

*Merry Christmas* to all our readers and advertisers

# Inveraray honours its 2020 unsung community heroes

by Colin Cameron  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

After a year in which true community heroes came to the fore in testing times across the region, Inveraray has celebrated its own champions.

Before the pandemic, Inveraray's annual Unsung Hero Award would be presented as part of a glittering festive evening involving a lantern parade complete with pipe band, Christmas lights switch-on ceremony and an evening in the fire station.

With no ceremony, this year it was a little different but the public nominations for the award, run by Inveraray Community Council, flooded in nonetheless.

This year's winners are David and Cathie Owen, proprietors of The Tippy Laird shop.

Inveraray Community Council convener Linda Divers said: 'David and Cathie have done so much for the community over the years in their own quiet way. Santa

## 'David and Cathie have done so much in their own quiet way.'

wouldn't have had any sweets to give the kids without their donations and most clubs and groups in the town would be raffle prizes short as I've never known anyone to be turned away empty handed when looking for prizes. Since going back into their shop earlier this year they have picked up where they left off with their generosity. Residents of Chalmers Court know only to phone the shop and their shopping will be delivered to them. Thank you to them both and congratulations. It is well deserved.'

There was also a special mention, flowers and a bottle for another Inveraray resident, Margaret Mather.

Linda explained: 'During lockdown Margaret looked after her neighbours and she was often to be seen in the shops with two or three different

lists of shopping. People like Margaret are what Inveraray is all about.'

Also run by the community council, joint winners of the Christmas house lights competition were Robert MacKee, Robert MacCulloch and Alan Hendry. Winner of the best Christmas shop window was Brambles, complete with hand-painted decoration.

Many in the Inveraray community, however, wanted to pay tribute to the work done on their behalf by Linda herself.

So much so that she was presented with a surprise one-off award inscribed 'To Linda, for being a star in 2020'.

She said: 'It's not often I'm speechless! I'm lucky as I've got good people around me who are willing to go the extra mile for this community and I can't thank them enough for it. 'Merry Christmas and a happy new year - and let's hope next year is kinder to us all.'

See next week's Advertiser for photographs of the recipients.



## Christmas delight at Badden Farm Nursery as Santa and his elf visit

Children and parents were excited to visit Santa and his wee elf at Badden Farm Nursery outdoor grotto. Every child in the Lochgilphead nursery was delighted to see Santa and receive a gift from him. Nursery manager Jean Evans said: 'We wanted to involve parents and grandparents as much as possible, so we did everything outdoors for safety reasons. The children loved every moment and entertained Santa with lovely Christmas songs. Our sincere thanks to Santa and Wee Elf. They did a marvellous job.'

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## Call for return of broken up musket

A Lochgilphead man who broke up an antique firearm before dumping it says he would love to get it back.

Though the musket, used for display over the years, was broken into pieces and the wooden stock used for kindling, the former owner said he 'can't sleep for worrying someone might find it and put it back together'.

The man, who wishes to remain anonymous, said he had contacted the police, who believed the pieces would be in landfill and not too much of a risk.

'It's really bothering me,' he said. 'If anyone finds the pieces, please let me know by phoning 07534 062829.'

## CONTACTUS

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# Unused Tarbert cash boosts Lochgilphead front project

## Area committee members vote to divert £225,000 underspend

by Colin Cameron  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

The Lochgilphead front green project needs a cash injection – and could benefit from unspent funding allocated to improvement work in Tarbert.

At the December meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's area committee for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands, councillors agreed to recommend to the authority's policy and resources committee that £225,000 underspent in relation to the Barmore Road junction improvement in Tarbert should be reallocated to the Lochgilphead front green project.

The front green scheme will also gain £110,000 due to a reallocation of money currently earmarked for Colchester Square improvements - which will now be delivered through what the council called 'another funding route'.

An amendment, proposed by Councillor Anne Horn, that the £255,000 should remain within Tarbert and reallocated throughout the Tarbert, Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead areas if ultimately unused – was rejected by five votes to three.

The meeting heard that the front green project will now have to be 'revised' and re-tendered after a procurement process between October 2019 and September 2020 attracted bids which, according to a council report, meant that the scheme 'was not able to be delivered within the budget available and that progressing with the tender would not have represented value for money for the council'.

It is now expected that a fresh invitation to tender will be issued in January, with a view to having a contract in place by March 2021.

In a report to councillors on the Tarbert and Lochgilphead Regeneration Fund, Kirsty Flanagan, executive director with responsibility for development and economic growth, said: 'Progressing these projects continues to be challenging, particularly given the uncertainties created by the coronavirus pandemic and the UK leaving the EU.'

'Unfortunately initial tendering has highlighted that costs have increased during the design phase and that additional budget will be required to enable the remaining works to be completed.'

She added that: '...without additional funding it will not be possible to deliver all of the proposed elements of the scheme.'

'Failure to secure the requested funding will put at risk external funding allocated to the project and cause additional delays in terms of project delivery.'

'We are seeking additional funding to cover the additional professional fees of the design team associated with the redesign and retender so that this doesn't impact upon funding available for construction.'

It is hoped that the Colchester Square works can be delivered in early 2021 as a separate project to the Front Green.

## Sheep chased by dog at show field

Between 11am and noon on Monday December 14, in the Mid Argyll Show field near Ardrpatrick Place, Lochgilphead, a large dog was seen to be out of control, off the lead and chasing sheep in the field.

A woman was seen to get the dog under control and take it away.

Police are investigating the incident and are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

## Possession of drugs charges

On Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, at about 1.20pm on Thursday December 17 a car was stopped. The driver, a man aged 39, was about to be searched when he ran off. He was chased and detained on the front green in Lochgilphead and was later charged with possession of cocaine and cannabis. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

## Drugs found after house search

An 18-year-old man was charged with possession of cannabis after a house in MacDonald Terrace, Lochgilphead, was searched by police at 10.35pm on Thursday December 17. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

## Lorry set on fire at Kilmory estate

Between 8pm on Wednesday December 16 and 11am on Friday December 18, a large recovery lorry had a window smashed and the interior of the cab set on fire within a yard at Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead.

Police are investigating the incident and appeal for any witnesses or anyone with information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

## Breach of bail conditions

At about 12.35am on Saturday December 19, in Ross Crescent, Lochgilphead, a man, aged 36, was charged with breaching bail conditions imposed by the court by communication with a woman.

The man was arrested and held for court. A report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.



Police can now carry out roadside drug testing.

## Is driving under the influence worth it?

Police Scotland is reinforcing its anti-drink and drug driving message for the festive season.

Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs can have devastating consequences.

Police can now carry out roadside drug testing for drivers suspected of being under the influence of drugs and drivers could also still be over the limit the morning after drinking alcohol.

If anyone is caught drink or drug driving, they could lose their licence, their vehicle, possibly their job and even go to jail. The message is – are these risks worth taking?

Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie, Police Scotland area commander for Mid Argyll and Kintyre, said: 'The festive season will be different for us all, but alcohol and drug drive limits remain unchanged. Road safety remains a priority for Police Scotland and officers throughout Argyll continue to patrol our roads 24/7 to improve driver behaviour and detect those who put others at risk by driving under the influence of drink or drugs.'

She warned that everyone reacted differently and urged drivers to take responsibility to ensure they were fit to drive.

# 'Three Ps' and posters at Tarbert sewerage project

by Colin Cameron  
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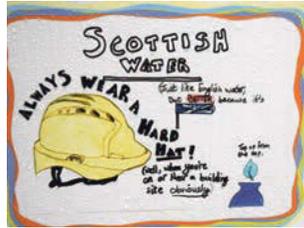
The team working on a £3.4m project to help reduce the risk of sewer flooding in Tarbert recently paid a socially distanced visit to Tarbert Academy.

The project team has been working closely with the school to keep pupils updated on the work, including information on site safety and how they can help to protect the environment by only flushing the 'three Ps' – pee, poo and (toilet) paper.

The team ran a poster competition with the school and the winning designs were presented to pupils while on a site visit on December 18. The posters, printed on durable metal sheets, are now on public display near the site.

The improvement project is being delivered by Scottish Water's alliance partner amey Black and Veatch (aBV).

Paul Milligan, communica-



One of the imaginative posters. 51\_a52Tarbert\_ScotWater05

tions manager at aBV, said: 'Engaging and working closely with the community is a vital part of any project of this scale and we've been very impressed with the enthusiasm and interest shown by pupils here at Tarbert Academy.'

'It's also been great to have the opportunity to get an important message across to pupils about only flushing the 'three Ps'. By increasing the capacity of the sewerage network, our new infrastructure in Tarbert will help tackle the issue of sewer flooding. Everyone can



Tarbert Academy pupils proudly show off their colourful artwork. 51\_a52Tarbert\_ScotWater02

play their part in helping to protect the environment by only flushing the three Ps.'

The project involves increasing the size of almost 350 metres of sewer pipe with large diameter sewers installed along Barmore Road, Harbour Street and on a short section of School Road. Work goes on

despite continued wet weather and tidal events which flood excavations and restrict access to the working areas.

But the team had laid 30 metres of new pipework along Harbour Street and installed two new manholes by the end of last week. To minimise disruption, work is being car-



Work goes on in wet weather to install the new large diameter pipes on Harbour Street. 51\_a52Tarbert\_ScotWater06

ried out in phases and a road closure, planned for Barmore Road in January 2021, has been avoided.

The next phase is due to start on Barmore Road (A83) on January 6. Temporary traffic lights will be on Barmore Road for approximately three months to allow for a water

main diversion and a new sewer pipe.

There will be parking restrictions on Barmore Road and work will continue on Harbour Street.

It is due to be completed by autumn 2021 subject to weather, tidal conditions and Covid-19 restrictions.

# Your best images from 2020



FEBRUARY: Ted the dog found his best angle as he posed for a photograph in front of Tarbert Castle on a beautiful winter morning's walk with owner Fiona McCuish from Ardrishaig.

In this Christmas edition we take a look back at a selection of the fantastic photographs from our readers featured in the Argyllshire Advertiser each week during 2020.

This week we remember readers' pictures from the first half of the year. Look out for another featured reader's image on page nine of this week's edition.

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



APRIL: Left: Lochgilphead photographer Marc Pickering sent us this stunning photograph, taken in his garden at the end of April, of a bee buzzing about its business; MAY: Above: 'furloughed creels at Crinan' was taken by Siobhán Canavan from Cairnbaan during the coronavirus lockdown.



MARCH: Allan Redpath from Lochgair captured a blue sky at Carrick abandoned township near Lochgilphead on a rare sunny day.



JUNE: Simon Macdonald from Kilmichael Glassary submitted this sunny image of his 'village in bloom', taken in late June.

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JANUARY: Neil Lea from Kirn, near Dunoon, submitted this seemingly timeless photograph of Inveraray taken from St Catherines on the opposite shore of Loch Fyne.

## Science matters

DOROTHY H CRAWFORD



# The scents of Christmas – but where do they come from?

Gold, frankincense and myrrh; gifts worthy of a king, and, in the traditional Christmas story, offered to the baby Jesus by the Maji.

Gold we are familiar with as a sign of wealth, but what of frankincense and myrrh?

At some point during the intervening 2,020 years they seem to have fallen into obscurity.

Both are scented resins extracted from trees; myrrh from the Commiphora myrrha tree and frankincense from Boswellia papyifera.

These species grow in the arid conditions of the Middle East and the Horn of Africa, where they have been tapped for their precious sap for millennia.

Mentioned in ancient Hebrew texts, frankincense and myrrh were prized for the sweet aromatic fumes they produce when burned and were used to freshen the air - or hide unsavoury smells - during embalming of the dead and offering sacrifices to the gods.

Frankincense and myrrh are components of incense and,

as such, were carried along ancient trade routes.

Incense reached Western Europe with crusaders returning from the Eastern Roman Empire where it was wafted in churches, a use that continues today.

Frankincense and myrrh are also used in traditional Chinese medicines – recommended for conditions as diverse as inflammation, pain, fever, indigestion and ulcers. They are also components of mosquito deterrents, deodorants and toothpaste.

All fairly obscure you may think, but sales of frankincense have recently rocketed. It is now an important part of the international, multi-million pound essential oil industry. Great for the trade, but the booming market is putting severe strain on the supply chain\*.

In the Horn of Africa the trees are suffering. Powerful middle men are encouraging owners to over-tap their trees for this desirable commodity, resulting in stressed trees, less seed production and virtually

no young trees growing up to maintain the plantations. Yet, there is hope, but speed is of the essence. Tappers are being encouraged to form co-oper-

atives and are getting expert help with tree management. Nevertheless, spare a thought for the growers and the trees as you enjoy your frankin-

cense-scented bath over the Christmas break.

\* New Scientist 21/29 December 2019.

Myrrh, in its resin form.



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## Santa Bus spreads joy far and wide

Things were a little different to previous years, but Mid Argyll Round Table still managed to get Santa's sleigh round the region – much to the delight of children of all ages.

Described as an 'audio and visual experience' this year, social distancing and safety were the primary considerations.

Thanks to West Coast Motors, Santa set off with a few friends in his own Magical Santa 'bubble' Bus, stopping off at a number of special Santa bus stops.

Tarbert was the first port of call on Friday December 18, with a tour round Lochgilphead the following day.

The final leg saw the Santa Bus spread joy from Kilmichael Glassary to Inveraray on Sunday.

Colin MacFarlane of Mid Argyll Round Table said: 'It went fantastically, better than anyone imagined and I think that was because it was well organised. Everyone needed that little bit of light relief, fun and maybe a little bit of reas-



John Hunt plays a festive selection to herald the arrival of the Santa Bus.

urance that regular events can still happen, albeit slightly altered to ensure everyone is safe. We've never had such (socially-distanced) crowds and we're truly grateful to everyone who came out to enjoy Santa and his friends.

'Special thanks to John Hunt, our piper, and West Coast Motors staff, in particular Robert 'Peachy' MacKay, who is now Santa's personal driver.'



# Hall vision built on Cairndow community spirit and work

by Colin Cameron  
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A pop-up community café at Cairndow Village Hall allowed people to see the work undertaken over the past few months.

Held on the afternoon of Saturday December 19, the café was fully risk-assessed and met with Argyll and Bute Council requirements, being licensed and all seated, with 12 socially-distanced tables for a maximum bubble of four people each.

Hall committee members explained the latest developments which include a community garden and clinic room development and proposals for a 'Coorie Inn' drop-in centre.

Cairndow Village Hall was used for childcare for more than a decade. When the new Fyne Den childcare centre opened at the head of Loch



Locals came along to a Covid-compliant drop-in community café last weekend to hear about progress with the hall.

51\_a52CairndowHall10

Fyne, a new hall committee took over the running of the hall to help maintain it for the community.

Hall maintenance costs around £5,000 per annum, and although the pandemic has removed income streams the hall

still needs to be maintained, heated and all utilities and insurance paid. Improvements needed for the hall include a new boiler, replacement kitchen white goods and an upgrade to a range of fixtures, fittings and access.



The kitchen is being opened up for community use as a 'Coorie Inn' while books are already available for exchange. Bob's WWII remembrance project is displayed in the corner.

51\_a52CairndowHall07

While there are reserves to complete this work, the hall recreation committee (HRC) must be financially self-reliant, which will necessitate regular fundraising and attracting a wide range of paying users.

The HRC is currently focused on reducing social isolation and loneliness by providing community-led groups, activities and services such as a lunch club, young people's group, film events, book exchange, reading and craft groups and community kitch-

en, chess and domino clubs. A gym is already available and a community garden, including a kitchen garden and garden of remembrance, is also planned.

A private consultation room is also under construction within the hall to allow development of NEAR ME telemedicine and outreach services and reduce the need for lengthy and often arduous travel for NHS appointments.

Funding of £5,000 was secured from the National Lottery to develop the clinic

room and community garden, while £1,500 has been received from Argyll and Bute HSCP to buy a laptop, printer and sink unit for the clinic room. The HSCP has also provided a webcam, headset and hands-free audio unit for remote consultations.

Among a number of private donations was money to provide frames for WWII remembrance boards researched by the late Bob Adams.

Sadly, Bob was unable to finish this work, which was completed by Here We Are. The boards now have pride of place in the Coorie Inn.

Sharon Hepburn, acting chairwoman of Cairndow HRC, said: 'We are grateful to all our donors.'

'The HRC also wants to acknowledge the value of the donation of time.'

'The hall is entirely dependent on volunteers. Without residents giving their time, the hall would not work.'

'Over recent months the HRC has been overwhelmed by the generous donation of people's time to improve and develop the hall.'

'A huge thank you to you all.'

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## A merry crustacean Christmas



Tarbert's stunning Christmas 'tree' of creels has been an outstanding success, providing an appropriate centrepiece to a village with a rich fishing heritage. The imaginative and colourful sculpture has received widespread acclaim, but this week our regular contributor Ann Thomas muses that the tree's popularity may also extend beneath the waves. Just maybe, it means a Merry Christmas for a few of the inhabitants of Loch Fyne and West Loch Tarbert.

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# Biggest UK vaccine roll-out brings hope of a brighter and better future for all of us

The UK's biggest roll-out of a vaccine in a generation is well underway, bringing hope to all for protection against COVID-19 as well as the prospect of a brighter, better 2021.

FROM DELIVERY drivers to doctors, warehouse workers to care staff, there is now a dedicated army of heroes involved in the UK Government's nationwide roll-out of virus vaccinations.

Inoculations have already begun with elderly patients as well as hospital and care staff among the first to receive first phase jabs across the nation.

Experts from the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency have already approved Pfizer/BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine for use.

Its introduction follows months of clinical trials and analysis of the data by the MHRA, which confirms the safe, free treatment meets stringent safety standards.

NHS England and NHS Improvement, NHS Wales, NHS Scotland, Health and Social Care Northern Ireland, all of which



have decades of experience delivering large-scale vaccination programmes.

This is a vaccine that is now available for the entire UK. When it's your turn, you will receive a notification.

Vaccines are free at the point of delivery and remain the best way to protect us all from the harmful effects of coronavirus.

■ *This article is part of a paid-for partnership with the UK Government*



**VIRUS VACCINATIONS:** Inoculations have begun for elderly patients and care staff.

## VACCINE STATISTICS

- The UK Government invested £88 million into research and development
- So far 357 million free vaccine doses have been purchased for UK citizens
- The UK Government invested £230m-plus into manufacturing vaccines
- Vaccines annually prevent 2-3 million deaths globally, potentially millions more
- Vaccines are tested on 20,000 to 30,000 people before being made available to the public
- Hundreds of thousands of people signed up to trials, thousands more continue to be recruited
- Over 600 clinical trials take place every year for other medicines
- Additional £100 million will fund UK Government's vaccine state-of-the-art mass production
- The UK Government has established 'rapid deployment facility' thanks to an extra £38 million manufacturing investment
- An extra £93 million will see UK's first dedicated Manufacturing and Innovation Centre open a year earlier than planned

### 'Fear virus more than injection'

Kit Gow's advice to anyone fearful of having the vaccine is "the fear of contracting the virus must be greater than having the injection".

The 83 year-old trained at Dunfermline College of Physical Education, and was a student in Aberdeen during the Asian Flu pandemic of 1957.

"My main memory of that was



taking medication and food to those lying in bed.

"Most of those in the residence were affected," she

recalls. Commenting on the lockdown, she continued: "My really big miss is seeing the family although we speak and email.

"I will have the vaccine as soon as it is offered."

### 'The vaccine spells hope to me'

Retired actress and teacher Sue Herdman will "most certainly" have the vaccine "as soon as they call me".

Says the 81 year-old: "I am an aged person, classed as vulnerable. I think the knowledge of having the vaccine will instil faith in me. It spells hope. That means a great deal to all of us."



And her advice to anyone offered the vaccine - "go for it". Sue, who "hasn't coped well with the second lockdown",

added: "Life may gradually return to a semblance of normality once more. "COVID, and the fear it brings, makes prisoners of us all - if not in the confines of our own home, in the fear it breeds."

### 'It's little short of miraculous'

Retired Advice NI debt adviser Adam Harbinson believes the vaccine "is little short of miraculous".

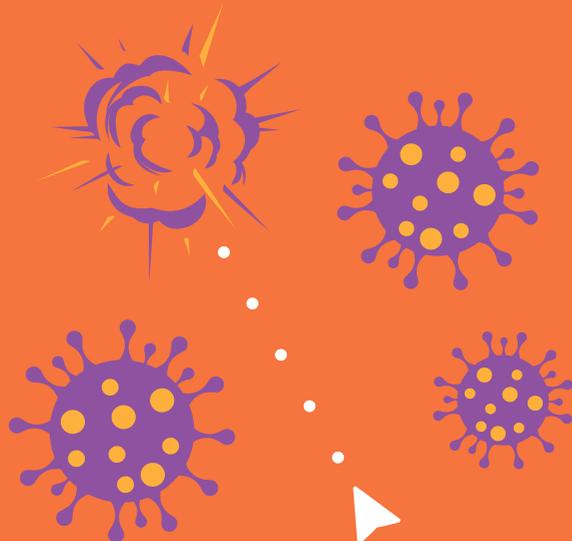
Apart from concerns for his family, the 73 year-old misses the freedom of visiting the theatre and cinema as well as dining out.

He welcomed the news of the vaccine saying: "The best that most



of us expected was that we would have a vaccine in a couple of years. "And now the first vaccine is being rolled out across the UK.

"Perhaps the main benefit for me and society, apart from the obvious benefit of protecting us from the dreaded disease, is that it infuses a sense of hope into an otherwise hopeless environment."



# Fight COVID-19

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[nhs.uk/covidvaccine](https://nhs.uk/covidvaccine)

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## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)  
or The Editor, 44 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8NB**Mid Argyll's community spirit will get us through**

Reflecting on 2020, what a year it has been. On a national scale, this time last year we had the uncertainty of Brexit following months of political infighting and indecision at Westminster.

Nearer home, feelings ran high over the way we care for those in our community affected by dementia.

It then came to light there was and is - though work is under way to improve matters - a chronic problem with staff bullying in our health and care public services.

Then there was, and is, the Rest and be Thankful.

Not unexpectedly, it came down at least twice. While money continues to be spent on 'mitigation', in a seemingly rushed decision we had to consider 11 'alternatives', most of which will never be seriously considered.

All of the above was, of course, set against the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic, which rumbles on today. And Brexit still looms...

But, for all the gloom, what has shone this year has been the community spirit across Argyll. We are stronger when we support each other and that is what will get us through.

A very well-earned Merry Christmas to all our readers and advertisers.

**Disappointment with vote against Tarbert funding**

Sir,  
I was disappointed that my amendment, brought to the recent Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands area committee meeting, to retain the underspend of £255,000 designated for Tarbert regeneration improvements, was not supported by Councillor Alastair Redman.

I appreciate that the councillors who represent Lochgilphead were keen that the additional monies should top up the costs of the project at the front green as that tender has come in much in excess of the original budget, but it is deplorable that a councillor elected to represent Tarbert chose to vote against the amendment that would have allowed Tarbert to benefit from the funding allocated for improvements in the village.

I would assure all residents in Tarbert that I will work for the people of Tarbert who elected me to represent them in the best way I can.

**Councillor Anne Horn, Kintyre and the Islands.**

**Savings will hit the most vulnerable citizens in Argyll**

Sir,  
I have been reading the Argyllshire Advertiser for many years, but stories in the last two editions have almost left me lost for words.

Firstly, Councillor Gary Mulvaney has the audacity to ask why savings cannot be made

in the IJB/HSCP health and care budget, mentioning the most vulnerable in our society.

Well done Heather Grier (Argyllshire Advertiser letters, December 18) for questioning him.

Secondly, it now seems the teaching assistants could be lost due to Argyll and Bute Council budget cuts; again Councillor Mulvaney commented that savings must be made.

I would say that this should not be at the cost to our young people.

Does he think that these youngsters ask to need help? No, they do not and all they ask is to be treated like all other pupils and get an education and contribute to society when and where they can.

All of our young people are our future and if they require a little help to get there, then so be it.

I have heard that Councillor Mulvaney says he has an accounting background, but he seems to lack compassion. Is this a trait of accountants?

He is depute leader of the council and policy lead for financial services and major projects.

To my mind he is not showing a particularly good example to his fellow councillors by making statements that are ill-informed and condemn the vulnerable to miserable lives.

Argyll and Bute Council led the way with 'care in the community' when this was brought in by the Scottish Government; now it seems it doesn't give a damn for care in the community.

Do his fellow councillors want to be tarred with the same brush?

Is everyone in Councillor Mulvaney's

Helensburgh Central ward hale and hearty with no disabilities? I do not think so.

Maybe now is the time that Councillor Mulvaney looks at his current positions before Argyll and Bute Council gains a reputation it does not deserve.

**An incredibly angry resident of Argyll and Bute, name and address supplied**

**Take festive dip in the sea or a bucket for Marie Curie**

Sir,  
End of life charity Marie Curie is calling on people across Scotland to brave the chill and do a festive dip to show support for those impacted by death, dying and bereavement.

This year has been challenging for many and the charity sector has taken a huge hit, with fundraising events cancelled since Covid-19 hit in the spring.

Marie Curie nurses have been working on the frontline throughout the pandemic caring for people at end of life at the Glasgow and Edinburgh hospices and in people's homes across Scotland.

Marie Curie needs to raise £250,000 every month to provide care and services in Scotland.

During the festive season, I hope our supporters will back the new Christmas campaign - running from December 26 to January 1 - encouraging people and their four-legged friends to get outdoors and do a festive dip either bare footed or in wellies, in the sea, a puddle or a bucket of ice.

**Press policy**

At The Argyllshire Advertiser, we endeavour to ensure all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing [editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk](mailto:editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk); telephoning the chief reporter on 01546 602345 or write to the Group Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will try to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can call IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email [inquiries@ipso.co.uk](mailto:inquiries@ipso.co.uk). IPSO is an independent body that deals with complaints about the editorial content. We will abide by its decision.

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We are asking people to take a photo of themselves taking the dip, post it on their social media channels, tag seven friends and donate £7 to Marie Curie.

We know there has been much sadness this year and we want people to smile throughout the festive season.

Living in Scotland we are never short of a puddle or two, and are lucky to be surrounded by coastlines, so there's always going to be the perfect opportunity for the whole family to get outdoors and unleash their inner child.

To donate visit [www.justgiving.com/campaign/festivedip2020](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/festivedip2020).

**Debbie Mooney, head of community fundraising, Marie Curie**

## UK has sunk to a new low with children at risk

Sir,  
The fact that UNICEF, the UN's child protection wing, will for the first time intervene to support those at risk of hunger in the UK, is a damning indictment on the depths to which the UK has sunk.

UNICEF has put its funding behind a scheme designed to provide breakfast boxes to 1,800 families over the course of the Christmas holidays – marking the first emergency response in the UK by the organisation since it was founded in 1946.

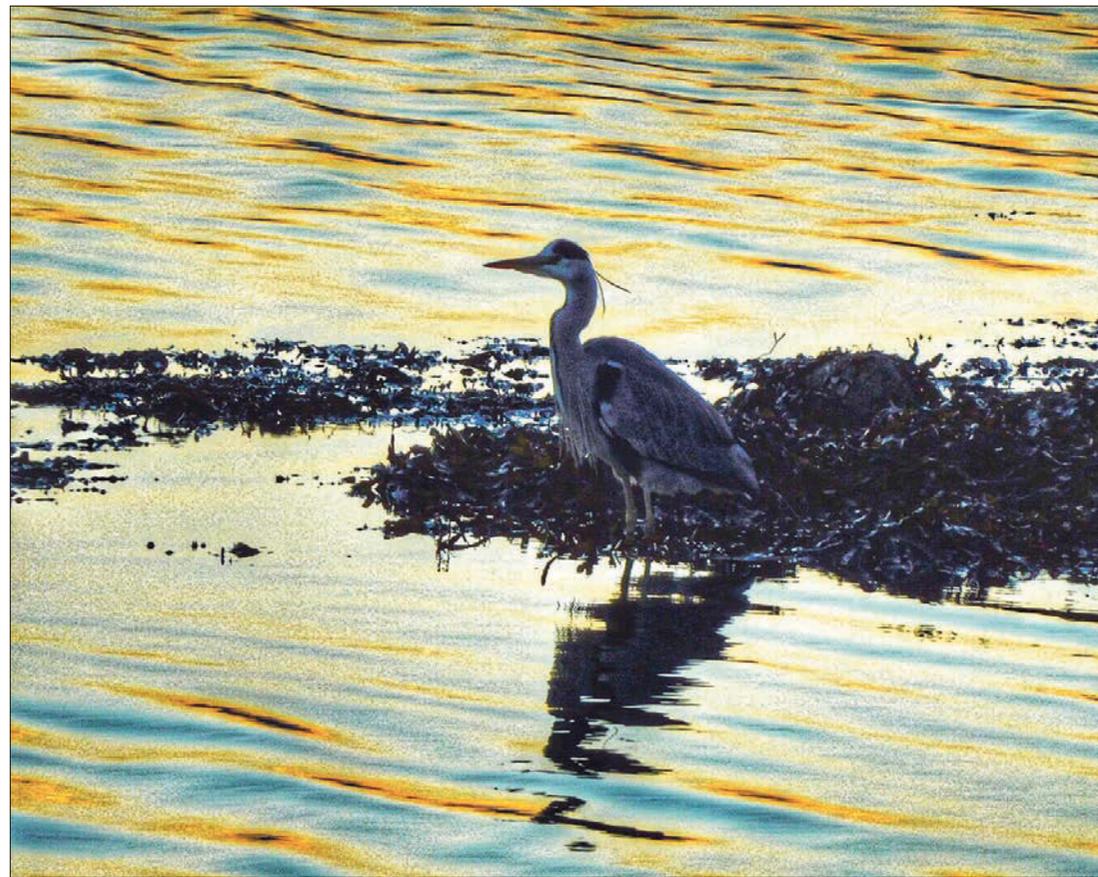
Rising levels of food poverty in the UK are an absolute disgrace and the Tory government should be ashamed of this.

We are supposedly one of the richest countries in the world.

Our children should not have to rely on humanitarian charities that are more used to operating in war zones and in response to natural disasters.

Alex Orr, Edinburgh

## YOUR PICTURES



Aileen Gillies of Lochgilphead sent us this atmospheric shot of a grey heron taken on the Loch Fyne shore at Ardrishaig on December 6, flashes of winter sunshine yellow playing on the rippling water. Send your favourite photographs for publication to [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)

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# A look back on an extraordin



Cheryl with her beloved Barbie, none the worse for her dook during Storm Brendan.

## January

Storm Brendan battered the region, sparking a near-tragedy when a pet greyhound was blown into the Crinan Canal on January 13. Owners Cheryl and Laurie Ratcliffe-Nye managed to get hold of Barbie's

collar and haul the six-stone pooch to safety, quickly taking her home to warm up. Thankfully Barbie was none the worse for her ordeal.

There was sadness in January when Argyll lost a big personality.

Donald Clark, proprietor of

the George Hotel in Inveraray, passed away peacefully on January 19.

On a happier note, Fiona Kalache, manager of Mid Argyll Youth Development Services, received an MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.



Hairdresser Lilia Sinclair helped Tina Holloway brave the shave. 06\_a07TinaBravetheShave01

## February

Campaigners were fighting to keep Knapdale dementia ward in Mid Argyll Hospital open. More on this below.

A lorry overturned near Furnace, spilling more than 100 barrels of the water of life

across the A83. The road was blocked for nine hours, during which time stranded motorists were treated to fantastic Furnace hospitality including tea, biscuits and shelter in the village hall.

And crowds gathered at Lochgilphead Co-op to watch

Lilia Sinclair shave off the bright red locks of brave staff member Tina Holloway, while the store joker Paul Foster endured an afternoon of silence. The pair raised more than £1,650 for the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH).

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Campaigners braved horrible weather to campaign for the retention of Knapdale dementia ward as part of changes to dementia care. 51\_a05KnapdaleWardProtest01

## March

The arrival of coronavirus in Scotland was confirmed on March 4.

By March 23, Scotland was in 'lockdown' leading to the cancellation of social events across Mid Argyll. As we came to terms with the harsh realities of the 'new normal', volunteers around the region rallied round to help vulnerable people, with support groups

in every town and village. Elsewhere, the body overseeing health and social care, Argyll and Bute Integration Joint Board, rubber-stamped a decision by health managers to close Knapdale in-patient dementia ward, with patients later transferred to Fyne View in Lochgilphead. Fyne View itself was closed in November and the patients moved to 'suitable accommodation elsewhere'.

Knapdale ward was set aside for potential use as a Covid-19 ward.

The Health and Social Care Partnership said: 'Our Dementia Services Redesign Group has been continuing to develop community specialist dementia care to allow many more people living with the condition to be supported to live longer in their own homes and communities across Argyll and Bute.'

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# ary year - January to June



Staff at Mid Argyll Hospital were delighted with their colourful 'scrubs'.

## April

By April, residents, businesses and charities were adapting to lockdown life.

Lochgilphead firm Midton showed initiative, turning its attention to producing personal protective equipment such as face visors and protective screens.

A volunteer group set up by Nikki Thompson of Ardrishaig began to produce face masks and 'scrubs' (protective clothing).

Called 'Let's Get Scrubbing for our Mid Argyll NHS', a small army of volunteer stitchers from Cairndow to Ardfern manufactured enough kit to supply packages beyond Mid Argyll and delivered to

hospitals in Kintyre, Paisley Glasgow - and even reached a care home in Wick. Many local firms helped, including Premier Laundry and MacLeod Construction, with West Coast Motors leading the delivery arrangements.

Balfour Beatty workers on the SSEN Inveraray-Crossaig pylon upgrade scheme were the focus of controversy after complaints were made about them travelling home around the UK when off shift before returning to Mid Argyll and reportedly failing to socially distance when mixing with the community. The company insisted it was abiding by government guidelines, but agreed to set up on-site catering and worker camps.



Robert MacKay of West Coast Motors was behind the spectacular Convoy for Carers.

## May

A new way of paying tribute to the NHS staff, carers and key workers was taken up in Mid Argyll.

The idea of Clap for Carers was to stand at a window, doorstep or balcony at home each Thursday at 8pm and just make a noise - clapping, cheering, banging pots and pans or playing a musical instrument.

It also brought people closer together in a strange time.

When Robert MacKay heard about it, he decided to go a step further to show appreciation.

Employed by West Coast Motors, he commandeered buses and got support from other firms to create an im-

pressive 40-vehicle Convoy for Carers around Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig.

Coronavirus restrictions meant planned street parties could not be held, but tributes were paid across the region to remember the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, which marked the end of the Second World War in Europe.

In a staff survey commissioned by NHS Highland, 68 per cent of respondents said they had experienced bullying and harassment at work. Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership has since been working to improve matters, but the issue rumbles on.

## June

Budding filmmaker Joe Osborn, right, from Carsaig spent lockdown working on a short film, entitled 'Alien Bars and Flying Cars' featuring friends and family around his

home. Joe described it as 'a western space opera'.

Shock and sadness at the sad and sudden passing of Lochgilphead postmaster Findlay Campbell were felt by the community. Though Tarbert Post Office has done

a sterling job with its mobile service, the town still awaits a replacement post office. A global pandemic failed to stop Tarbert Academy and Lochgilphead High School from recognising the achievements of their pupils.



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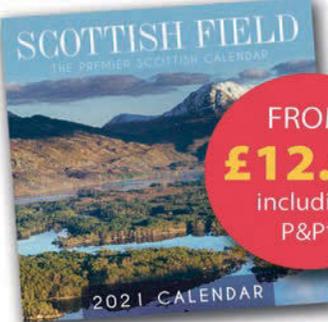
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**Around the markets**

Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd, December 16: sold 33 MV accredited pedigree females at its annual sale. In lamb gimmers: Beltex sold to 1,500gns from Lochend Farm, Denny. Texel sold to 1,000gns (twice) from Lower Reiss Farm, Wick. Millennium Blue sold to 800gns from Muirfield, Cuminstown. In lamb ewes: Suffolk sold to 600gns from Cairness, Fraserburgh. Other leading prices: Beltex: In-lamb gimmers – Lochend Farm, 1,400gns, Muirfield, 1,300gns. Texel: In-lamb gimmers – Lower Reiss Farm, 800gns. Millennium Blue: In-lamb gimmers – Muirfield, 600gns.

Lower Reiss, Texel gimmers: 1,000, 722 (10 sold). Huna, Texel gimmers, 480, 452 (six sold). Wester Moy, Texel gimmers, 450, 433 (four sold). Aviemore, Beltex gimmers, 1,300, 808 (five sold). Aviemore, Mill Blue gimmers, 800, 735 (two sold). Mortons, Beltex gimmers, 1,500, 1,092 (five sold). Cairness, Suffolk ewe, 630, 630 (one sold). Caledonian Marts Ltd, December 15: sold 2,269 prime lambs, ewes and tups at their Christmas show and sale. With all export lambs meeting again a strong trade with heavy lambs again being the hardest to sell. The show was kindly sponsored by A A Oils, Stirling and D McKenzie, Plant Hire and Contractors, Gartocharn. The following were his awards: Overall champion and first prize Beltex went to Mike Simpson, Berrydyke, Braco weighing at 44kg £190 (432p per kg) purchased by R Stewart on behalf of We Hae Meats, Girvan, Ayrshire. Reserve champion and first prize Texels went to Ben Imrie, Hillhead, Torrance going over the scales at 38.3kg £120 (313p per kg) purchased by Robert Alexander, Butchers, Port Glasgow.

# National Farmers Union responds to Holyrood's climate change vision

NFU Scotland has responded positively to many of the elements included in the Scottish Government's updated Climate Change Plan 2018-2032 published last week. The 250-page document includes chapters on land use, land use change, forestry and agriculture. Recommendations in the report will shape Scottish agriculture and land use and include recognition of the support Scotland's farmers and crofters will need as they continue to take action to tackle climate change. NFU Scotland President Andrew McCornick said: 'The Scottish Government's update to its Climate Change



NFUS president Andrew McCornick.

Plan sets out a vision for supporting efficient, high quality food production through the sustainable use of Scotland's natural capital to deliver on

climate and biodiversity goals. That is a vision which NFUS shares and has been outlining consistently for several years. 'There is welcome inclusion of key messages around the importance of agriculture, food and drink to the Scottish economy and the need to avoid off-shoring greenhouse gas emissions. 'NFUS agrees there is a clear need to introduce further measures to allow farmers to invest in new technology as well as promoting the uptake of those for increased productivity and reducing emissions. 'We would encourage the expansion of targeted capital spending, however, accessibility and relevance of the

scheme can be improved. We need fresh options that would see greater engagement from all sectors, in particular arable. We also need to support those who have been 'early adopters' of green technology to continue on that path and advice should form part of the package to ensure those investing in technology make the most of their investment. 'All stakeholders are acutely aware of the challenges ahead, but we remain keen to work in partnership with Scottish Government to develop the many policies outlined in this plan update and promote their delivery to guarantee benefits for the economy, climate and wider environment.'



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  - (v) the risks to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution);

(vi) areas classified or protected under national legislation; Natura 2000 areas designated by Member States pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC,

(b) the results of the Environmental Screening Assessment under section 55A(2) of the 1984 Act and site ecological surveys undertaken in August 2020 which determined that with mitigation measures in place, there will be no significant effects on the environment, and in particular, the Glen Etive and Glen Fyne Special Protection Area and Beinn an Lochain Site of Special Scientific Interest and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park,

(c) the information set out in the Record of Determination dated 9 September 2020, available at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/transport-network/roads/road-orders-and-records-of-determination/#63527>, the project does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment. The main reasons for the conclusion that no Environmental Impact Assessment is required are:

- (a) There will be a minor loss of some habitats which are ubiquitous in the wider area. Additionally, the areas that will be lost have been disturbed by grazing and are species-poor compared to typical examples of these habitats;
- (b) The scheme does not lie within a densely populated area, sites of historical, archaeological or cultural significance or sites designated for their geology or soils;
- (c) The scheme lies wholly within the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park (LLTNP), renowned for its famous landscape. Extensive liaison has been carried out with the LLTNP to ensure that the final design is one that does not compromise visitor experiences to the Rest and Be Thankful viewpoint;
- (d) Culvert works will be undertaken as prescribed in the licence obtained under The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011.

The features of the project which are envisaged to avoid or prevent significant adverse effects on the environment are:

- (a) Potential construction effects on local air quality, ecology, water quality, land use and landscape, and noise and vibration will be minimised through best practice working procedures and implementation of appropriate mitigation;
- (b) Excavation material will be re-used on site where possible;
- (c) Delays to vehicle and non-vehicle road users will be mitigated through appropriate traffic management;
- (d) Works will be commencing prior to the bird breeding season (March to August inclusive).

**S R LEES**

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers  
Transport Scotland, Roads, Buchanan House,  
58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF



## VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

**NEW ISLAY VESSEL**

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL), in partnership with CalMac and Transport Scotland, is holding a virtual community meeting to engage island communities in design and planning for the new vessel to service Islay and Jura.

To participate, please register via Eventbrite at [www.islayvessel.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.islayvessel.eventbrite.co.uk). The meeting will be hosted on Microsoft Teams, which is free to download online.

**Thursday 14 January 2021, 6.30pm – 8.30pm**

The meeting will provide an update on the new vessel feasibility studies, which have been ongoing throughout 2020. Options for vessel capacities will be presented based on the outcomes of the feasibility studies. Attendees will have the opportunity to share their views and comments and ask questions.

Questions or any other queries regarding the project can be emailed to [islayvessel@cmassets.co.uk](mailto:islayvessel@cmassets.co.uk) or write to Jim Anderson at CMAL, Municipal Buildings, Fore Street, Port Glasgow PA14 5EQ.

CMAL | [cmassets.co.uk](http://cmassets.co.uk) | 01475 749920

## PROPERTY

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**Argyll and Bute Council**

**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS**

**Mid Argyll**

Refuse collections due on Friday 25th December will be collected on Monday 28th December.

Refuse collections due on Friday 1st January will be collected on Monday 4th January.

Commercial glass collections due on Friday 25th December will be collected on Sunday 27th December.

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 due on Friday 25th December will be collected on Sunday 27th December.

Refuse collections due on Friday 1st January will be collected on Sunday 3rd January.

Kintyre Recycling collections due on Monday 4th January will be collected on Friday 8th January.

Commercial glass collections due on Sunday 27th Dec/3rd Jan will be collected on Monday 28th Dec/4th Jan.

All other days will be collected as normal.

The Roding recycling and civic amenity site will be closed on 25th/26th December and 1st/2nd January.

Information is also available from the Council website.

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

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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# CLASSIFIEDS



**SEASONS GREETINGS**  
Betty McNaughton would like to wish all her relatives, friends and neighbours and merry Christmas

**JENNY CAMPBELL**  
apologises for not sending Christmas cards this year but would like to wish all friends and family a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*  
Sandy Watson would like to wish friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

**DOUGIE MCARTHUR**  
would like to wish all friends & family a merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*  
to all my relatives, friends and neighbours. From Mary Barbour

*A Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*  
To my family, friends and neighbours Mary & Family, Drumlemble

*Seasons Greetings*  
To all my relatives, friends and neighbours from Flora Brodie

*Isobel and Addie Frater*  
**INVERARAY**  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our friends, relatives and neighbours



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or visit the Signalcell page on Facebook

## Thought for the Week with Marilyn Shedden

It is Christmas and what do I wish for you? I cannot glibly say 'Merry Christmas' because, for many of you, this Christmas will be anything but 'merry'.

It has been one of the toughest years we have encountered in a lifetime. It has been a year that has robbed us of loved ones and has stalked us with fear.

Yet here we are, once again approaching the stable in Bethlehem. We strain to hear the angels' song above the noise of a world in turmoil.

We strain to glimpse the baby amidst the cries of so many babies. We try to find again the hope and the joy of that first Christmas.

And so let me tell you about hope and joy this Christmas.

Let me tell you about the villages in Kintyre that have found that Christmas spirit anew.

Let me tell you about Christmas trees appearing in village greens to cheer people; let me tell you about Santa arriving with his sleigh on top of a tractor adorned with a million fairy lights as children's faces glowed with wonder; let me tell you about an elf who goes around a village giving all that she has to make others happy; let me tell you about windows aglow with hope; let me tell you about people sharing everything.

Let me tell you about Christmas in lockdown in a rural area in Argyll.

There are real angels here, with gifts that have no monetary value, yet are beyond price.

There are angels here who have given of themselves to make others happy.

There are angels here who know that many are hurting and who express their love in action and not in platitudes.

So on this Christmas Day, I wish for you the blessings of the invisible angels.

## ISLE OF BUTE

### Bute honoured in first Pride of Scotland Awards

The people of Bute, led by Angela Callaghan, have been honoured in the inaugural Pride of Scotland Awards.

The awards, backed by the Daily Record, hope to lift the nation's spirits by acknowledging ordinary people who have gone above and beyond for others.

Angela Callaghan and the people of Bute will receive the TSB Community Hero award during a special awards show to be broadcast by STV on Hogmanay at 10.45pm, hosted by Kirsty Gallacher and Elaine C Smith.

At the height of the migrant crisis, Angela and her community threw open their doors and their hearts to families fleeing the war in Syria.

In 2015, 24 Syrian families arrived on the Isle of Bute as part of the UK's pledge to welcome 20,000 people fleeing the war-torn country.

At a time when not everyone in Britain was open to new arrivals, Angela was among those who helped the families get settled and used to their new island life.

She led the island's reception committee and helped to organise donations of everything from shoes and blankets to spices and chickpeas to make the newcomers feel welcome.

She also adapted the food bank she runs on Bute to help the new residents. Several of the young Syrians later helped Angela with her drive at Christmas to hand out gifts and food parcels to other under-privileged families.

Five years on, 17 families remain, putting down roots, including some who have started their own businesses including a hairdresser, Syrian takeaway and bakery.

## TARBERT

### Anonymous donor thanked

Organisers of the drive to raise money to create disabled access and other amenities at Tarbert church have thanked the anonymous donor of a framed John Lowrie Morrison (Jolomo) limited edition, signed print to help the fund.

Perfect for that last minute Christmas gift, the



Some of the items for sale for the church disabled access fund, including artwork by Jolomo and John Leckie.

Jolomo design is also available on mugs, cards, coasters, fridge magnets and small framed prints - all available in the thrift shop in Tarbert or by calling Lisa MacFarlane on 07900 174977. There is also a special church design available, by the late John Leckie.

Lisa said: 'Thank you to John L Morrison and the family of John Leckie for donating the copyright to the church. It is much appreciated.'

She added: 'We are nearly there with the disabled access. Thank you for your support.'

## DUNOON

### Pupils selected for Young Scot education recovery panel

Three Dunoon Grammar School pupils have been selected to join the education recovery youth panel run by Young Scot and Children in Scotland.

The school's junior leaders Ailsa Brown and Kathryn Wilson and head girl Amelia

McFarlane applied to join the panel last month. They were delighted to be chosen, alongside 12 other young people on the panel, to help shape the Scottish Government's Covid-19 education work.

Argyll and Bute Council policy lead for education Councillor Yvonne McNeilly said: 'I have no doubt the girls will work hard to make the voices of their fellow pupils clear and to ensure that education and young people are put at the forefront of the Scottish Government's framework as we move towards Covid recovery.'

'Well done. You are an asset to Dunoon and to Argyll and Bute. I wish you all the very best.'

Head teacher David Mitchell added: 'I am extremely proud of our young people. I know they will make an excellent contribution to the Covid-19 recovery group and share the views of young people from across Argyll and Bute.'

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DEATHS

MACEACHERN

Peacefully at the Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead on December 20, 2020, Isobel MacEachern, nee MacGilp in her 77th year, of Seaview Ormsary, Lochgilphead beloved wife of the late Donald (Donnie) MacEachern, dearly Loved Mother of Donald and David. Much respected mother in law of Lorraine and Val. Adored Nana of Chris, Jenny, Elizabeth and Elaine, and a very proud great-nana A dearly loved and respected friend to many. A private family service was held on December 23, 2020 at South Knapdale Parish Church, followed by interment at Ormsary Cemetery. Sadly Missed.

**THOMPSON** - Peacefully at the Campbeltown Hospital, on December 16, 2020, Annie Logan Muir, in her 94th year, formerly of Meadowpark and Crosshill Avenue, Campbeltown, dearly beloved wife of the late Reid Cochrane Thompson, much loved mum of Alastair, Irene, Ernest, Andrea, Helen and the late Catherine, a loving granny, great-granny, sister, aunty and friend.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**FERGUSON** - The Ferguson family would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for the cards, flowers and messages of sympathy and the support they received following the recent passing of their dad (Bobby). A huge thanks to all the nursing staff and doctors who looked after dad especially in his final weeks in the Sunshine Room. Our sincere thanks to Rev Steve Fulcher for his support and comforting service. A special thanks to Kenneth Blair and staff for their professionalism and making dad's funeral so personal to the family - Dad would have been pleased at leaving Glenholm on his final journey and with so many people paying their respects at the roadside as he passed by was a great comfort to the family.

**MCKERRAL** - Iain, Marie and the family of the late Douglas McKerral would like to thank everyone who sent flowers, cards and other expressions of sympathy after her passing. We are indebted to the work of the team at The Beatson, MacMillan nurse Maggie

Wilkieison, Community nursing team, Carers Direct and Carr Gomm for providing such essential care. A special thanks to Rev. William Crossan for prayers and comforting words, not just on the day of the funeral but throughout the last few months, whenever our paths crossed. A huge thanks is extended to those able to attend Mums service. We were truly overwhelmed by the number of relatives, friends and neighbours who turned out to see Mum on her last journey around Campbeltown. We are so grateful to Kenny Blair and his team for their compassionate and professional service and The Argyll Hotel for an excellent purvey.

**ROBERTSON** - In loving memory of Margaret Robertson. Words cannot express the feelings in our hearts. Thank you for being with us during this difficult time. Your thoughts, generosity, kindness and words of sympathy are greatly appreciated. Love Ian, wee Margaret and family.

**SLOSS** - Eileen Caroline and Tam would like to thank family and friends for all their kind expressions of sympathy following the sad death of Willie to all who paid their respects along the route and all who attended the crematorium. Thanks also to T A Blair for their kind caring and professional services

**SUTHERLAND** - Sheena and Ian, Cathie and family wish to thank all neighbours, family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and flowers received following Charlie's passing. It was very touching to see so many people lining the street. Sincere thanks to the doctors, district nurses and staff at Tarbert Medical Practice and Glenarray Ward, to Rev. Lyn Peden for a very comforting service at Cardross and to Stan Lupton, Funeral Directors for their kind and caring professional services.

**WILSON** - The family of the late Alexander Aitken Wilson would like to thank all the relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, messages and phone calls of condolence received following the sad loss of Aitken. Sincere

thanks to Rev William Crossan for a comforting and befitting service at the church and graveside. To Kenneth Blair and staff at T.A. Blair Funeral Directors for their kindness, compassion and professionalism throughout. To the District Nurses for their care and support, and to the Doctors and Nurses at Campbeltown Hospital who attended to Aitken. Thanks also to the Ardshiel Hotel for the lovely tea, and to all who turned out to pay their respects.

IN MEMORIAM

**CHISHOLM** - In loving memory of Johnny, who died December 28, 2011. Forever in our thoughts. - Netta and family at home and abroad.

**FERGUSON** - Treasured memories of Charles Ferguson passed away December 27, 2015. Those we love don't go away They walk beside us every day Unseen, unheard but always near So loved, so missed, so very dear. - Dadie.

**FERGUSON** - Always remembering our wonderful Dad, Father-in-law and Papa, Charles. Our world changed forever on December 27, 2015. Missed beyond words. - Charles, Fiona, Andrew, Lorna, Cameron, Ewan, Holly & Anna

**MACCALLUM** - Treasured memories of Neil, who died January 1, 2018. "Always in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts." - Love Betty and family.

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

**MCLEAN** - In loving memory of Betty, passed away December 30, 2011. Dearly beloved wife, mum and granny. Loved and remembered always. - Aileen and all the family.

**SELFRIDGE** - In loving memory of my husband Fred, taken from us on December 26, 2013. Gone but not forgotten Think of you everyday. - Myra xx

CHURCH NOTICES

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2 verse 11  
**Our building will be closed for the next three weeks BUT you are welcome to join ouronline Praise and Worship Zoom Service on Sunday, 27th December at 11am**  
To join us online send you email address to office@springbankchurch.org.uk for an invitation to Sunday's Zoom meeting  
May you have a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas as we celebrate Our Saviour Jesus' birth  
www.springbankchurch.org.uk  
https://www.facebook.com/springbankchurch  
Contact phone number 01586 551237 - Church Secretary

ST KIERAN RC CHURCH

St. John Street, Campbeltown 01586 552160

**Holy Mass 4th Sunday of Advent: 10.00 am**  
**Holy Mass Christmas Eve, 8.00pm**  
**Holy Mass, Christmas Day, 10.00am**  
Please book a place as numbers have to be restricted due to COVID-19 guidelines: 01586 552160; campbeltown@rcdai.org.uk (SC002876)

OGŁOSZENIE KOŚCIOŁA KATOLICKIEGO:

Kościół św Kieran, St John Street  
Msza święta 4 niedziela Adwentu: 10.00  
Msza Wigilia Bożego Narodzenia, godz. 20.00  
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Prosimy o zarezerwuj miejsca, ponieważ numery muszą być ograniczone ze względu na wytyczne COVID-19: 01586 552160; campbeltown@rcdai.org.uk SC002876

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



**South Kintyre Team Ministry**  
**Sunday morning Worship**  
10.00 am Highland Church Campbeltown SC002493  
10.00am Saddell and Carradale Church SC002609  
11.30 am Southend Church SC005484  
COVID 19 Precautions apply  
Ministers  
Revd Steve Fulcher  
Revd Chris Fulcher  
01586830504  
www.kintyreparishes.org.uk

SALVATION ARMY



**Christmas Day**  
**Friday 25th December 2020**  
**10.00 a.m. Christmas Celebration**  
**Sunday 27th December**  
**No Meeting**  
**Link to Carol Service on Facebook**  
**Covid 19 measures in place**

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

CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH



**Sunday 27th December**  
11.15am Worship Service  
Rev Rodger Crooks  
4.00pm Sunday School (by Zoom)  
7.30pm Youth Group (by Zoom)  
**Friday 1st January**  
11am New Year's Day Service  
Covid-19 guidelines apply  
All welcome  
www.campbeltownfree-church.co.uk  
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH



**Christmas Day Service 10.30 am**  
All welcome  
**No service on Sunday 27th December.**  
We meet at the Kirk Street Hall  
Pastor Mark Jasper  
01586 554 092  
pastor@campbeltown-communitychurch.co.uk  
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**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**in Mid-Argyll & Arran**  
Christ Church, Lochgilphead  
Sunday 11am  
Holy Eucharist  
SCO 13787  
Fr Simon Mackenzie  
01546 602315

ST MARGARET'S RC CHURCH

**Lochgilphead**  
**Holy Mass: Sunday 10am**  
**All Saints, Inveraray**  
**Holy Mass: Sunday 12.30pm**  
Booking essential due to restricted capacity - Email or telephone to book  
Weekday Mass details available on website or by email/telephone  
All Masses at St Margaret's are Live  
Streamed via our YouTube channel. Link available at our website: www.lochgilpheadcatholic.com and Facebook Page.  
Fr. Ronald Campbell  
01546 602380  
lochgilphead@rcdai.org.uk (SC002876)

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

charity number SC001002  
Although our buildings are closed we are still active. Our website is full of information & links to keep you informed & provide opportunities for worship on-line  
Please look it up & keep in touch  
www.northknapdale.org

GLASSARY, KILMARTIN AND FORD PARISH CHURCH

Barr Mhor, Kilmartin  
**Sunday 27th December**  
Service at 10am  
Rev Robert MacLeod  
A very warm welcome awaits  
Please wear face covering  
**Numbers restricted.**  
**Please phone Mrs M Yuill 01546 510337 to book**

LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity Number SC 11686  
**Wishing you all a very MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
From  
**Lorne and Lowland Church**  
Rev W Crossan

SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

**Sunday 27th December**  
Skipness Service 10.00am  
- Rev Lyn Peden  
Tarbert service - 11.30am - Rev Lyn Peden  
Tarbert Charity No: SC002622  
Skipness - Charity No: SC004280  
01880 820158

ST KIARAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ARGYLL STREET, CAMPBELTOWN.

Holy Communion  
1045 am Christmas Day  
Celebrant: Rev Canon Keith Pagan  
All welcome but seats must be reserved beforehand on 07771926328

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# Tayvallich electrified by Bothy's e-bike demo day

Despite wet weather, more than 20 people try out the new bicycles

The dark silhouette of an otter slipped across the road as Ardrishaig Bothy volunteers arrived in a sunny Tayvallich on the banks of Loch Sween, sure signs of a good day ahead.

The Ardrishaig Bothy team brought their collection of e-bikes so that residents of the village could try out the future of sustainable travel.

Arriving like a travelling circus on December 19 were five volunteers; one Cycling UK Scotland employee, Alec Ohnstad, and ACT Now (Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust) project officer Jamie Joyce; along with nine e-bikes and a new e-cargo bike.

The Bothy volunteers took individuals and family bubbles

on socially distanced e-bike try-outs while Jamie and Alec chatted to people about features and costs of the e-bikes.

Next to the loch, under the eaves of the Tayvallich shop, two volunteers, Duncan and Sean, ran a Dr Bike session, offering maintenance advice while making minor adjustments to residents' bikes.

Rain and wind followed the sparkling sunshine of the morning, but no-one seemed bothered. Half time was punctuated by a fine curry created by Nicholas Mes, new owner of the Tayvallich shop, who had promoted and hosted the event.

The Ardrishaig Bothy is a collaborative project with Scottish Canals and Cycling

UK aimed at working with organisations to develop opportunities for walking and cycling in Mid Argyll. The project is funded by Smarter Choices, Smarter Places.

'The day was a big hit despite the weather,' said Alec Ohnstad of the Bothy. 'It was encouraging to see so many people experiencing the new technology and thinking about how they might travel in the future. If any other communities are interested in a similar day please contact the Bothy.'

By the end of a highly successful day, 23 people had ridden e-bikes and nine cycles had visited the Dr Bike session.

All these services were provided free of charge by the Ardrishaig Bothy, Cycling UK Scotland and the amazing volunteers, Nicholas Mes of the Tayvallich shop and Jamie Joyce. For further information regarding free e-bike loans contact Alec Ohnstad by email [alec.ohnstad@cyclinguk.org](mailto:alec.ohnstad@cyclinguk.org) or call 07887 567578.

Cycling UK, the national cycling charity, inspires and helps people to cycle and keep cycling, whatever kind they do or would like to do.

Cycling is more than useful transport; it makes you feel good, gives you a sense of freedom and creates a better environment for everyone.



Above: Cycling enthusiasts trying out e-bikes at Tayvallich.



Left: Jamie Joyce from Act Now chats to participants.



Dr Bike volunteer Duncan McDonald.

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