

*Merry Christmas* to all our readers and advertisers

# Wee Toon Winter Walk lights up unusual Christmas year

by Hannah O'Hanlon  
editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk

An initiative encouraging people to safely travel around Campbeltown to see the best festively decorated homes has added some sparkle to a different kind of Christmas.

The Wee Toon Winter Walk has shone a spotlight on the area's incredible community spirit which has endured throughout the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, demonstrating that, whatever the circumstances, the people of Kintyre will find a way to come together in spirit, even if they are forced to remain physically apart.

Mandy Robertson, the woman behind the initiative, was inspired by the HalloWee Toon Witch Walk, a similar scheme set up by her nieces Shannon Brodie and Heather Mauchline at Hallowe'en. Mandy explained: 'Due to Covid, they knew young people wouldn't be able to participate in the usual 'trick or treat' so they

## 'The homes that have participated are amazing'

wanted to create something they could still be excited about.

'The idea was for people to walk round with family members or friends – while following guidance regarding socially distancing – to look at the decorations. There were lots of amazing houses decorated – far more than usual.'

Mandy described the feedback from the Hallowe'en event as 'fantastic', with many requests for a Christmas-themed walk.

As her nieces were both too busy to organise this themselves – Shannon sitting university examinations in Glasgow and Heather running her online craft business – Mandy decided to take the reins.

'My other niece, Anna Brodie, volunteers with me

at The Hub so we decided we would take this on so everyone could still participate,' Mandy said. 'There has been a fantastic response once again. We have 37 homes and businesses included on the map with an activity sheet on the reverse. The homes that have participated are amazing. I think there is an element of friendly neighbourhood competition too!

'Christmas is such a special time so we wanted to give people another chance to get together while being out and about, making it a special event instead of just going a run round in the car.

'Looking at the light shows outside people's homes was something I always did when my boys were small. I don't know who enjoyed it more – them or me.'

Maps showing the participating homes are available from The Kintyre Larder and Keeping It Local, with an online version available from the Wee Toon Winter Walk Facebook page.



## Southend elves deliver festive goodies

Southend Primary School pupils transformed into elves as they prepared goodie bags for members of the Tufty Club. The pupils are missing the Tufty Club ladies from Southend Church who had, until the Covid-19 pandemic, been going into the school once a month for three years to support children's learning through project work. They have helped children construct rainforests out of junk, read stories, created written characters and shared their own school experiences. The children said: 'We hope you enjoy our little goodie bags. Happy Christmas from the elves at Southend Primary.'

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## Speeding drivers charged

A motorist was stopped on the A83 at Campbeltown and charged with exceeding the speed limit at about 10.45pm on Friday December 18. The driver was a 39-year-old man.

At about 5.50pm on Saturday December 19, on the A83 at Bellochantuy, a 31-year-old male motorist was stopped and charged with exceeding the speed limit.

Later the same evening, at 11.15pm, on the A83 at Campbeltown, another motorist was stopped and charged with exceeding the speed limit. The driver was a 20-year-old male.

**Police are appealing for witnesses or anyone with information on any incident to phone 101 or anonymously call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.**

# Food bank thanks for generous donations

by Hannah O'Hanlon  
editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk

The chairwoman of Kintyre Food Bank has spoken of the charity's gratitude following many 'very generous' donations of essential items in the run-up to Christmas.

Mary Anne Stewart thanked everyone who donated in recent weeks, too numerous to name individually, on behalf of the food bank committee and its clients. Donations included one from Southend Primary School, which contributed items as part of its silver Rights Respecting Schools project, and one from Loganair, the airline which services the Campbeltown to Glasgow route. It used cash saved on in-flight catering due to Covid-19 pandemic safety restrictions to support people in several of its destination communities, delivering packages to food banks on Islay, Uist, Barra, Tiree, Stornoway, Orkney and Shetland, as well as in Campbeltown.



Southend Primary School pupils with their box for Kintyre Food Bank.

At the request of the various charities, a selection of toiletries – including shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo and hand soap – were flown in last Monday, December 14. The quantities were enough for 75 people at each location.

Loganair chief executive Jonathan Hinkles said: 'Our usual in-flight catering had been cancelled due to Covid-19

and we tried to think what use we could make of the money saved to benefit our heartland communities at Christmas.

'That was when our chief

operations officer Maurice Boyle came up with the idea of supporting food banks closest to our destinations.

'We asked the various food bank charities what they needed most at this time of year. The consensus was that toiletries would be welcome rather than edibles, as they tended to be overlooked by donors, and we were pleased to help these very worthy causes.'

Kintyre Food Bank, based at Unit 3, Kintyre Industrial Estate, Albyn Road, usually operates a referral scheme but during the Covid-19 pandemic, none is needed. Its regular opening hours are from 10.30am to 11.30am on Tuesdays and Fridays but it will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

## Provost's 'stay safe' festive message

Argyll and Bute Council's Provost, Councillor David Kinniburgh, has spoken of the area's enduring community spirit throughout a year which brought 'significant challenges'.

He said: 'We enter this festive season having experienced a year like no other. The year has brought significant challenges to the people of Argyll and Bute and many have been affected by this pandemic with the loss of loved ones and my thoughts and wishes are with them at this special time of year.

'Community spirit makes Argyll and Bute a special place. That spirit has always been there and, in times of crisis, communities come together. There have been so many heartening stories of how people have come together to help friends, neighbours and even strangers. In unprecedented times, simple acts of kindness shine through and will hopefully continue. I thank each and every one of you for all your help and hard work in keeping the community spirit alive.

'As we move into a new year, there are signs of hope and recovery for our area. Regeneration of our towns continues to attract new businesses and residents and we hope to welcome back visitors, so vital to our economy. And longer term, our Rural Growth



Argyll and Bute Council Provost David Kinniburgh.

Deal will bring significant investment to develop economic success for Argyll and Bute.

'We will remember this year as the year where lives changed dramatically overnight. We need to embrace 2021 with new energy and hope for our health, our economy and that famous Argyll and Bute community spirit. Having made an incredible effort to stay safe this year, it is important to continue to follow national Covid guidance over the festive season. With the first vaccinations against Covid being administered, this could be a big step towards life as near normal again in the coming year. In the meantime, we need to continue to work together to help save lives and jobs.

'I would like to send everyone my best wishes for the festive season and the New Year and however you are celebrating, please stay safe.'

## Christmas Covid restrictions tightened

Planned easing of festive restrictions will now be limited to Christmas Day only.

And from Boxing Day, all of Scotland will have level four restrictions applied for at least three weeks, including the closure of non-essential retail and hospitality. Exceptions will be Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles which will be level three.

Speaking at a special briefing on Saturday afternoon, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said restrictions had to be tightened to stop the spread of a new highly contagious strain of Covid-19.

A maximum of eight people from three households can still meet indoors on Christmas Day but official advice is to keep numbers as low as possible. Instead, people should celebrate the festive period at home in their own household and meet with others outdoors – some specific exemptions will apply.

Travel between Scotland and the rest of the UK will not be legal but people can travel within Scotland on December 25.

Also from Boxing Day, in line with existing law, travel across local authority boundaries will not be allowed unless for essential work, care and medical appointments.

The first minister set out new plans for the return of schools in the new year. Teachers will return to school as planned, as will children of key workers and the most vulnerable children. The majority of pupils' holidays will be extended until January 11 and learning will then begin online until at least January 18. All these measures will be kept under regular review.

The first people in Argyll and Bute to receive Covid-19 vaccinations were a number of staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban. Liz Higgins, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership's lead nurse, described it as 'good news' for the district.

She added that the vaccination programme – 'a huge undertaking' – would roll into the new year and urged continued caution.

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## 'Catastrophe' fears for Scotland's seafood sector as border closed

Scotland's rural seafood sector could face a 'catastrophe' this Christmas because of France's border closure with the UK.

Chaos in Kent at the weekend saw miles of tailbacks build up on roads to the Port of Dover and Eurotunnel.

It followed the UK Government announcement on Saturday of a tier four lockdown for London and the south east of England.

The Scottish Seafood Association (SSA) warned on Monday that tonnes of fresh exports could fail to reach European distribution centres in time for Christmas.

The SSA described this week as 'the most important' in the calendar with massive consignments of freshly-harvested Scottish delicacies bound for Europe's dining tables.

French authorities banned traffic from coming in or going out.

Jimmy Buchan, chief executive of the SSA, has worked as a trawlerman and skipper in a career spanning more than



The border closure could have serious implications for Scotland's rural seafood sector.

40 years. He said that the log jam had serious implications for many Scottish seafood companies, including those on the west coast and the Northern Isles.

Mr Buchan said: 'We've all heard the expression 'a perfect storm'. Well this is a storm within a storm within a storm.'

'We've had Brexit, Covid

and now this. Every hour is critical to our supply chain and we have it sitting on a motorway with nowhere to go.

'Every day that passes devalues the product to the point it becomes unrecoverable,' said Mr Buchan.

He put the cost at £5 million a day with 'live' produce from langoustines to lobster and crab having a certain shelf life.

The delays also impact drivers transporting frozen produce, along with scallops, squid and processed fish.

With exports bound for countries including Spain, Italy and Belgium, as well as France, many drivers will not make the journey in time with millions of pounds of stock having to be written off, he said.

The SSA has called for the UK Government to work with the French authorities to at least allow lorries containing 'perishable' items through. It also wants to see the UK Treasury provide a compensation scheme.

## Road safety report for two town areas

by Hannah O'Hanlon  
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A report on measures which could enhance road safety in two Campbeltown housing schemes will be discussed at a meeting of Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands (MAKI) Area Committee in March 2021, thanks to a motion put forward by a South Kintyre councillor.

Submitted as a matter of urgency by Councillor Donald Kelly at a meeting earlier this month, it asked members to agree to instruct Department of Development and Infrastructure officers to prepare a report to allow members to discuss possible measures to improve road safety in the Meadows and Davaar Avenue.

Councillor Rory Colville, chairman of the committee, said he considered the matter to be 'urgent' and, after discussions, committee members unanimously agreed the motion. Councillor Kelly told



Councillor Donald Kelly.

50\_c52donaldkelly01

the Courier: 'I am pleased the area committee supported my motion and hopefully this will be a starting point which will eventually lead to measures being put in place which will make the road network around the housing schemes safer for everyone.'

During councillors' question time at the same meeting, Councillor Kelly also called for a survey be carried out in Campbeltown's main streets

regarding those with wheelchairs and prams being able to use pavements. It was noted that the double-lip pavement on Longrow South had reportedly caused a number of elderly people to trip.

Councillor Colville said there were some issues with people parking beside disabled crossing areas, noting that the legislation around enforcement was changing. He said he would request that a survey be carried out across the MAKI area regarding pavement access for the disabled.

'Hopefully this survey will be carried out in the not-too-distant future,' Councillor Kelly said. 'It is vital, in my opinion, that we take every opportunity to improve pedestrian safety and disabled access throughout the town centre. The double pavement on Longrow South has been problematic for years and has been the source of numerous accidents and requires to be removed.'



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# Children celebrate Nativities



Children at Dalintober Early Learning Centre got into the festive spirit at their Christmas party.



Glenbarr Primary School's Nativity was recorded so parents and carers could watch it.

by Hannah O'Hanlon  
editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk

With schools unable to welcome friends, family and members of the community to watch their Nativities, plays, shows and concerts this year, many shared their productions online instead.

Southend Primary School's Nativity, which is available to view on the school's Facebook page, was titled Children Around the World.

The production taught

pupils many new skills, including how to create special effects, and there was much laughter as they flew across the world finding out how children in different countries celebrate Christmas.

Glenbarr Primary School's pupils also hosted a virtual Nativity which featured references to the pandemic which prevented friends and family from being able to watch the production.

Instead, it was filmed and later shared with parents and

carers. In many schools and early learning centres, the festivities also included parties, some of which Santa Claus attended.

The man in red also attended many community events.

Last Saturday, he visited Glenbarr, touring through the village on a sleigh towed by a tractor covered in fairy lights in place of his reindeer, which were resting before Christmas Eve.

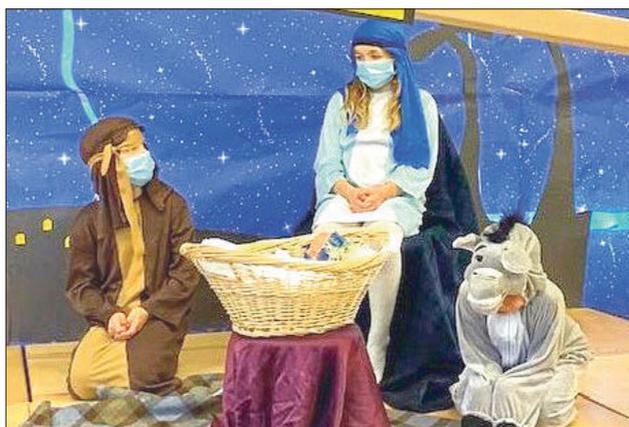
He was joined by an elf who helped him give sweets to the

many children who turned out to see him.

He then travelled over to Islay to deliver presents and sweets to children with the help of more elves, island firefighters, volunteers and staff from Bruichladdich Distillery.

Councillor Alastair Redman, who saw Santa during his visit to Islay, said: 'A huge thanks to everyone involved.'

'Merry Christmas and a happy new year to everyone.'



There were references to the pandemic, including signs reading: 'Don't forget your mask!' and 'Remember to socially distance!' at Glenbarr's Nativity.



Right: Staff and pupils at Dalintober Early Learning Centre enjoyed their Christmas party.

## Blaze's thoughtful Christmas gesture

A thoughtful Kintyre child has been gifting small tokens to other children in the run-up to Christmas.

Blaze Lee Mathieson, aged seven, handed out festive goodies, including reindeer food, keyrings and candy canes, to youngsters from his mum Kim's hairdressers, Snips on Longrow, a few weeks ago.

It's not the first time Blaze, who is a pupil at Drumlembie Primary School, has shown his generosity.

He hid more than 100 keyrings around Campbeltown for children to find during the initial lockdown and handed out toys at Hallowe'en.

Kim told the Courier: 'He loves giving out presents to cheer up all the other children. It's as much fun for him as it is for the kids getting them.'



Blaze Lee Mathieson has been getting in to the festive spirit by handing out goodies to other youngsters.

'He loved doing the keyring hunt during lockdown so much so that he wanted to keep doing special occasions.'

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# and festivities



Santa and his elf give out sweets in Glenbarr.



Santa's sleigh was towed by a tractor decorated with fairy lights.



Islay firefighters helped Santa deliver presents on the island.



Right: Southend Primary School's Nativity took the children on a journey around the world.



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# Picture House transformed into BBC's Cinema Gadelica

by Hannah O'Hanlon  
editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk

Campbeltown's historic art nouveau cinema provided the perfect setting for a documentary about Scotland's film locations.

With the help of a computer graphic, film-makers behind the BBC ALBA show Cinema Gadelica turned Campbeltown Picture House into its own theatre.

Cinema Gadelica, which aired at 9pm last night (Thursday December 24) but is available on the BBC iPlayer for 30 days afterwards, uncovers some surprising facts about films that have been made in the stunning scenery of the Scottish Highlands and islands over the years.

The programme reveals that the famous chase scene in the 1963 James Bond film From Russia With Love was filmed in Argyll on Craignish Loch to represent the coast of Turkey

and takes viewers to James Bond's birthplace in Glencoe, as revealed in Skyfall.

It is also revealed Stanley Kubrick used the barren landscape around Loch na h-Airigh on the east coast of Harris to represent the surface of Jupiter in his science fiction film 2001: A Space Odyssey.

Filmed from an aircraft, Kubrick used coloured lenses and optical distortion to achieve this otherworldly effect and these are believed to have been the only scenes filmed outside the studio.

To rebrand Campbeltown's cinema, the documentary-makers coned off the front of the building on the day of filming to get a clear shot without parked cars. As the light fell, they removed the cones and shot the sequences they needed, adding the computer-generated 'neon' Cinema Gadelica sign when the show was edited.

Presenter Patsi Mackenzie



A computer-generated sign helped transform Campbeltown Picture House into 'Cinema Gadelica'.

said: 'Scotland has some amazing filming locations that have been enjoyed by audiences around the world. It can be portrayed as kitsch, comic, romantic, violent, fantastical,

gritty, historic or contemporary and its characters can be ordinary, terrifying or inspiring.

'Scotland can be gloriously Scottish or it can be the coast of Turkey, the wilderness of Nova Scotia or even the surface of Jupiter.

'With such a reputation, we can be sure film-makers will continue to come to Scotland to use our spectacular landscape in telling their stories.'

The programme also tells how Gene Kelly came to Scotland to find a location for the famous musical film Brigadoon, but it was too wet so they decided to film on a Hollywood sound stage instead.

Viewers will be transported

to Glenfinnan Viaduct in Inverness-shire. Made famous worldwide by the Harry Potter films, the viaduct attracts thousands of tourists.

They will also learn that an archaeologist discovered a star map beneath the spectacular pinnacle of the Old Man of Storr on the Isle of Skye which starts the mission to discover the origins of humankind in Ridley Scott's 2012 film Prometheus.

Michelle Pfeiffer is filmed at the Quiraing and the Fairy Pools in Skye in Stardust, Mel Gibson's Braveheart rebellion was filmed in Glen Nevis near Fort William and scenes in Rob Roy were filmed in Glencoe with the Three Sisters

mountains often in the background. The programme also reveals Eilean Donan Castle was the headquarters of the warlike Clan MacLeod in the cult fantasy Highlander. It also featured in romantic comedy Made of Honour, while the Highland Games in that movie were filmed at Dunvegan Castle on Skye.

The opening battle scene in the film Highlander was filmed at Buachaille Etive Mòr and Buachaille Etive Beag at the entrance of Glencoe and the 1953 film The Kidnappers, set in a Scots colony in Cape Breton, was filmed in Glen Affric.

The classic Scottish comedy The Maggie introduced the Crinan Canal and Islay's Bowmore and Port Askaig to international cinema audiences.

Other film locations featured include Mull in the 1945 classic novel I Know Where I'm Going and When Eight Bells Toll and Iona in art house film Iona which gave Sorcha Groundsell her first major acting role.

Entrapment, featuring Catherine Zeta Jones and Sean Connery, was filmed at Duart Castle on Mull and a scene for the popular family classic Ring of Bright Water was filmed a few miles outside Oban; the house where Bill Travers' character lived is nearby.

Cinema Gadelica was produced by Caledonia TV for BBC ALBA and is available now on BBC iPlayer.

## Lockdown restrictions force town cinema's closure until January

Following four months of popular post-lockdown weekend screenings, Campbeltown Picture House will be forced to close, on a temporary basis, to meet the requirements of the government's tier four Covid-19 restrictions.

The cinema's Christmas screening programme finished yesterday, Christmas Eve, and the staff of three will be furloughed as of tomorrow, Boxing Day.

A cinema spokesperson said: 'It is anticipated that the restrictions will last approximately three weeks and it is therefore hoped the cinema will re-open once again by

the end of January 2021. This will, of course, depend on the nationwide success in controlling the virus over the intervening period.'

The previously scheduled programme of '30 Films To See Before You Are 30' will now be shown when the cinema re-opens.

The spokesperson added: 'Campbeltown has been fortunate in that its beloved community cinema has been one of only relatively few cinemas in Scotland and the UK to have been sufficiently supported financially to be able to open to the public during the pandemic. This could not have been achieved

without very generous support provided through grants and other funding schemes by the UK and Scottish governments, Heritage Lottery Fund, British Film Institute, Creative Scotland, Corra Foundation, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Argyll and Bute Council.

'Support from the community has also considerably eased the financial burden of meeting the day-to-day running costs which continue whether the cinema is shut down or not.

'Acknowledgement of the support given is displayed on the funding reel in the cinema's café area.'

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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.

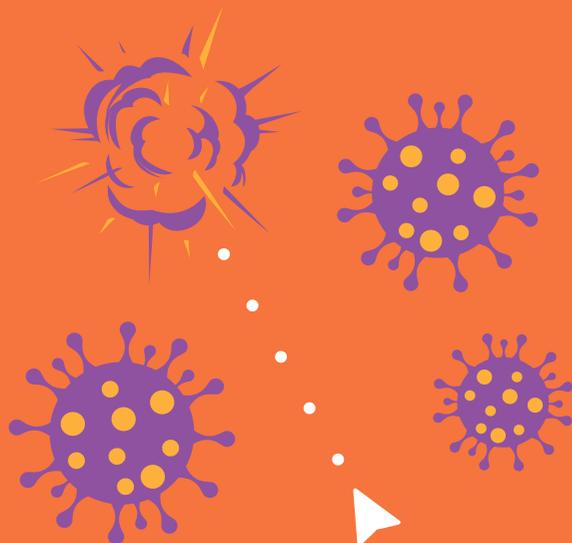
He welcomed the news of the vaccine saying: "The best that most

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

Learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine.

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

All together >

## Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas

Campbeltown always manages to find innovative ways to mark special occasions, even if it's not in the traditional way.

This year has been challenging in so many ways for so many people, but one thing it has shown us is an unwavering sense of community spirit.

Since the initial outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in March, when an army of volunteers mobilised to ensure that every citizen of Kintyre was looked after, people have shown unbelievable dedication to their community.

This year must have been one of the toughest years in living memory for most people.

With all the 21st-century advances in medicine and technology, could we ever have imagined we would be struck down for so long by a virus like this?

Thanks to the vaccine, we can live in hope things will change for the better in 2021.

Kintyre's remoteness and proximity to beaches and hills has had its obvious benefits in recent months, but it is the sense of community which has been the biggest comfort for many.

I have never felt more thankful to live in a small, tight-knit community than during this year and have never been prouder to call Campbeltown my hometown.

However you are planning to spend this festive season, please stay safe and try to enjoy it as much as you can.

## Last minute gift to connect people in Argyll

As we approach the end of a year that has been unlike any other, I'm sure some of your readers, like myself, will be thinking of those we hold dear who are unable to join the family Christmas meal this year.

I'd like to suggest a simple, last-minute gift that will help connect people in Argyll and Bute with their loved ones and feed hungry children around the world.

Mary's Meals, a charity reaching more than 1.6 million children every day in some of the world's poorest countries, is hosting a virtual Christmas dinner. For just £15.90 – enough to feed a child every day for an entire school year – readers can set a place at our table for their friends and family. Their name will appear online and we'll provide a digital placemat to pass on as a present.

This year, your gifts will go twice as far, with each place set now feeding two children with Mary's Meals for a school year.

Give until January 31 and public donations will be doubled by the UK Government, up to £2 million, meaning we can reach even more hungry children in Liberia with life-changing school meals.

**Daniel Adams, executive director, Mary's Meals UK.**

## Festive support for care leavers on their own

It can be frightening and lonely for young people when they leave the care system. Many may be living on their own for the first time and often will not have a network of friends and family around to offer them support. Christmas

can be a particularly difficult and isolating time for care leavers as they find themselves having to spend the festive season on their own, especially this year when Covid-19 restrictions mean it will be difficult to go out to socialise and the usual large-scale Christmas dinners for care leavers will not be taking place.

However, the charity Family Action runs Listening Works, a free virtual helpline specifically for young care leavers aged 18 to 27 years across the UK.

We are here all evening, every evening 6pm to midnight and even over the festive period, December 24 to January 2, we are available from 3pm to 6pm.

So, whether you've got something on your mind or you just fancy a friendly chat, we're here for you when many other services are not.

Call us on 0808 802 0222, text us on 07860 065 169 or web chat with us via our website at [www.family-action.org.uk/listening-works](http://www.family-action.org.uk/listening-works) – whatever kind of listening works for you, we are here.

Our trained volunteers can offer you someone to talk to – a listening ear, a friendly voice and a chance to talk openly about whatever's on your mind.

We also offer signposting to useful resources if any specific issues come up and information about other support out there and how to get it.

So if you are a care leaver, or know a care leaver who might benefit, please remember Listening Works is here for you and not just for Christmas. Please get in touch.

**David Holmes CBE, chief executive, Family Action.**

## Landmark moment for child safety online with new Bill

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, online grooming crimes in Scotland were more than 30

per cent higher when children were not at school compared with the same months last year.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) has been calling for legislation to protect children from grooming, abuse and harmful content online, since 2017. After years of the charity campaigning, on December 15, the UK Government announced the framework for a future Online Harms Bill that has the potential to provide much greater protection for children when they use the internet.

This is a landmark moment – a major step towards legislation that can make an enforceable legal duty of care on tech companies a reality. For too long children have been exposed to disgraceful abuse and harm online.

Social media companies will have a duty to protect young users from child abuse and harmful content online and face fines of up to £18 million or 10 per cent of their global turnover if they fail.

But that doesn't mean the work we do stops. Child protection and children's voices must remain front and centre of regulatory requirements. We have set out six tests for robust regulation, including action to tackle online sexual abuse and harmful content and a regulator with the power to investigate and hold tech firms to account with criminal and financial sanctions.

Failing to pass any of the six tests will mean future generations of children will pay with serious avoidable harm and sexual abuse.

We will be closely scrutinising the proposals against those tests. Legislation must ensure Ofcom has the power and resources to enforce the duty of care and be able to identify and take appropriate action against tech firms that fail. For more information, search 'NSPCC six tests'.

**Joanna Barrett, policy and public affairs manager, NSPCC Scotland.**

## 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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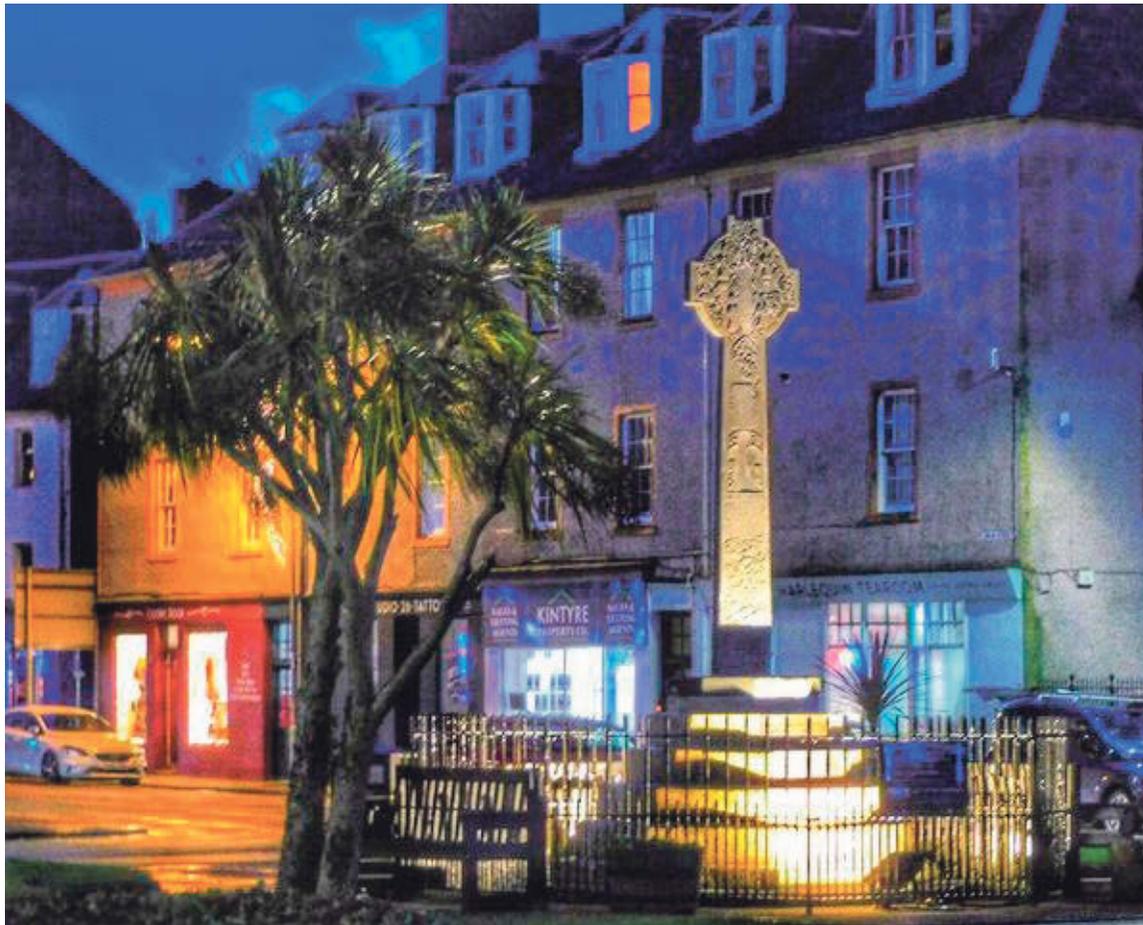
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## PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



A Mid Argyll woman with a passion for photography submitted this photograph of Campbeltown's recently restored 14th-century cross illuminated at night. Aileen Gillies, who has so far raised £4,285 for the Macmillan suite at Mid Argyll Hospital in Lochgilphead through the sale of two calendars featuring her photographs, took this photograph during a recent visit to Campbeltown. If you have a photograph you would like to share, please email it to [editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk](mailto:editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk) or send it to us via the Courier's Facebook page.

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# FROM OUR FILES

## TEN YEARS AGO

Friday December 24 2010

### Oh so very close

The community buyout of Machrihanish airbase is at the mercy of the Scottish Government after the ballot failed to reach the necessary 50 per cent mark.

Machrihanish Airbase Community Company hopes the worst winter in two decades and the resulting postal backlog will mitigate in its favour.

The postal ballot was called after minor errors in the summer vote, which was overwhelmingly in favour.

But on Friday night at the Burnet Building, under the watchful eyes of councillors Donald Kelly, Rory Colville and Alan Reid MP with honorary sheriff Irene O'Neill acting as returning officer, the vote failed.

Fifty per cent of the papers, 2,909, had to be returned but only 2,789 came back.

The vote was 2,642 in favour, 144 against and three papers declared spoiled. The vote showed 94.3 per cent were in favour and only 5.17 against.

Ian Wardrop, MACC chairman, said: 'This has got to go before the minister and Scottish Government - the weather has been exceptional; there are mitigating circumstances.'

On Monday, 244 ballot papers arrived in the post. After watching the count, Alan Reid MP said: 'In view of the huge majority in favour of the buyout, I hope the minister will use her discretion to approve the bid, even though the turnout was just under the 50 per cent required.'



Left: Counting votes after the Machrihanish airbase buyout ballot in 2010.

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Friday December 22 1995

### Flu bug sweeps Argyll

Health chiefs say that the flu bug sweeping

Argyll is not an epidemic. GPs throughout Argyll are reporting a continual rise in flu-like illnesses.

But a spokesman for Argyll and Bute NHS Trust said: 'To date, we have been fortunate that it would not appear to be an epidemic.'

Typical symptoms of influenza include fever, headaches, aches and pains, running nose, a sore throat and coughs.

Sufferers can also feel weak and sweat during exertion.

According to Argyll and Clyde Health Board's consultant in public health medicine, Dr David Sloan, most people with the flu do not need to see the doctor.

He said: 'For most people, a dose of the flu is best treated by retiring to bed, taking something for aches and pains and waiting until it passes in four to seven days, usually.'

But he added that people who are severely affected or who may get complications should see a doctor sooner rather than later.

Horlicks, former chairman of the hot drink firm; Jura, whose landlord is Mr Frank Riley-Smith, a Yorkshire brewer; and Colonsay, which belongs to Lord Strathcona.

Each island has a small hotel with a maximum of 40 beds between them. Lord Strathcona has a notice posted on the McBrayne's ferryboat stating the island is out of bounds to campers and caravanners.

Mr L McKinnon, the tourist officer for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay, has been asked by Lord Strathcona's factor to make it clear in the association's brochure that campers and caravanners are not wanted on Colonsay.

The tourist officer has also received a letter from Mr Riley-Smith asking him to delete from his brochure the statement that caravan holidays can be arranged through the Jura Hotel, which is owned by Mr Riley-Smith.

Mr McKinnon, when approached by the Courier, said that the type of people who frequent the Inner Hebrides were bird-watchers and nature-lovers who normally abide by the code of the countryside and it is quite wrong that the landlord should ban them; after all, in a few years, these are the type of people who will return with their families to the islands if they are made welcome in their earlier visits.

## Single life over in Kintyre

The last shop in Kintyre selling top 40 singles plans to pull them from its shelves shortly. Woolworths' Campbeltown branch is to stop selling top 40 singles on CD and cassette.

A Woolworths spokesman said it had decided to withdraw singles as they were not making the Campbeltown store any money.

He explained it was a non-profitable line. Most branches of Woolworths sell singles, but the spokesman said the company would withdraw products which were not profitable in individual stores.

The spokesman stressed the Campbeltown store would still sell albums and videos. But singles' fans may still get a reprieve. The spokesman said: 'If we get responses from our customers against the decision, we will re-consider.'

## FIFTY YEARS AGO

Friday December 24 1970

### Ban on campers and caravanners

Campers and caravanners have been banned from three of the Hebridean islands - Gigha, owned by Lieutenant Colonel Sir James

  
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## ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Saturday December 25 1920

### Notice for Lovat Scouts

Men are required for the newly-constituted regiment of Lovat Scouts.

The role of the new regiment will be the same as that carried out by the Observation Battalion in France during the last part of the war.

All ex-Lovat Scouts wishing to re-join should do so before the end of the year to count their former service towards obtaining their Territorial Efficiency Medal.

**GET INVOLVED**

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# Two days' Christmas holiday for Neil

## DOWN MEMORY LANE



The Courier continues to share more from the previously unpublished prisoner of war diary written by Campbeltown soldier Gunner Neil MacLean.

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Gunner Neil MacLean was captured following the 51st Highland Division's surrender at St Valéry-en-Caux during the Second World War.



The diary, and several photographs of Neil during and after the war, were supplied by Neil's son Calum who knew nothing of the diary until after his father's death.

This week continues from: **December 1941** - Thrashing up till the 10th, then started driving..to the station. Finished driving SB to station on the 22nd - four Poles went on holiday. 23rd, guard went on holiday and the other guard that came we had him before. Old guard.

Gunner Neil MacLean.

Received two packets cigarettes, 300, don't know who from, Cottons Edinburgh.

I had a half day on 24th, then two days' holidays for Christmas.

Christmas Day, we had bacon and egg for breakfast, pork, potatoes and beans, apple pudding and custard, then tea and cake for dinner.

Had visitors from another farm in the afternoon, we played cards. Good tea and supplies and drank a toast to all at home. 26th, went to see some of the boys across from us.

Snowing very heavy but enjoyed the walk and gave us an appetite for dinner.

Worked all day 27th and 28th. Sunday, washing and cleaning up.

Had a good dinner today, potatoes, beans and duck and soup, steamed apples and jelly, tea and cake. 31st, had a sing-song and dance.

Eight of us stayed up to bring in New Year and drank a toast for all at home. No beer this year.

### 1942

**January** - 1st, holiday, received Red Cross Parcel and 50 cigarettes. Three good meals today. Some of the boys came over from the other farm. We had afternoon tea and a good chat. 4th, up at 5.30am, breakfast, then eight of us left to catch the train for Marienwerder about eight miles from here.

Had a photo taken in a studio. Went to the camp we were working at for three weeks and had lunch and a good chat with some of the boys.

We came back with the 2.45pm train. Hope the photos turn out okay.

5th, worked for one hour then had an hour off for dinner. Afterwards we went to beat hares on our farm here. When it was finished we went back three miles to another farm. The ground was heavy with snow and the going was very heavy. In all, we had 15 hares for nine guns. Enjoyed it up to the round up, it was getting dark then and we were hungry.

When the last round was finished we found out we had to walk home.

Nobody very pleased but once in our little room and with our wet clothes off, we had supper and we were all in good order but very tired, so we all had a sound sleep.

One of the gentlemen there could speak good English. During a conversation with him I found he was interned during the last war for four years and three months and since then he has been to Scotland for a holiday.

18th, up to now we have been chatting every day, nearly all the boys have the cold just now. Received our pay last week, 13-50. Today I was down in Pankendoff buying a few things, was down with the guard.

A pony and trap, very cold driving. 22nd, letter returned from Margaret written by me August 10th 1941. 23rd, received our photos, very good. Up to the end of the month we were thrashing and finished it on the 31st of the month.

Continued in next week's Courier.



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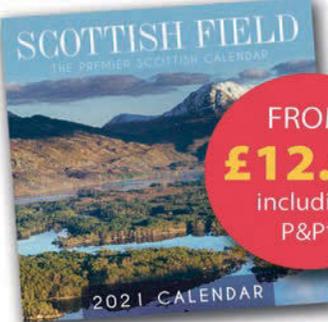
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# WELL DONE TO EVERYONE THIS YEAR

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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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# PUBLIC NOTICES



**Scottish Government**  
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**TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION  
A83 REST AND BE THANKFUL LANDSLIDE PREVENTION WORKS  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
DETERMINATION UNDER SECTION 55A OF THE ROADS (SCOTLAND)  
ACT 1984**

The Scottish Ministers give notice that they have determined that the project to form catchpits to address landslide risk at the A83 Rest and Be Thankful is a relevant project within the meaning of section 55A of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 ("the 1984 Act") and falls within Annex II of Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of certain public and private projects on the environment, but that having regard to -

- (a) the selection criteria contained in Annex III of that Directive, namely -
  - (i) the size and design of the whole project;
  - (ii) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;
  - (iii) the production of waste;
  - (iv) pollution and nuisances;
  - (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.

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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:

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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*  
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## 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.

## ISLAY

### Virtual meeting to discuss new ferry for Islay and Jura

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL), in partnership with CalMac Ferries Limited and Transport Scotland, will hold an online community consultation meeting in January 2021 to engage island communities and community stakeholders in the design and planning for the new vessel to service Islay and Jura.

It will be the first community meeting CMAL has held virtually.

The virtual event will take place on Thursday January 14, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm, and will be hosted on Microsoft Teams, which is free to download online.

To participate in the event, which is open to everyone with an interest in the new vessel, register via Eventbrite at [www.islayvessel.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.islayvessel.eventbrite.co.uk)

The meeting will update communities on feasibility studies into the new vessel, which have been ongoing throughout 2020.

Key considerations in the extensive range of studies include: passenger and vehicle requirements; maximising vehicle capacities – particularly for freight; forecast demand; operational requirements; requirements and arrangements for passengers and crew; accessibility; vessel operating speed and timetable; port fits, limitations and improvements; emission and fuel consumption analysis; air quality; reliability, manoeuvrability and seakeeping; shore power and overnight noise; benefits and disadvantages and capital and operational costs.

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.

CMAL had to postpone meetings in Bowmore, Port Ellen and Jura in March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and has been unable to reschedule meetings on the islands due to the ongoing restrictions.

Jim Anderson, director of vessels at CMAL, said: 'The community meetings are overdue. We have been liaising with the Islay Community Council Ferry Committee throughout this year and are now in a position for further engagement with the wider island community.



The new Islay ferry is the next major vessel to be ordered for the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service and will complement the service provided by MV Finlaggan.

'We had hoped to rearrange events for late summer 2020 when there was some relaxation in the restrictions, but we had to balance it carefully with the health and safety of the island communities and our people.

'The events of 2020 mean people are more comfortable than ever with virtual meetings and technology so we have decided this is our best option until we can return to Islay and Jura safely.

'There will be an opportunity for discussion and questions and we urge everyone who can make it to register now to attend.

'One of the benefits of having the meeting online is that we can record and make it available later for those who can't make the date and time.'

All presentations will be available on the CMAL website after the meeting and an updated question and answer document will be published.

Questions or any other queries regarding the project can be emailed to [islayvessel@cmassets.co.uk](mailto:islayvessel@cmassets.co.uk) or sent to Jim Anderson at Caledonian

Maritime Assets Limited, Municipal Buildings, Fore Street, Port Glasgow, PA14 5EQ.

### Lottery 'win' for playing field

Rhinns Playing Field Association is one of 161 projects from across Scotland which will share in a £3,931,314 cash boost from The National Lottery Community Fund.

The group will use a grant of £7,500 to improve access to its community-owned field in Portnahaven.

It is one of four community groups in Argyll to share in the funding, alongside Crossroads Young Carers Cowal and Bute, Friends of Dervaig Primary School and Kilmore and Kilbride Village Hall Committee.

Friends of Dervaig Primary School gained £5,096 for an after-school, inter-generational project; Kilmore and Kilbride Village Hall Committee, south of Oban, is to build an extension, with a new kitchen and meeting place, with its £7,500 grant; and Crossroads Young Carers Cowal and Bute received £280,330, over three years.

## CONTACTUS

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## FUNERAL DIRECTORS



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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  
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May you have a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas as we celebrate Our Saviour Jesus' birth  
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**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  
Msza św., Boże Narodzenie, godz. 10.00  
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

George Street, Campbeltown



**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  
www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk  
www.facebook.com/campbeltowncommunitychurch  
SC043322

### 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)

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### 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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Alistair McConnachie took first place.

**McConnachie claims Dunaverty's December medal**

It may have taken place on a cold, damp and breezy day but that did not deter 29 members from taking part in Dunaverty Golf Club's December medal competition.

Matthew Ralston, having a great day, was first in with a nett 63 to lead the way, only to be overtaken by an in-form Bobby Dalziel who posted a nett 62 and moved into first place.

Later in the morning session, Alistair McConnachie, returning after a three-month absence, hit every fairway with his tee shots and covered the front nine in 32 strokes, to which he added 36 on the inward half, giving him top spot with a nett 60.

Worthy of a mention is 14-year-old Jake MacMillan who, playing alongside Alistair, had an excellent round to finish in fifth place on a nett 63.

Results: 1 Alistair McConnachie 69-8=60; 2 Bobby Dalziel 72-10=62; 3 Matthew Ralston 88-25=63 (bih); 4 Kieran McGeachy 91-28=63; 5 Jake MacMillan 89-26=63; 6 Richard Toner 81-16=65.

# Urgent call for details of sport cash support



David Stewart MSP is pressing for support for football clubs at every level of the game.

## Football clubs at all levels to benefit from government funding

Questions on when government Covid funding will be open for sports applications and what the process will be have been tabled in the Scottish Parliament by Highlands and Islands Labour MSP David Stewart.

A £55 million funding package was announced last week by the Scottish Government to help sports clubs tackle the void of lost revenue caused by the pandemic.

A total of £20 million is being made available to football clubs in the Scottish Premiership, with £10 million available for clubs at every other level of the

**'Clubs at every level of the game are keen to know when and how they can apply for the help being offered'**

game. The MSP, who is chairman of Inverness Caledonian Thistle Trust, said: 'Football clubs up and down the country have been hit hard by the implications of Covid-19 restrictions and I was pleased the Health and Sport Committee agreed to my request to hold

an inquiry into this. As part of that inquiry, Minister for Sport Joe Fitzpatrick gave evidence at the committee last Tuesday.

'While the meeting was very helpful, the detail of how and when the funding and grants will be made available is not yet known and I know clubs at every level of the game are keen to know when and how they can apply for the help being offered. As an avid football fan, I know just how perilously close some clubs are to going under and we need to make sure this money gets to those who need it without delay.'

He continued: 'Football is in the very fabric of communities up and down Scotland and loss of gate sales and hospitality revenue has hit clubs hard. We must get that help out to the clubs immediately to secure the future of the game, at every level, in Scotland.'



Right: The entrance to Kintyre Park, home of Campbeltown Pupils Amateur Football Club.

## CONTACT US

EMAIL US AT  
[editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk](mailto:editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk)  
TELEPHONE  
01586 554646



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