for to enjoy the festive season and meet with fellow Dochas Centre service users.

It would not have been a proper Christmas party without a sing-song and, thankfully, Dochas Centre

founder Catherine Paterson was on hand to accompany the singers on the piano. And a jolly chorus of Jingle Bells was enough to encourage Santa to drop by.

Unfortunately, some of the raffle tickets for the centre's big prize draw did not make it to Santa's sleigh on time so the raffle, which includes a Portavadie spa day for two voucher and afternoon tea for two at Stonefield Castle donated by Hendrix Genetics Salmon UK, will be drawn at a later date.

Dochas Centre manager Doris Linstead said: 'Everyone has had a great time, been

very complimentary of the meal and enjoyed this time together. It's been lovely. Huge thanks to the staff at Stonefield Castle – they have been brilliant – and all those who generously donated the fantastic raffle prizes.

'We are running Dochas Santa Deliveries this year, where carers who have been unable to attend today will receive a gift, kindly donated by the Co-op, so a huge thank you to them. Also thank you to Tesco who donated mince pies and Shloer which will be enjoyed by those attending our last Thursday drop-in session of the year.'



Iain MacLachan and Hilary Sinclair enjoyed the Christmas lunch. 06_a52DochasParty08



Catherine Paterson led some carolling.
06_a52DochasParty01



An afternoon of laughter at the Dochas Centre's carers' Christmas lunch. 06_a52DochasParty02



Dochas Centre staff with Santa and Stonefield Castle's Grady Landeryou, third from right.
06_a52DochasParty07

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Councillor Len Scoullar, Provost, Argyll and Bute Council.

Argyll and Bute Provost, Len Scoullar

The festive season is with us once again, that special time of peace, love and celebration.

For many people, this can be a difficult time. My thoughts and wishes are with them. I know there are many people throughout Argyll and Bute who will do all they can to provide comfort and hope amid the festivities.

I thank them for all their work at this time and throughout the year.

Community spirit like this is what makes Argyll and Bute the place we want to live in and it will be one of the key things that makes many people want to join us.

Day-to-day, we see energy, innovation and caring that is second to none and, in

times of sadness, we all draw closer together. As we move into a new decade, this is a good time to reflect on the year past and the days to come.

We secured a Rural Growth Deal to bring prosperity to the area and this will be developed throughout 2020. More of our towns are being regenerated to attract new businesses, residents and visitors. The new 2020s look bright.

As the old year draws to a close, give us the patience to treasure our memories and to live every minute of the present to the full, ready to embrace the new year with energy and enthusiasm.

As council provost, I sincerely wish everyone a joyous Christmas and a happy New Year.

Brendan O'Hara MP, Argyll and Bute

After an exhausting six-week General Election campaign fought in the rain and the cold and in the dark, I am looking forward to a relaxing festive season at home with my family.

As I write this sitting in my office in Westminster, I'm dreaming of a few days away from politics in which I can catch up with some reading, take long walks in the hills with my wife and Hamish our dog and over-indulge on everything I can find to over-indulge in.

I'm not naïve enough, however, to think that is what will actually happen and I know this job, like so many others, doesn't take a Christmas holiday as it is a time of year which

can be especially difficult for so many people in our community.

The idealised version of Christmas as seen on television and in the movies is a million miles removed from the reality facing many of our elderly citizens who are lonely and isolated. It bears no relation to the Christmas facing those families with children, who are living in poverty and don't know how they are going to be able to give their children Christmas gifts. And it is an unrecognisable version of Christmas to many in our community who are struggling with mental health issues and who find Christmas and New Year a particularly stressful and



Brendan O'Hara MP, Argyll and Bute.

challenging time of year. So while I genuinely hope you and your family are having the Christmas you desire and that it is a peaceful, happy and joyous time,

please spare a thought, or better still do something meaningful to help those who will be alone, anxious, homeless or too poor to enjoy this Christmas.

Michael Russell MSP

Even for a politician, 2019 has had too much politics in it so I suspect some people will be making a New Year wish for a 2020 free of elections.

I don't know if I – or even Santa – could deliver that but, for me working across the very big constituency of Argyll and Bute but also with responsibilities in the Scottish Government that regularly take me to London, Brussels and other places, a few days not campaigning is a great treat. It offers the chance to turn my thoughts to something other than elections or Brexit.



Michael Russell MSP.

This is the time to celebrate good news, whether that be a matter of personal Christian faith or simply enjoying the company of family and friends, or both, and I am therefore also glad

to have the opportunity to wish you and yours all the best for this season and for 2020.

Given the events of the past few months, I genuinely hope the new

year and the new decade will allow us all to discover on a local and national level an ability to work with each other without rancour or bitterness, no matter how much we disagree. And with a willingness to build something better than we have now – a community, a village, a town, a county, a constituency or a country that offers support for everyone and equal opportunity and active compassion for those who are less fortunate.

That, surely, is the real message of this season. Despite the political noises around us, it is one that we should all strive to make real in our lives, for our own good as well as for the good of everyone else.

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A happy ending for Snow White (Nina Marie Crossey) and Prince Ferdinand (Logan Allan). 06_a51ActingUpArgyll13



Snow White, played by Nina Marie Crossey, fell victim to the poisoned red apple. 06_a51ActingUpArgyll04



Above: The Acting Up Argyll cast. 06_a51ActingUpArgyll01 Right: left to right: Anna Turner as Chuckles, Merlin played by Anya Gritten, Scribbles by Oliver Sumner, Logan Allan playing Price Ferdinand and Bea Catterwell as Justice Quill. 06_a51ActingUpArgyll08



A happy ending for Snow White

It was curtain up for Snow White and her trusty seven dwarfs as Acting Up Argyll performed its annual panto.

The youth drama group debuted this year's show on Friday December 13 and generously treated audiences to a further two shows on Saturday December 14.

Captivated audiences were tickled pink by an all-singing, all-dancing show, full of classic panto lines, cheesy puns and locally-themed jokes.

The group effortlessly weaved popular top hits into the play, including a villainous performance of Britney Spears's

Toxic by evil Queen Avarice played by Marie Hubbard.

The annual pantomime has become a recent classic in the Mid Argyll festive calendar and this year's production proved as popular as ever, with audiences still humming the tunes as they left.

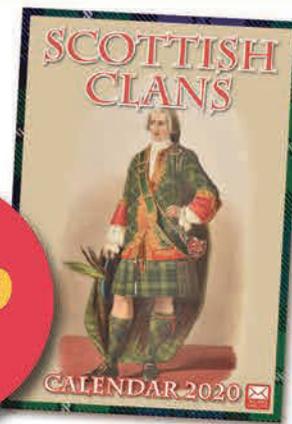
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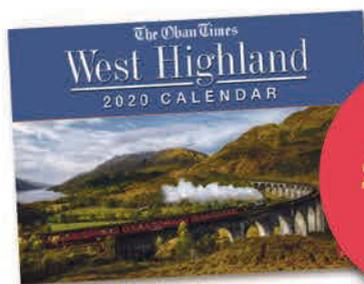
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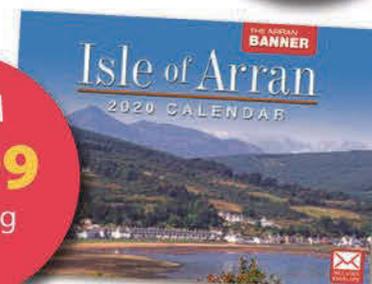
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JULY



Seafood spectacular

Seafood Queen Nell Jackson with her princesses Codi MacDougall and Farrah McCallum provided a regal presence at another spectacular Tarbert Seafood Festival. Crowds thronged the village for the two-day celebration of seafood and community spirit.



Great Inveraray games

More than 4,000 people enjoyed Inveraray Highland Games on a gorgeous second Tuesday in July. As ever, there was serious competition across events, from athletics to wrestling and Highland dancing to solo piping. But other events were a little less serious and just for fun.



Fun in the sun

Jorja MacDonald takes to the air at the annual Sports Not on the Green. Lochgilphead Joint Campus basked in sunshine for the annual multi-event fun spectacular, organised by Mid Argyll Youth Development Services.

AUGUST



Benefiting from Benfica

In partnership with Coerver Coaching Scotland, two youth coaches from the famous Portuguese football club Benfica visited Lochgilphead to put Lochgilphead Soccer Centre players through their paces. Quite what Jose Bruno and Joao Videria, pictured, made of the Argyll drizzle is anyone's guess, but the players had a great time.



An 'eggciting day'

The 5th Duke of Argyll uncovered the Chronicles of Crinan as the much-anticipated Egg Shed opened its doors in Ardrishaig. The Scottish Canals-led project involved refurbishing a derelict former egg packing station and a disused oil depot site into an interpretation and community space.



World title at double

Inveraray and District Pipe Band won the Grade One world title for the second time in three years at Glasgow Green. The band also won the champion of champions title for the season with the Inveraray drummers lifting the world drumming crown.

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SEPTEMBER

Colour in Crinan



Edinburgh artist Iris Peplow, 23, brightened up Crinan with her richly-coloured paintings. A great-granddaughter of famous Scottish colourist SJ Peplow, Iris spent five months working at the Crinan Hotel and, supported by hotel owner Frances MacDonald, exhibited her work before heading home in September.

OCTOBER

Aileen's brave shave for heart charity



Minard woman Aileen McGowan bravely let husband Chris take clippers to her golden locks in Inveraray. Aileen's charity head shave raised £2,000 for Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland.

Youthful climate campaign

Lochgilhead High School and Tarbert Academy pupils took part in the global Climate Strike. Lochgilhead pupils defied a threat of sanctions - later rescinded - to gather in town to speak up for the environment and protest against a lack of action to combat climate change.



Charity chiefs roll up their sleeves

Mary's Meals opened a new shop at the former Willie and Pat's premises in Lochgilhead. Unwilling to splash cash which could be spent feeding hungry children, charity chiefs rolled up their sleeves to decorate the premises themselves. Operations manager Jim McNeill, head of operations Jim McGowan and volunteer Susan Campbell are pictured ready to start work.



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NOVEMBER

A good Penny

Charity fundraiser Karen Penny arrived in Mid Argyll on a 20,000 mile trek round Britain and Ireland. On her fifth pair of boots since leaving her home in South Wales in January, the 54-year-old is still trekking round the coast, raising money for Alzheimer's Research UK. You can support Karen on her JustGiving page 'The Penny Rolls On'.



Remembering the fallen

A cold, frosty morning saw hundreds of people gather at services to remember the fallen and those who sacrificed so much in conflicts past and present. In Tarbert, piper John Hunt played a lament to the fallen at the village war memorial.



Achnamara boatbuilders

Left: Andy Grant helps fit the front stem of the community skiff being built in an Achnamara Shed. Once finished, the 22 foot St Ayles Skiff will take a crew of four on the oars plus a coxswain. It is hoped to race against other community skiffs up and down the coast.




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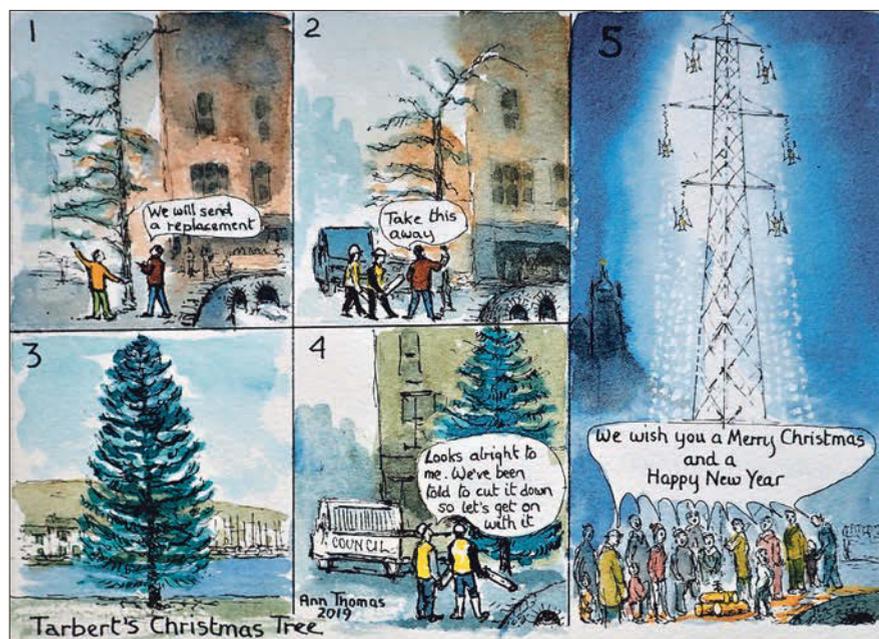
Sheena recognised

As Inveraray's Christmas lights were switched on by DJ MacDonald, the 2019 Inveraray Unsung Hero award was presented to Sheena Stewart, warden at Chalmers Court sheltered housing for the past 28 years. Community council convener Linda Divers presented a 'gobsacked' Sheena with a handwritten certificate, a bottle of bubbly and flowers.

DECEMBER

Tarbert tree travails

We are grateful to Tarbert artist Ann Thomas for her regular artistic contributions to the Argyllshire Advertiser. Her December offering neatly summed up two hot Tarbert topics. Power firm SSEN still plans to place half a dozen huge pylons close to the village, a move vehemently opposed by many locally. Then there was the saga of Tarbert's three Christmas trees...

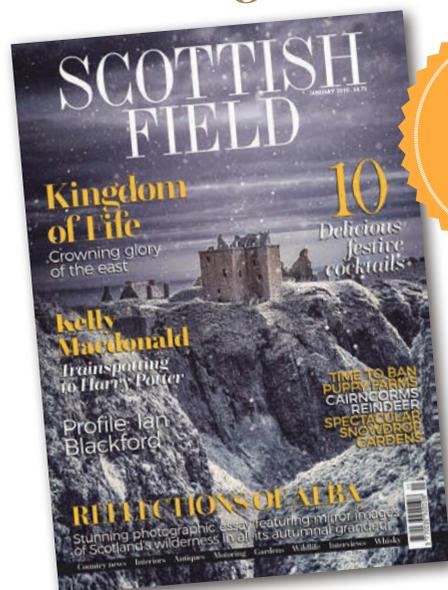


A tree for Roddy

The people of Furnace paid a touching tribute to the much-loved and respected Reverend Dr Roderick MacLeod MBE. He and his wife Jean ceremonially planted a flowering cherry tree in front of a crowd of residents. Karen Baird, chairwoman of Furnace Community Company and local man Billy McCheyne paid tribute to 'a remarkable man'.

SCOTTISH FIELD

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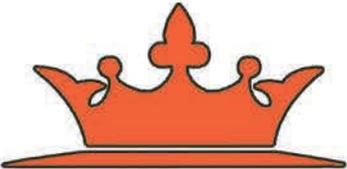
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One of the biggest concerns for parents is how to manage the cost of sending children to an independent school.

With this concern in mind, SCIS – the Scottish Council of Independent Schools – spoke to Dave Roberts, director of Chiene and Tait, a chartered accounting firm in Edinburgh and he offered some great advice for parents who are unsure about how to take the first steps towards budgeting for, and best managing, school fees.

He said start as soon as possible, adding: 'It costs on average £195,000 to put a child through private school education, based on P1 to S6 – an increase of more than 20 per cent since 2012 – so the sooner

you can start saving the better!' He recommends that you begin to save each month.

Remember that grandparents can contribute up to £3,000 a year for each child and this would be exempt from inheritance tax; and contributions of more being 'potentially exempt'.

On average fees are increasing by four per cent annually; some schools offer 'future funding'. By paying in advance you are protected from inflation.

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Our House accommodates up to 30 boarders in separate, secure study bedrooms. This small size means that boarding is like being part of an extended family, and children forge deep and lasting friendships. Living just a short walk from the west end of Edinburgh's historic centre, boarders enjoy regular field trips within the city, as well as further afield across Scotland.

ESMS offers more than 300 clubs and societies as well as unrivalled opportunities in sport, music and

drama, outdoor education, trips and community involvement, all with the intention of helping your child discover their talents, explore something new, have fun and make new friends.

Rated 'Excellent' in all categories assessed in our most recent Care Inspectorate Report, each child receives a high level of care and individual attention in the House.

For more information or to arrange a personal visit at any time, please contact our Admissions Manager on admissions@esms.org.uk



At Strathallan, the *possibilities* are endless

Our mission is to provide an outstanding education that gives opportunities for all pupils to perform to the very best of their abilities. Our pupils excel, whatever their passion or interest: last year, 60 pupils played as part of a national or international team across a range of sports, and in 2019 Strathallan students achieved their best A Level results in a decade, with a quarter of all A Level students awarded straight A* or A grades.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Academically, we strive for excellence and our ambition is to inspire a lifelong enjoyment of learning for learning's sake. Our flexible curriculum and innovative teaching means we can support every pupil, whatever their ambitions and style of learning. Our leavers go on to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, international study, work placements, the Armed Forces and professional sporting and performing arts careers.

GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Strathallan is a friendly, welcoming place with a strong sense of community.



In 2019 The Care Inspectorate rated Strathallan a Grade 6 (Sector Leading) Excellent for the Quality of care and support. We make the most of our self-contained, rural location every day, but at our core, we are a truly international community with pupils and alumni around the globe.

This diversity of community and experience means Strathallians leave our school with the maturity and cultural intelligence to succeed, wherever they go.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL TO EXCEL

Strathallan pupils have the freedom and space to develop their own skills in an idyllic environment with the support of a close, caring community. We believe a holistic approach to education leads to a rich diversity of pupil experience and consistently exceptional achievements. Young people leave Strathallan with the skills and knowledge to succeed in their chosen career, and the confidence to make their mark on the world.

"I look back at my time at Strathallan with fondness. The quality of education in the classroom, in the creative arts and on the sports field was of the highest possible level. With Strathallan on my CV there are no doors that are not open to me."

Former Pupil



Where 79% of A-Level students achieved A*-B grades in 2019...

Find out what your child could achieve at Perthshire's leading independent school for 9-18 year olds...

Open Morning: Saturday 7th March 2020

9.30 am - 1.30 pm

Register online: www.strathallan.co.uk/open-days

Strathallan School, Forgandenny, Perthshire, PH2 9EG | +44(0)1738 812 546 | admissions@strathallan.co.uk

'Interesting times'

'It is a fair bet that fewer people are wishing that we may live in 'interesting times'. Independent schools in Scotland have seen 2019 draw to a close with the Non-Domestic Rates Bill now two-thirds of its way through the Scottish Parliament towards Royal Assent – planned for 2020. Running contrary to the 2005 charity test, this will reduce the financial space that allows schools to offer at least five times more in public benefit than they receive. The reasoning is still hotly debated, but Scottish schools are preparing themselves for the new reality if appeals for consistency fail.

'As ever, our schools will be concentrating instead on what works, what is achievable, and what makes a genuine difference to young people's lives.' – John Edward, director of the Scottish Council of Independent Schools, a charity providing a listing of Scotland's independent and private schools with relevant information and advice on finding the right school and financing your child's education.



Get professional advice on funding

Amongst the methods that professionals can give advice on are:

- *Set up a family business or trust*
- *Utilising an existing company*
- *Grandparent contributions*
- *Utilise an ISA*
- *Pension withdrawal*

Dollar Academy First class teaching and outstanding facilities

Dollar Academy, the world's oldest co-educational day and boarding school, offers a unique boarding experience from its stunning 70-acre campus nestled at the foot of the Ochil Hills.

Few other schools in Scotland can boast such a fantastic blend of rural and urban living. Located in Dollar, a picturesque town surrounded by outstanding countryside, the school is a 30-minute drive from both Stirling and Perth, with Glasgow and Edinburgh easily accessible in just under an hour's drive.

The boarding houses are home to boys and girls aged 10-18, with juniors and seniors mixing together to create a family atmosphere. With hundreds of day pupils living in Dollar itself, boarders also make strong friendships outwith the houses and are very well integrated into the fabric of the town. Boarders live in period houses that balance traditional charm with modern comfort and style, providing welcoming bedrooms, stimulating work spaces and contemporary social rooms. The houses are run by Houseparents who absolutely view the young people in their



care as an extension of their own family. They are supported by house tutors and pastoral specialists.

Dollar Academy is one of the top-performing academic schools in the UK, and students can choose from the widest range of subjects on offer in Scotland. Some of the greatest lessons are learnt outside the classroom, and here Dollar excels with its vast extra-curricular programme which includes over 70 cultural, service and sporting opportunities. All pupils have access to the first-class teachers, coaches, instructors and facilities, which boarders can benefit from additionally during the evenings and weekends.



An outstanding education in an extraordinary classroom

96%
HIGHER PASS
RATE IN 2019

68%
A GRADE PASSES
AWARDED
(HIGHERS/2019)

70+
CO-CURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES

Co-Educational | 5-18 | Day and Boarding | Fee Assistance Available

For more information, please contact
registrar@dollaracademy.org.uk or phone 01259 742511.

www.dollaracademy.org.uk

The Governors of Dollar Academy Trust is a charity registered in Scotland, no SC009888

Lomond School – Applications open for 2020 scholarships

Following the success of the scholarship programme launched on the back of the school's recent 40th Anniversary Celebrations, Lomond School is pleased to announce they are welcoming scholarship applications for January and August 2020 entry.

The scholarship programme is open to applications for both day and boarding places from Junior 5 to Senior 6 with scholarships awarded for Academic Excellence, Music, the Creative Arts and Sport as well as the David Arthur All-Rounder Scholarship.

Like all young people attending Lomond School, in Helensburgh, Argyll, Lomond Scholars will benefit from the excellent systems in place

which help pupils to achieve their very best. Academic achievement is supported by small class sizes, dedicated teaching staff, superb facilities and a significant emphasis on pupil happiness, health and wellbeing.

The continuous encouragement, support and guidance provided by the school ensures that every pupil receives a tailored education and the personal support and guidance needed to help them achieve their full potential.

Beyond the classroom, Lomond School provides many opportunities for young people to further explore their interests with pupils enjoying a wide variety of extra-curricular clubs and sports. They also have access to life-changing

experiences such as the recent trip to Tanzania where pupils worked with Moving Mountains Trust.

Principal, Johanna Urquhart said: 'Beyond the help and support our teachers and staff provide, the school itself has a

very welcoming environment where young people support each other and celebrate each other's achievements. In many ways this is the backbone of much of our pupils' success, at a time in their lives when peer acceptance and acknowledgement is so important. We are looking forward to providing more opportunities for young people to benefit from all we have to offer through our Scholarships Programme for 2020.'



NEW SERVICE!

To support families living in Argyll and the surrounding area, Lomond School has recently introduced a weekly boarding option with travel services, allowing pupils to attend Lomond School during the week and return home for the weekend.

Contact the Registrar to find out more.

Tel: **01436 672 476**,

Email:

admissions@lomondschool.com,
lomondschool.com/scholarships



Lomond
School
Helensburgh



2020 Scholarships

Lomond School is now inviting applications from talented 9 – 18 year olds for our scholarship programme for January or August 2020 entry.

Join our unique family environment, with boarding and day scholarships available for young people who excel in academia, music, creative arts or sport.

For more information, please contact our Registrar:

T: 01436 672476

E: admissions@lomondschool.com

W: lomondschool.com/scholarships

Enquire about transport options available for weekly boarders.

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT

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Tarbert.

What happened to the Tarbert Fair trophies?

People of a certain age will remember Tarbert Fair of old.

A cattle sale was the main event which attracted people from near and far, creating an annual festival feeling around the village.

The livestock element of Tarbert Fair died out in the last few decades, though the festival remains part of the village's series of summer events held at the end of July.

Tarbert resident Duncan I MacDougall contacted the Argyllshire Advertiser to ask if we could help locate some of the cattle trophies competed for at the old Tarbert Fairs.

Mr MacDougall recalls dairy cattle trophies being presented and - just out of

curiosity - wondered what happened to them.

He said: 'There used to be the James Mundell Memorial Trophy, which refers to the great grandfather of Ben Mundell.

'Then there was the Gloria Cup, presented by the Scots-Italian Casci family, proprietors of the Ca'Dora cafe in Tarbert.'

Mr MacDougall continued: 'There was another one for dairy cattle, but I can't remember the name of it.'

He remembers cattle coming to Tarbert not just from Kintyre and Mid Argyll, but from the southernmost tip of the Cowal peninsula from Ardlamont on the Kyles of Bute.

'There was no ferry from Portavadie then, so Spearman's lorries took them around Loch Fyne for Tarbert Fair,' he recalled.

■ Do you know the fate of these Tarbert Fair cattle trophies?

■ If so, let us know at the Argyllshire Advertiser by emailing editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk or call 01546 602345.

Everyday story of extraordinary herd of Highland cattle

A new documentary which tells the story of an extraordinary 170-strong herd of Highland cattle from North Uist and the MacDonald dynasty which bred them is to air early in the new year on BBC Alba.

Croth Gàidhealach an Àird Bhàin (The Highland Cattle of Ardbhan), filmed by crofter and film-maker Beatrix A Wood of South Uist-based TrixPix Media over two years, will be shown at 9pm on BBC Alba on Thursday January 2.

Footage of the fold became a viral sensation in April last year and garnered headlines across the country after the Ardbhan Highland Cattle Facebook page posted a video of the cows making the

two-mile journey from the deserted Hebridean island of Vallay across a beach at low tide back to the mainland. The cows walk and swim to Vallay every November to give birth on clean ground.

Beatrix's film documents this journey, which the cows make twice a year, in April and October, while painting a vivid year-round picture of what makes the MacDonald's herd so special.

For the past 30 years, breeders have travelled from all over Europe to buy the premium Ardbhan Highland cattle.

Beatrix captures the moment in February this year when the MacDonald's prize black bull, Muran Erchie of



Fraser, Angus, Ena and Robert MacDonald.

Photograph: Sophie Gerrard, TrixPixMedia

Ardbhan, sold for the top price at the sale for just over £12,000. Muran Erchie was bought for this record sum by the von Heise Fold in Germany at the Highland

Cattle Society's Oban sale. The Ardbhan fold was established more than 40 years ago on North Uist by Ena MacDonald, when she bought a single Highland cow. A single mother, her son Angus was 10 at the time. Today, together with Angus's wife Michelle and children Alexander, Sarah, Fraser and Fraser's wife Carianne, they work together as a business to ensure the fold thrives.

Known affectionately as 'Granny Island', Ena, now 79, is still hands-on with the fold.

The documentary shows Ena out in her Jeep checking on the cows at calving time on Vallay, which the fold can only reach at low tide by walking and swimming.

Around the markets

Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd on Wednesday December 18

sold 83 MV accredited edigree females at its annual show and sale.

The judge, Mrs K. Davidson, Corsairty Farm, Keith, awarded the Texel champion to a Strathbogie Yes Sir sired gimmer, carrying a pair to Knock Yardsman, from Mr R. H. Wilson, (Milnbank), North Dorlaithers, Turriff, realising 4,000gns to Messrs James C. Innes and Sons, Dunscoff, Huntly. Reserve in the Texel section went to a Hollylee Acrobat sired gimmer carrying a pair also consigned by Mr R. H. Wilson, realising 1,000gns. In the Suffolk section, champion went to a Castleisle Spotlight sired gimmer, carrying twins to Glenagh Winston, from Mr J. Douglas, Cairness, Fraserburgh, realising 800gns. The reserve award went to a Cairness High Achiever sired ewe carrying a pair to Glenagh Winston also consigned by Mr J. Douglas realising 600gns.

In lamb gimmers: Texel sold to 4,000gns from Milnbank, North Dollaithers. Beltex sold to 800gns from Muirfield, Cuminstown. Suffolk sold to 800gns from Cairness, Fraserburgh. Millennium Blue sold to 750gns Muirfield, Cuminstown. In lamb ewes: Suffolk sold to 650gns from Cairness.

Ewe lambs: Texel sold to 320gns from Clinterty, Fraserburgh. Suffolk sold to 200gns from Marian, Culnaskeath. Other leading prices:

Texel: In-lamb gimmers - Milnbank and Mid Haddo, Fyvie, 1,200gns, Milnbank and Barnyards, Beauly, 1,000gns, Milnbank, 900gns. Texel ewe lambs - Clinterty, 220gns, 200gns. Beltex: In-lamb gimmers - Overhouse, Orkney and Muirfield, 700gns, Overhouse, 600gns (twice), Upper Tullochbeg, Huntly, 450gns. Suffolk In-lamb gimmers - Cairness, 600gns, East Murkle, Thurso, 500gns, Cairness, 450. Suffolk In-lamb ewes - Cairness, 600gns, 500gns (twice). Suffolk ewe lambs - Drummuie Farm, Golspie, 180gns, 150gns. Millennium Blue: In-lamb gimmers - Muirfield, 600gns, 350gns.

Stirling - United Auctions on Wednesday December 18

sold 137 store cattle, 136 cast cows and 1302 store and feeding sheep. Bullocks (73) - averaged 203.16p to 223.80p per kg for a 344kg SimX from Camoquholm, and to £1200 for a 625kg CHX from Gillmill. Dairy Bullocks (18) - averaged 124.74p to 148.80p per kg for a 477kg

BFX from Newpark, and £710 for a 477kg BFX from Newpark. Heifers (44) - averaged 194.20p to 211.00p per kg for a 365kg CHX from West Park, and to £1060 for a 528kg LimX from Airthrey Kerse. Young Bulls (2) - to £1010 for a LimX from Airthrey Kerse. Beef Cows and Bulls (109) - averaged 117.43p to 159.40p per kg for a LimX from Loanhead of Duchally, and to £1110 for a BRBX from Kinnaid. Dairy Cows (27) - averaged 89.87p to 135.60p per kg for a HFX from High Langmuir, and to £925 for a HFX from High Langmuir. Bullocks: 301-350kgs- Camoquholm £770, 223.80p; 351-400kgs- Braidland £810, 213.20p; 401-450kgs- Newpark £890, Dyke 210.90p; 451-500kgs- Newpark £940, 203.90p; 501-551kgs- Newpark £990, 194.10p; 552-601kgs- Inchgall £1080, Dalvey 195.70p; 602-651kgs- Gillmill £1200, 194.40p, 652-701kgs- Gillmill £1200 Heifers: 251-300kgs- Braidland £615, 205.00p; 301-350kgs- Braidland £625, 185.50p; 351-400kgs- Newpark £785, West Park 211.00p; 401-450kgs- Dyke £890, 210.90p; 451-500kgs- Dyke £905 194.20p; 501-551kgs- Airthrey Kerse £1060, 200.80p; 552-601kgs- Dyke £990; 602-651kgs- Ormiston Mains £940.

OTM Cows: £ per head- Kinnaid (BRB) £1110, Airthrey Kerse (Lim) £1090, Killochries (BS) £1070, Newpark (Sim) £1050, Bowridge (AA) £1030, Loanhead of Duchally (Cont) £995, High Langmuir (HF) £925. PPK- Loanhead of Duchally (Lim) 159.40p, Beinn Dorain (SH) 141.30p, Kinnaid (BRB) 139.80p, Newpark (AA) 139.10p, High Langmuir (HF) 135.60p, Newpark (Sim) 134.60p, Loanhead of Duchally (Cont) 132.00p, Bankhead of Balcurvie (BF) 131.70p. OTM Bulls: £ per head - Ardtornish (Sim) £1130, Wester Balgair (AA) £1110, Percival (Lim) £1110. PPK- Ardtornish (Sim) 126.10p, Lower Luthrie (Lim) 106.70p.

Stirling - United Auctions on Wednesday December 18

sold 1302 store and feeding sheep. Leading Prices - Langank of Balhaldie (Suf) £74.00; Edengrove (Suf) £71.00; Mains of Kinnettes (Suf) £67.50; Badyen (Tex) £84.00; Cainfold (Tex) £80.00; Borenich (Tex) £79.00; Succoth Ardeonaig (Mule) £70.00; Badyen (Mule) £69.00; Edengrove (Mule) £68.00; Halls (BF) £65.50; Langbank of Balhaldie (BF) £62.00; Halls (BF) £61.50.

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We are looking for an experienced, proactive and ambitious Head of Regional Development to join our Argyll and the Islands area team.

The role

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- lead the development of the European Marine Science Park, working with key partners to deliver the strategic vision for this regionally significant project
- manage specific regional development projects on behalf of the Argyll and the Islands area team
- represent HIE at local and national partnerships or strategic workshops
- support HIE's role as a key partner in the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership
- develop policy as defined by Scotland's Economic Strategy and support other staff in implementing these changes
- oversee and monitor specific budget commitment, spend and reporting for regional development projects
- contribute to the effective management of the Argyll and the Islands area team, providing guidance and support to colleagues when required, and;
- build effective working relationships with colleagues across HIE, as well as local and national partners and stakeholders

The person

It's essential that you are a proven leader who can quickly build successful working relationships with senior managers, colleagues across the organisation and HIE's external partners, clients and stakeholders.

You'll also have confidence in your technical skills, demonstrating practical and operational experience in the project delivery of capital or revenue-based projects. You will also bring strong project appraisal and management skills as well as budget management skills.

You'll also be a natural communicator and presenter, with the ability to influence a wide range of clients and stakeholders, both internal and external.

TO APPLY ONLINE VISIT:

www.hie.co.uk/vacancies

CLOSING DATE: Sunday 5 January 2020

JOB REFERENCE: 934

INTERVIEW DATE: Wednesday 15 January 2020
- in Lochgilphead



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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 Saturday 4th 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



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
19/02565/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 16/02750/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse and garage)	Plot 120 Metres South West Of Burnside, Castleton, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute
19/02435/PP	Repainting of shop front	64 Longrow, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute, PA28 6DD
19/02436/PP	Repainting of shop front	47 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:
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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

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- 7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable 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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the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

- 10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
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or adverts@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk
Please give your name, address, postcode & phone number.

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

CARS AND CAR PARTS UNDER £250

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

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

FURNITURE

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THREE PINE CHESTS OF DRAWERS - 2x6 drawer & 1x4 drawer. In very good condition. Buyer to collect from Connel. 6 drawers £30, 4 drawers £20. All three bought together £70 Telephone 01631 710133/07873 261056

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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

HEALTH AND FITNESS

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

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PEARLISED PAPER & CARD - white, blue and pink colours in stock, available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print Telephone 01586 554975

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

SHARP MUSIC SYSTEM - CD Player, tape recorder, radio. Two speakers. Remote controlled. Good working condition, £55.00 Telephone 01546 602563

MARINE EQUIPMENT

OUTBOARD 4HP YAMAHA 4-STROKE - Yamaha (2012) 4hp l/s, used in fresh water only. Serviced annually - last used Sept. 2018 v. reliable. Trolley & tank included. No boat so selling. £400.00 Telephone 07542 771031

MISCELLANEOUS

WOODCHIP WALLPAPER - 7 rolls, £10.00 Telephone 01397 701742

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

UPRIGHT PIANO - Upright Piano Free. Buyer uplifts. Will be scrapped soon if no interest. For details please contact Telephone 01586 550075

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PERSONAL NOTICES

70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Archie and Crystal Paterson would like to thank all their friends and family for the lovely cards, gifts and flowers they received for their platinum wedding anniversary.

GAYDON

Alexandra, Francis and Isobel wish to thank all the many friends and service providers for all their very kind friendship and assistance which gave their parents, the late Harry (Sam) and Florentine (Twinkle), very happy lives at home in Argyll.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for the future.

SEASONS GREETINGS

to all our relatives, friends and neighbours
From David & Florence McEwan

COURIER CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISER CLASSIFIEDS COURIER CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISER

CLACHAN

Caring Clachan Primary School pupils have been hard at work preparing 48 Christmas cakes to give to retired residents in the community.

The annual school tradition dates back more than two decades and sees the children bake, package and hand deliver the cakes to elderly people in the village.

Head teacher Lucy Blake said: 'The project has a positive influence on the village and in the school. The children learn skills for life and work as well as learning about a caring and nurturing ethos. This year we focussed on numeracy throughout the project too.'

'All the cakes are individually wrapped and the children make individual, handwritten name tags so they think about the person they are giving the cake to as they write. With only six pupils in the school, they all do a lot of work to make the project possible.'

'It's a wonderful way of linking the children to older members in the community, while keeping traditions alive. The recipients really appreciate it and look forward to receiving their cake.'

'I'd like to thank Catriona Wilkieson and Joanna Grey for all their hard work with it.'

JURA

Power line specialists working on Jura tackled plastic pollution on the island's beach following the recent death of a stag found entangled in plastic tape.

Overhead line teams from PLPC working on Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks' (SSEN) £1 million electricity network upgrade cleared washed-up waste from the beach and surrounding areas.

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.



KNAPDALE

Spoon carving club celebrates first birthday

Mid Argyll's spoon carving club, The Fyne Stirrers, celebrated its first anniversary at the group's December meeting.

Club founder Ian Glendinning was given the honour of blowing out the candles on two cakes to mark the occasion on Sunday December 15. The club meets once a month at the Heart of Argyll Wildlife beaver centre at Barrandaimh.

Ian said: 'We would like to offer our thanks to Pete Creech and Olwen Hemmings of Heart of Argyll Wildlife centre for letting us use the facilities.'

'2020 will see the club purchasing more tools and hopefully running other craft workshops. New members are always welcome to come along to the monthly meetings and dates are posted on the club's Facebook page.'



Right: Ian Glendinning blows out the candles.

Paul Campbell, PLPC team co-ordinator, said: 'We saw reports in the media of a deer becoming trapped in plastic tape close to where we were working on SSEN's overhead lines on Jura and took the opportunity to spend time clearing the beach of waste. 'Island residents mentioned

plastic pollution had been getting worse over the past few years, so we wanted to do everything we could, as a considerate contractor, while we were working with SSEN to upgrade the island's power supply.'

SSEN is investing £1 million to replace equipment on the wooden

electricity pole circuit from Lagg towards Islay that is exposed to salt water which can cause erosion.

The project forms part of a multi-million pound programme of investment to upgrade the electricity network serving Islay and Jura.

Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Shedden

I have never seen the beach at A'Chleit quite like it.

It is like a moonscape with jagged rocks protruding where soft sandy beaches should prevail.

There is no way down from the foot of the walkway as it is all rocks and raging sea.

Yet it is the same sea that charmed us in the summer months as it lapped gently onto the shore and nestled snugly into rock pools.

Now huge waves crash on an unsuspecting shore, having come all the way across the Atlantic from America to land on our beaches.

There surely have been storms, and torrential rain, and hailstones and thunder and lightning, all thrown at us.

Well, it is winter in Argyll, is it not?

My city friends wonder how I cope with this assault from nature and think I would be better off in the city.

It is safer, not so exposed, not so wild, and the elements are much kinder.

Well, strangely enough, I just love the wildness.

I just love the challenge of walking the dogs in a storm, of battling the wind, of defeating the rain, and coming home to warmth and safety and hot coffee.

To feel the sting of rain and the bite of the wind makes life seem real. Then there is the possibility of sharing this time with birds or seals or even dolphins.

How can the city compete with that?

So as we approach the end of yet another year, may we truly give thanks for all that makes life sing.

May God's love song be the melody that will be your companion on the road this new year and always.

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BIRTHS

MACCALLUM - Iain and Carol Zall, in Boston, USA, are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Alasdair Michael, on December 10, 2019. A second grandchild for Bill and Mary MacCallum, Fernoch Park, Lochgilphead.

ENGAGEMENTS



RUTHERFORD - YOUNG

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement, on December 17, 2019, of Beinn, younger son of Davie and Lesley, Aros Cottages, Lochgilphead, to Lorna, daughter of Campbell and Kathleen, Mount Pleasant, Lochgilphead.

DEATHS

DOCHERTY - Peacefully at home, 4 Tangy Place, High Street, Campbeltown, on December 17, 2019, Peter McPhee Docherty, in his 83rd year, dearly beloved husband of late Barbara MacCallum and much loved dad of Karen, Peter and George.

HATTON - Peacefully at his home, with family by his side, on December 20, 2019, Jim Hatton, in his 78th year, of 2 Ross Crescent, Lochgilphead, beloved husband of Bell, dearly loved dad of Allan and Ailsa, much respected father-in-law of Jinty and Alastair, and adored papa of Kian, Kara and Jessica. Much loved brother of Donald, Mackie, Janette and the late Geordie, and a good neighbour, dear friend and associate to many. Funeral service will be held in Ardrishaig Parish Church, on Monday, December 30, 2019, at 11.00am, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations to Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital.

MACCOLL - Peacefully at home, Mordair, Knockscalbert Way, Campbeltown, on December 20, 2019, Helen Mary Colville (Elma), in her 80th year, dearly beloved wife of late Iain MacColl, loving mum of Morna and Alasdair, mother-in-law of Mel, much loved granny of Fraser and Fergus and a loving sister, aunt

and friend. Funeral service in the Lorne and Lowland Parish Church, on Saturday, December 28, 2019 at 11.00am, thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. Family flowers only please. A retiral collection will be held in aid of Cancer Research UK.

MCALLISTER - Peacefully, at the Campbeltown Hospital, on December 19, 2019, Mary Bridget Dooley, in her 80th year, 90 Smith Drive, Campbeltown, dearly beloved wife of late Roderick Stewart McAllister (Roddy) much loved mother of Susan, Dolores, Michelle, Roddy, Hughie and Peter and a loving granny and great granny.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BROWN - The family of the late Margaret Brown would like to thank friends, neighbours, family and all who sent cards, flowers and messages of condolence during their recent sad loss. Special thanks to the staff at Campbeltown Hospital A&E Department, the air ambulance crew and the staff of Ward 9D at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital for the care and kindness shown to Margaret during her short illness. Grateful thanks to Rev William Crossan for the personal and comforting service, to Cath Black for her beautiful music in the church, and Ian McKerral for playing at the graveside. Many thanks to the staff of the Seaford Hotel for the purvey, and Kenneth and Rhys Blair for their professional services. Finally, sincere thanks to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside and donated generously to the retiral collection, which raised £1,001 for MacMillan Nurses, Kintyre Locality.

IN MEMORIAMS

CHISHOLM - In memory of Johnny who passed away December 28, 2011. Loved and remembered always.

- Netta and family at home and abroad.

CURRIE - In memory of my husband, Dochie, died January 1, 2002. Happy memories last forever. Sadly missed along life's way.
- Lily.

FERGUSON - Treasured memories of Charles John Ferguson, taken suddenly on December 27, 2015.

Memories are like bands of gold, They never tarnish or grow old, Memories are a gift to treasure, And mine of you will last forever.
- Dadie.

FERGUSON - Charles John. Remembering our wonderful dad, father-in-law and papa, passed away December 27, 2015. Loved and deeply missed every minute of every day.
- Andrew, Lorna, Cameron and Holly, Charles, Fiona, Ewan and Anna.

MACCALLUM - Cherished memories of Neil, who passed away January 1, 2018. In our hearts you will stay, loved and missed every day.
- Betty and family.

MCCALLUM - Treasured memories of James, a loving husband, dad, grandpa and great grampa, died January 1, 2017. Still loved and missed every day.
- Love always, Matty. Always in our hearts.
- Agnes and family, and Jim, Marie and family.

MCLEAN - In loving memory of Betty, passed away December 30, 2011. A dearly loved mum and granny. Remembered always. Never forgotten.
- Aileen, Gemma, Jamie, Craig, Eilidh and Conor.

MCMILLAN - In memory of Bill, who died January 5, 2000. Loved and remembered every day.
- Mary and sons, Robert and Laurence. Also remembering a loving brother, Dickie Brown, died January 19, 2017. Always in our thoughts.

SELFRIDGE - In loving memory of my husband, Fred, who died December 26, 2013. Gone but never forgotten. Think of you every day. Always in my heart.
- Myra.

CHURCH NOTICES

HIGHLAND PARISH CHURCH



SC002493
Sunday 29th December
Ring out the old and bring in the new
A Celebration of the Season - Come along and sing some carols with us
Before they are packed away with the Christmas lights
11.15am in the Church
All welcome

LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity Number SC 11686
Sunday 29th December
11.15am Morning Worship
Songs of Praise
Led by Congregational Worship Team

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



75 Longrow, Campbeltown
Sunday 29th December
Family Communion Service 11.00am
All welcome
Enquiries 01586 551200
www.springbankchurch.org.uk
SCO14646

ST KIARAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Sunday 29th December
Christmas 1 Holy Communion 10.45am
Enquiries tel: 01586 551141
The Scottish Episcopal Church is a Province of the Worldwide Anglican Communion

ST KIERAN RC CHURCH

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

SALVATION ARMY



Sunday 29th December
10.30am Morning Service
No Evening Service
Major Ruth Russell
All welcome
Scottish Charity Number SCO09359

CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH



Sunday 29th December
11.15am Worship Service
Rev Rodger Crooks
11.15am Sunday School
All welcome
www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SCO46745

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH



Sunday 29th December
11.00am Family Service
Speaker - Pastor Mark Jasper
Sunday 5th January
11.00am New Year Service
and Communion
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 29th December
Escape!
Services in Ardrishaig at 11.00am and Achahoish at 12.30pm
All welcome

CHRIST CHURCH SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

ST MARGARET'S RC CHURCH

Lochgilphead
Holy Mass Sunday 10am
All Saints, Inveraray
Holy Mass Sunday 12.30pm
Fr Ronald Campbell
01546 602380
All Welcome
(SCO002876)

GLASSARY, KILMARTIN & FORD PARISH CHURCH

Kilmartin
Sunday 29th December 11.30am
Mr James McLellan
All very welcome
(SC0 02121)

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

Charity number SC001002
Sunday 29th December 4.30pm
Achnamara Hall
Café Church
Carol Service
Saturday 28th December
NO Café Connect
Sunday 5th January 11.30am
Tayvallich Church
Morning Worship
All welcome
www.northknappdale.org

SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 29th December
Skipness Service 10am
Tarbert Service 11.30am
Both services Rev Chris Holden
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 29th December
Lochgar Church
10.00am
Inveraray Church
11.30am
Margaret Sinclair
Cumlodden and Lochgair
Charity No. SC016097
Glenaray and Inveraray
Charity No. SC016665
All welcome

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Argyll and Bute Council's departing chief executive has said local people show the best of 'an amazing area that deserves a great future', writes Andrew Galloway. Cleland Sneddon left his post with the authority on Thursday December 19 to take up a similar role with South Lanarkshire Council, a move that will take him closer to his family.

He also stated it 'angers and saddens' him that the area has suffered a reduction in Scottish Government funding since 2008 which has meant £57 million of savings.

But while he leaves Argyll and Bute with mixed feelings, it is also with fond memories as he hands the reins to his successor, Pippa Milne, in the new year.

Mr Sneddon said: 'I have enjoyed almost 10 wonderful years in Argyll and Bute. This is an amazing area that deserves a great future.'

'I have felt privileged to have had the chance to play a part in building that future.'

'Challenges remain to be met, of course, but across Argyll and Bute I see progress being made in creating the right conditions for the economic growth that will bring prosperity.'

'More than anything, I will remember the great people I have met, from the brewery guys on Colonsay who made a cocktail bar out of a container unit one long winter, to the outdoor early years children at Stramash in Oban. It's local people who show Argyll and Bute at its best.'

'Lanarkshire is where I am originally from and I spent 13 years with South Lanarkshire Council earlier in my career.'

'It is also an area of outstanding potential, and opportunities to become chief executive of so large a council don't come around often.'

'It will feel like a bit of a homecoming with so many of my old colleagues still working there and will also move me closer to family.'

'I am very excited about the opportunity this presents. Anyone who knows me or has worked alongside me will recognise my absolute commitment to local government.'

'I have been fortunate to get the opportunity to build recognition of Argyll and Bute Council as a creative, innovative, forward thinking and high performing organisation. I look forward to continuing that journey with South Lanarkshire.'

Mr Sneddon was executive director for community services on his arrival in Argyll and Bute before taking up the chief executive's post in 2014.

There have been positive aspects and challenges along the way and financial issues remain a big obstacle.

Council chief says farewell after decade in Argyll and Bute



Outgoing council chief executive Cleland Sneddon with his successor Pippa Milne. 51_a52CouncilLeaders01

Asked for the biggest challenges of his time with the council, Mr Sneddon continued: 'Undoubtedly, the financial cuts that have been made to local government since 2008. For Argyll and Bute, that means savings of £57 million.'

'It angers and saddens me what has happened to our funding. We provide services that are crucial every day to everyone, from educating our children, to looking after the vulnerable in our society and a million other activities that support our communities. It leaves us annually considering the most unwelcome of cuts.'

'It further angers me there are those who deny the truth of this position. I am not a politician – it is for others to argue about where the cause

'I have been fortunate to get the opportunity to build recognition of Argyll and Bute Council as a creative, innovative, forward thinking and high performing organisation.'

of this situation rests – but let's not insult the public by suggesting these financial challenges are not real.'

On the highlights of his time, he said: 'The creative,

committed and skilled people I work with.'

'Councils can't do everything communities want and public comments often focus most on what we're not in a position to do.'

'I know, however, just how hard our employees work for Argyll and Bute and the huge difference they are making in what are times of unprecedented challenge for local government.'

'Everyone in Argyll and Bute knows or is related to someone who works for the council. They recognise the efforts and commitment that are shown. I am immensely proud of this council and those who work for it.'

Looking to the future, with Ms Milne set to move into the chief executive's chair, Mr Sneddon talked about the

potential for Argyll and Bute to develop.

He added: 'Attracting the people and jobs Argyll and Bute needs to have a successful, sustainable future will take time, investment and effort from everyone who has influence and impact on life in the area.'

'There is massive economic potential in this area. The Rural Growth Deal has the potential to take Argyll and Bute further along the road to economic growth and repopulation.'

'Reversing the population decline that threatens Argyll and Bute's future has to continue to be the key priority.'

'There is a solid platform for my successor to take up the reins and drive forward progress, putting into action Rural Growth Deal

investment; the maritime change programme at HM Naval Base Clyde; delivering new housing across the area; attracting new business investment; further closing education attainment gaps; developing new models of care; improving public protection services – I could go on and on.'

'The agenda is enormous, driven by a focus on continuous improvement.'

'I wish my successor and the colleagues and friends I leave behind every success. I will forever be an ambassador for this wonderful area and council.'

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www.argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Young golfers will benefit from £500 donation

Spot the ball
WIN A
GUARANTEED £2k

Prize turkey for Tarbert Gun Club shoot winners



There was a good turnout for Tarbert Gun Club's Christmas shoot.

Tarbert Gun Club held its final competition of 2019, with 42 shooters competing to win a turkey for their Christmas dinner.

It was names in the hat to draw a partner to shoot with on Sunday

December 15, with most top shots being kept apart.

Iain and John Winnard kept up their high standard of late. Iain, who had teamed up with Johnathan Gargan, took the top

gun prizes, while John with Brian Baird settled for third place.

Top form

Sandwiched in between, in second place, was Bob McColl and Malcolm Weaver.

The man with new specs, Roy Ward, kept up his recent top form winning the testing pool-trap. It was a rabbit for the first ten meters, then the clay hit a ramp which bounced it ten feet in the air which

got christened the squirrel. Rabbit or squirrel, Roy was the only one to break them all.

The club thanks everyone for their support and wishes everyone a happy festive season.



Mid Argyll rugby blast from the past

Tayvallich reader Donald Carmichael handed in this black and white photograph of a Mid Argyll Rugby Club team from decades ago.

Background

But can readers name the players? And what

background can you give us about this photograph and Mid Argyll Rugby club at the time?

Contact the Argyllshire Advertiser by email: editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk with any information.

Mid Argyll Rugby Club. Can anyone name the players in the photograph?



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