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Leading cannabis activist to speak in Campbeltown

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

One of the UK's leading cannabis activists has told the Courier she 'can't wait' to tell the people of Campbeltown about the benefits the plant can bring.

Callie Blackwell, who has appeared on national television, including This Morning and Loose Women, will be a keynote speaker at a hemp convention taking place in Campbeltown later this month.

Callie first hit the headlines after revealing that she secretly gave medicinal cannabis to her son, Deryn, who was diagnosed with leukaemia in 2010, when he was aged 10, and two years later developed a rare form of cancer called Langerhans cell sarcoma.

Despite being given just three days to live after four unsuccessful bone marrow transplants, Deryn is now a healthy young adult, something which Callie believes is down to his cannabis use.

Callie said: 'I actually gave him cannabis at the time to chill him out as he was dying. He had three catastrophic infections – two in his hands, one in his mouth – and he

had no functioning immune system. His bone marrow was dead.'

Within five days of being given cannabis, Deryn's bone marrow showed signs of improvement.

'It came from absolutely nowhere,' Callie said, 'it was a complete miracle. There was nothing the doctors gave him that could have done that, no scientific way this could have happened according to them and their records. Cannabis was amazing for his immune system; it saved his life.'

Deryn left the hospice after eight weeks and continues to take cannabis every day to prevent either of the two cancers from returning.

'I'm not willing to find out just how much the cannabis is working,' Callie said, 'because if I take the cannabis away and cancer comes back, he will die. They will have to put him in prison to stop him taking it and that would be a death sentence.'

'This is why I fight so vehemently for access to cannabis, so my son doesn't have to worry about persecution or prosecution for breathing.'



Callie explained that she loves trying to 'smash down' people's pre-conceived ideas about cannabis and hopes to do that when she comes to Campbeltown.

From 1-3pm on Saturday March 28, she will be signing copies of her book, The Boy in 7 Billion, at the Commercial Inn, before the hemp convention in Campbeltown Town Hall at 4.20pm.

A confirmed vendor at the event is CBD Oil Scotland, which will bring speakers including Barry Gillespie, who has 26 years of experience in the cannabis industry; Wendy Jackson, an entrepreneur and cannabinoid researcher; and Hayden Ashcroft, a pharmacology student and cannabis industry researcher. Other speakers are Simpa Carter, founder and leader of the Durham Cannabis Club and Jannette JJ Clements, who supports people with legal advice and representation when they are charged with cultivation and possession of cannabis.

Callie said: 'I want everybody to understand just how much benefit this plant can bring us on an individual and societal level.'

Numero Dix is salon of the year



Campbeltown's Numero Dix Hair Salon has been crowned the south west winner of the Hair and Make-up Salon of the Year award at this year's Scottish Wedding Awards.

Speaking to the Courier after the win, salon owner Kerry Dickson said she was 'so proud of all the team'. Pictured at the awards ceremony, from left: Kerry Dickson, Louise Mitchell, Gayle Durnin and Chloe Murray. For the full story, turn to page two.



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Driver swerved into path of ex's vehicle

COURT

A Campbeltown man has been found guilty of swerving his car towards an oncoming car being driven by his former partner.

Darren Simon, 38, of 3 Killean Place, Campbeltown, pleaded not guilty to a charge of driving dangerously by intentionally crossing the carriageway into the path of a motor vehicle on August 21 last year.

The woman driver, who is his ex-partner, was returning home to Campbeltown after a weekend away for work when she noticed Simon's car travelling out of town. A colleague was travelling with her as a front seat passenger. The incident happened on the A83 near to Drum Cottages.

'He swerved onto my side of the road, swerved back onto

his side of the road and carried on driving,' his former partner said during the first part of his trial, which was heard at the November sitting of Campbeltown Sheriff Court last year.

Her passenger said of the event: 'I'd say there was a car's length between us. The driver's side of the [his] car was on our side of the road.'

'I thought what the **** is he playing at because the car crossed into our path.'

The case for the defence was heard this week, on Monday.

Simon's solicitor, Graeme Wright, said that the relationship between Simon and his former partner had been amicable at first but then became 'toxic'.

Simon told the court that the incident did not take place and that the two women, who

were also friends, were not telling the truth.

While accepting he was on the road that day he said: 'I can't even remember the journey; it was unremarkable.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes found Simon guilty of a lesser offence of driving without reasonable consideration for other road users.

He fined Simon £300 and disqualified him from driving for four months; in doing so the sheriff said he was sending a clear message to drivers that 'conduct of this type will not be tolerated'.

Sheriff Hughes found Simon guilty of a lesser offence and fined him £300 and disqualified him from driving for four months.



POLICE FILES

Careless driving

After an incident where pedestrians narrowly escaped injury on Longrow, Campbeltown, police are appealing for witnesses.

Last Wednesday evening, around 6.15pm, a dark-blue three-door Ford Fiesta car allegedly was driven carelessly and nearly struck pedestrians on the roadway.

Police are now investigating the incident.

Theft

Police on Islay are looking for a sneak thief who emptied a heating oil tank.

They say that between midnight and 10am on Saturday February 22 a heating oil tank was broken into and emptied of its contents at an address in the Wemyss Road area of Bowmore.

The island's officers are now investigating.

Police are appealing for witnesses or anyone with information on the above or any incident to phone 101 or anonymously call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Davaar Island Safe Walking Times

	Morning	Safe Walking Times		Afternoon	Safe Walking Times	
	Low Tide	From	Til	Low Tide	From	Til
Sun, 1 Mar 2020	09:05	06:05	11:35			
Mon, 2 Mar 2020	09:51	06:51	12:21			
Tue, 3 Mar 2020	10:47	07:47	13:17			
Wed, 4 Mar 2020	11:55	08:55	14:25			
Thu, 5 Mar 2020				13:17	10:17	15:47
Fri, 6 Mar 2020				14:36	11:36	17:06
Sat, 7 Mar 2020				15:33	12:33	18:03
Sun, 8 Mar 2020				16:20	13:20	18:50
Mon, 9 Mar 2020				17:03	14:03	19:33
Tue, 10 Mar 2020				17:45	14:45	20:15
Wed, 11 Mar 2020				18:28	15:28	20:58
Thu, 12 Mar 2020						
Fri, 13 Mar 2020	07:41	04:41	10:11			
Sat, 14 Mar 2020	08:28	05:28	10:58			
Sun, 15 Mar 2020	09:19	06:19	11:49			
Mon, 16 Mar 2020	10:18	07:18	12:48			
Tue, 17 Mar 2020	11:36	08:36	14:06			
Wed, 18 Mar 2020				13:01	10:01	15:31
Thu, 19 Mar 2020				14:11	11:11	16:41
Fri, 20 Mar 2020				15:07	12:07	17:37
Sat, 21 Mar 2020				15:54	12:54	18:24
Sun, 22 Mar 2020				16:34	13:34	19:04
Mon, 23 Mar 2020				17:09	14:09	19:39
Tue, 24 Mar 2020				17:40	14:40	20:10
Wed, 25 Mar 2020				18:08	15:08	20:38
Thu, 26 Mar 2020				18:36	15:36	21:06
Fri, 27 Mar 2020	06:43	03:43	09:13	19:06	16:06	21:36
Sat, 28 Mar 2020	07:16	04:16	09:46			
Sun, 29 Mar 2020	08:52	05:52	11:22			
Mon, 30 Mar 2020	09:34	06:34	12:04			
Tue, 31 Mar 2020	10:21	07:21	12:51			

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



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Staff at the salon were delighted to pick up the award.

Hair heroes pick up wedding award

The staff of Numero Dix Hair Salon are celebrating this week after being named Hair and Make-up Salon of the Year for the south west region at the eighth Scottish Wedding Awards.

Salon owner Kerry Dickson was joined by staff members Louise Mitchell, Gayle Durnin and Chloe Murray at the black-tie ceremony at The Crowne Plaza Hotel in Glasgow on Tuesday February 25, where top specialists and establishments that have gone above and beyond in the sector gathered to celebrate their achievements.

Afterwards Kerry told the Courier: 'We had a fantastic night and it was the icing on

the cake to win our south west of Scotland area. I'm so proud of all the team. It's given everyone a massive boost and hopefully a boost for our beautiful area.'

The awards recognised everyone that works hard towards creating memorable and unique weddings; from wedding planners and caterers to photographers, videographers, florists and stationary suppliers.

The glitzy evening was hosted by actress and presenter Vivien Taylor. She presented the awards and acknowledged those who promote excellence in the industry, inspire others by their achievements and add the fairytale sparkle to any

wedding. A spokesperson for the Scottish Wedding Awards 2020 said: 'The winners represent the industry's gold standard that work tirelessly to meet the demands of the couples and their guests.'

'The awards showcased some of the best wedding specialists that operate in the industry, whose excellence and commitment brought them at the forefront of the industry.'

'These champions are tried and tested specialists that know how to create a stress-free wedding experience, keeping the romance in the air. We would like to congratulate all finalists and winners for their achievements.'

Anne named Rotary's Citizen of the Year

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

It was an all-female line-up when the winners of the Rotary Club of Campbeltown's annual Citizen of the Year, Young Musician of the Year and Young Stockperson of the Year awards were announced.

Retired head teacher Anne Littleleson received the illustrious Citizen of the Year award, while the Young Musician of the Year was named as Erin McLellan, and Kathryn Semple picked up the Young Stockperson of the Year prize at the Rotary's awards ceremony at the Argyll Arms Hotel, Campbeltown, on Thursday February 20.

Anne Littleleson, from Glenbarr, was head teacher at Castlehill Primary School and a Girl Guides leader for many years. Now retired, Anne has not let the grass grow under her feet and contributes in a disparate range of community activity.

She is session clerk at A'Chleit Church and has recently been key in a new church website and revised profile which resulted in a new minister being appointed to the charge.

Anne has driven the establishment of Tayinloan Youth Club, and was instrumental in raising funds for a new play park for the village. Each week she runs a badminton club for primary school children and she organises the annual Kintyre Primary Schools Badminton Competition.

She is also the secretary of the Glenbarr Hall committee and worked on the hall's solar panel project. She is on the committee for the Glenbarr



War Memorial and is minute secretary of the Mull of Kintyre Run committee. While no longer a Girl Guides leader she is on the Argyll County Committee of the Guide Movement.

A Rotary spokesperson said: 'Anne Littleleson is someone who Campbeltown and Kintyre should be proud of, and is a worthy recipient of the Rotary Club of Campbeltown's Citizen of the Year award.'

Anne was not able to attend the Rotary's presentation dinner on Thursday February 20 so she was presented with her award at the club's lunch on Thursday February 27.

Young Musician of the Year Erin McLellan started her music career playing the cornet at age six and progressed to the trumpet, aged 11, with Campbeltown Brass.

In 2019 she had achieved Grade 7 with the ABRSN examinations board and is currently studying for her Advanced Higher Music at Campbeltown Grammar

School. Over the years Erin's musical talent has been recognised by becoming the Junior West of Scotland Solo Champion three times and runner up in the Scottish Solo Championship.

Auditions over the past three years saw Erin join the Scottish Youth Orchestra and become the band's principal trumpet player.

She has played at Remembrance Day services and at the Mull of Kintyre Chinook crash memorial events.

A Rotary spokesperson said: 'Erin's performance at the Rotary presentation dinner was superb and she is a well-deserved recipient of the Young Musician of the Year trophy.'

'We wish her further success with all her studies at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester.'

The Young Stockperson of the Year shield is awarded to the person who has achieved the highest scores from entering and competing at



Left, Citizen of the Year, Anne Littleleson, right, with Rotary Club of Campbeltown president Andrew Ronald; and above, Young Stockperson of the Year Kathryn Semple, left, and Young Musician of the Year, Erin McLellan, right, with Rotary Club of Campbeltown president Andrew Ronald.

stock-judging competitions throughout the year, as well as taking part in local shows.

This year's winner, Kathryn Semple, revealed that her favourite time of year on the farm was during the

lambing season. However, her favourite animals to work with are the cows and calves.

'We wish her all the best at future events,' said the Rotary spokesperson.

Dalintober school structural survey given go ahead

At its meeting on Wednesday, Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Committee agreed to recommend to the council that a full, up-to-date structural and condition survey report relating to Dalintober Primary School be brought before the full council by the director of community services as a matter of urgency.

The motion, proposed by Councillor Donald Kelly and seconded by Councillor John Armour, comes after a ceiling collapsed within the school building, resulting in emergency repairs being carried out to 10 classrooms.

It is believed that this will help to provide the necessary reassurance to pupils, parents, staff and the wider community of Campbeltown that the building is currently fit-for-purpose, and also aid the council as it continues to look to the future in terms of providing fit-for-purpose education facilities for the community of South Kintyre.

Councillors excluded from follow-up economic meeting

Fergus Ewing, the Scottish Government's cabinet secretary for the rural economy, attended a follow-up meeting about Kintyre's economy in Campbeltown on Monday.

The meeting was arranged after last year's emergency economic summit at Machrihanish Airbase Community Company which

was attended by about 50 people, including Kintyre councillors and many of the area's business owners.

But despite being told at the time that they would remain involved, Kintyre's councillors were excluded from Monday's meeting, which took place at Campbeltown Town Hall, as were MPs and

MSPs. Councillor Donald Kelly said: 'I think it's scandalous that local councillors were not included in this meeting.'

'The Kintyre community should have been represented. I will be writing directly to Fergus Ewing asking why we were not included as previously agreed.'

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Council tax to rise by 4.5% as authority sets budget

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

Council tax bills in Argyll and Bute will go up by 4.5 per cent in April – but some of the authority's most controversial cost-cutting plans will not be going ahead.

School crossing patrollers, pupil support assistants and educational psychologists have all been spared the axe after spending plans put forward by the authority's ruling Liberal Democrat, Conservative and independent administration were voted through.

But spending on community-based learning activities for young people and adults will be cut by £184,000, and schools will no longer have the funding to hire local halls for PE lessons after funding of £73,000 for that purpose was cut entirely.



Councillor Alastair Redman says the budget supports young people and economic growth.

The administration also stopped short of pushing through a proposal to close all public toilets, but some changes were agreed.

The administration's spending plans, and council tax increase, were backed by 18 of the 31 councillors

who attended the authority's annual budget meeting in Lochgilphead last Thursday, February 27.

The agreed budget also includes investment in roads maintenance, footway and cycle path maintenance, and education involving digital learning.

An amended budget put forward by the opposition SNP group, which got 11 votes, wanted to save the community learning development, PE facilities and public conveniences in full.

A second amendment, proposed by Councillor George Freeman and seconded by Councillor Douglas Philand, asked that the meeting be adjourned in order to consider prospective further funding announced by the Scottish Government the previous day.

Addressing the meeting,

council leader Aileen Morton said: 'This is the third budget in the life of this council and takes place in unusual circumstances.

'Some savings choices have been in front of us before, and this current budget is harder due to familiarity. We have heard the same story again and again – cuts to budgets across the country are hitting Argyll and Bute harder than almost every other area.

'We are looking to the future and supporting a broader curriculum across our schools, and economic growth and connectivity supporting our businesses, which are vital to our future.

'One council service needing a large contribution is waste disposal, and if we can deliver our solutions, we could reduce CO2 emissions by around 19 per cent.

'Our decision is not just for today, or this year, but it will affect next year and the years to come.

'We share a belief that Argyll and Bute deserves a bright future, despite the challenges.

'It is important that, preferably together, we keep fighting, striving for and believing in Argyll and Bute, so that in the future, the story in this chamber will be the positive one it deserves.'

Depute leader Gary

Mulvaney said: 'None of these decisions have been taken in isolation; all have been deliberated over in the context of what is to come in the next few years.

'It is easy to leave it all to another day, but that heads-in-the-sand approach only leads to more pain for the future. We have a budget that focuses on the future as well as today.'

Mr Mulvaney sounded a word of warning about future demand on council budgets, adding: 'Demand for council services will continue to exceed council budgets. Managing this means action not only from the council, but also from our partners and key decision-makers.

'Argyll and Bute's Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) supports some of our most vulnerable people. We have therefore allocated more than £60 million, a quarter of the total council budget, to the HSCP, and agreed more time for it to repay debts to the council. This scale of council support cannot continue indefinitely; the HSCP needs to increase its pace of change.

'The Biodegradable Municipal Waste ban, which all councils must achieve, will mean another potential £5 million of running costs every single year, as well

as one-off spending of £2 million to £4 million.

'We have gone part way to address this challenge by allocating funding for strategic change projects but this national initiative, which everyone rightly endorses, requires national funding. This will be the council's next funding campaign for Argyll and Bute.

'Local government funding must allow for councils to address local challenges and local priorities.'

Councillor Alastair Redman, Kintyre and the Islands, told the Courier: 'Despite demand for council services continuing to exceed allocated funds the budget we set supports our young people and economic growth.

'We have protected key support services for young people. We are investing millions of pounds to help keep our road network open for business.

'Our geography means we deliver some services most other councils do not, and all our services tend to cost more to deliver. At the same time Argyll and Bute received a higher than average cut to our funding.

'I will continue to fight relentlessly for a better deal for the Kintyre and the Islands ward.'

Council's grass-cutting struggles

Council staff are maintaining enough grassland in Argyll and Bute to cover the entire area of Monaco – but are sometimes struggling to be available to cut it.

A report has revealed that two million square metres of open grassland space is maintained by the authority's staff but that parts of the area have not had their grass cut to specifications as determined by the council, with competing demands including burials and bin collections.

The budget for grass cutting has also been reduced by more than 15 per cent since the 2013/14 financial year.

A report on the subject was due to be discussed at a meeting of the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee yesterday (Thursday, March 5).

The document, written by Kirsty Flanagan, the coun-

cil's executive director with responsibility for roads and infrastructure, said: 'Over the course of last year there were a number of service delivery issues in Cowal, and to a lesser extent across the wider council area. This was due in part to a limited level of resilience within the team, an ageing workforce, and a number of sickness absences, some of which were medium to long-term.'

Ms Flanagan's report states all sports fields in the area are scheduled to be cut 21 times a year, with other facilities, such as amenity areas and cemeteries, subject to different specifications by area.

She continued: 'Reducing the number of cuts any further is not considered achievable in terms of delivering meaningful savings. Fewer cuts mean the grass is longer when it is cut, so the time to complete

the tasks increase and the strain on equipment is greater. The current service standards are achievable within the existing budget, staffing and machinery framework. However, there is limited, if any, resilience to respond to issues which inevitably arise.

'It is not unusual for our operational supervisors and managers to be faced with competing demands, including digging graves/burying the dead, collecting bins, making safe potentially dangerous defects and grass cutting. Unfortunately, grass cutting often has to be left.

'Although the provision of a grass cutting service is a non-statutory function, the effective maintenance of public open spaces supports the economic development and growth of the area both in terms of attracting tourists as well as new residents.'

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Budget a good deal, says Russell

Michael Russell MSP for Argyll and Bute has welcomed an agreement to pass the Scottish Government budget that will see Argyll and Bute Council receive an additional £1.701m in the next year.

The amended budget will also see the Scottish Government take the radical step of introducing free bus travel for those aged 18 and under from January 2021.

Michael Russell MSP said last Thursday: 'This SNP budget invests a record £15 billion in health and care services, delivers Scotland's unique child payment to lift our youngest out of poverty and supports Scotland's world-leading efforts to tackle the climate crisis.'

'The Scottish Government had already backed Police Scotland with a budget increase of £42 million. That will now increase that support to £60 million overall with £50 million of investment for front-line services.'

'Argyll and Bute will benefit from our share of an extra £95 million for local government – with an extra £1.701 million of investment.'

'We have made significant investments to tackle the climate crisis, with funding for a green deal, low carbon travel and £1.8 billion of low emission infrastructure.'

Mr Russell has announced his decision not to stand for re-election, saying it is time for 'someone younger' to take on the role of MSP for Argyll and Bute. For more on this story, see pages 10 and 11.

Bid to halt budget meeting is quashed

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

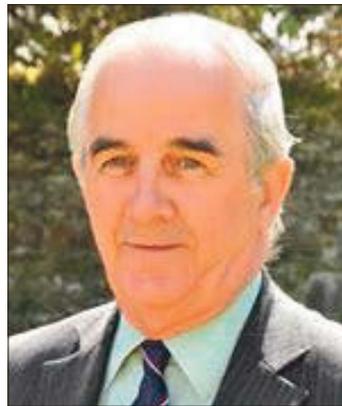
A bid to have Argyll and Bute Council's budget meeting adjourned for an hour to discuss new Scottish Government funding was quashed.

Councillor George Freeman submitted a 123-word amendment on a single sheet of paper asking for members to be allowed further debate.

An additional £95 million was made available by the Scottish Government for distribution among local authorities the afternoon before the meeting. It is yet to be decided what share Argyll and Bute will receive.

The council has also been given an extra £954,000 for ferry services, but Councillor Freeman said that the sum 'pales into insignificance'.

His motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by fellow Argyll and Bute First councillor Douglas



Councillor Freeman.

Philand, but failed to garner any further support.

Councillor Freeman said: 'We have not tabled detailed budget proposals because there is too much new information that has materialised, and we request an hour's adjournment.'

'The funding of £954,000, subject to the decisions of the Scottish

Government, for ferry services, pales into insignificance when you consider the hundreds of millions of pounds currently being ploughed into two rusting hulks lying in Ferguson's yard on the Clyde.'

'COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) has commented about the impact that council budgets will have on staff, and have been clearly quoted saying hundreds of jobs are at stake within local authorities.'

'We have been told ourselves that in the last 10 years the budget has been cut by £50 million, but when you look at staff numbers in the last eight years, our numbers have not changed.'

'I have not got the answer, but how do we lose £50 million while staff numbers stay the same?'

'Also, the Health and Social Care Partnership and Live Argyll staff numbers have actually increased over that time. Somebody needs to explain that to us.'

'We also have to look really seriously at the funding we provide to partners, including the Health and Social Care Partnership, where we have continued concerns at the audit and scrutiny committee.'

Councillor Philand added: 'I don't think anybody in here knows the implication of the £1 million being proposed.'

'For me, even to have that hour to be able to discuss with our colleagues will let us explore what this actually means.'

'I think I would like that clarity on the impact on our services. We don't know what that is and it is something we must make a decision on today.'

'The budget motions are so close with one or two tweaks, so we should get together and think about it and pull something together which is even better.'

Councillor Donald Kelly, the third and final member of Argyll First, was not able to be at the meeting.



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Cannabis education

The topic of today's front page is something a bit different to the usual Courier news.

Callie Blackwell, who is coming to Campbeltown to talk about how she believes cannabis saved her son's life, says she loves breaking down people's preconceived ideas about the plant.

Callie told us that misinformation about cannabis is most common among elderly people, people who may have grown up in a particularly anti-cannabis culture.

American movies such as the 1936 Reeler Madness, which features a series of sensationalised events that ensue when high school students are lured into trying marijuana, has been described as anti-cannabis propaganda responsible for ingraining many prejudices in people's minds.

As Callie says, with education we can get rid of prejudice and after hearing her story, we feel pretty uneducated on the topic ourselves - we hope to learn something at the convention later this month.

There has to be some merit to at least discussing the legalisation of medicinal cannabis, a product which has proven to have many more health benefits than many legal drugs like tobacco or alcohol.

Thank you for helping me find friend

A big thank you to Hannah O'Hanlon and the Campbeltown Courier for printing my letter last week asking the whereabouts of Margaret Leyden.

I am an Australian living in Sydney. I flatted with Margaret in the early 1970s in Edinburgh when we were in our early twenties. We lost touch and now we are in contact once more.

Margaret lives in Edinburgh still and reads the Campbeltown Courier online and spotted my letter. A lot of water has passed under the bridge since the 1970s.

I will very much look forward to catching up with Margaret hopefully later this year when I will visit Scotland once again. We will have a lot to talk about!

Beth (Robinson) Hall,
Sydney,
Australia.

Shopper-Aide pancake tea was well supported

On behalf of Shopper-Aide I would like to thank all the people who came to the pancake tea in Whitehouse Village Hall on Wednesday February 26 and helped to make it a fantastic afternoon.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to all the other agencies who came along and supported me to run this event, the Co-op for the generous donation of pancakes, and the singers who gave a wonderfully entertaining

performance to round the afternoon off.

It is hoped that we can hold a similar event soon and would like anyone interested in a monthly community group to contact me by emailing sarah@shopper-aide.org.uk or calling 01586 551600.

Sarah McFadzean,
Development coordinator,
Shopper-Aide.

Rothesay Pavilion cash could have capped council tax

It was with dismay that I viewed the council's administration agreeing to increase the council tax for everyone across Argyll and Bute by 4.5 per cent at last week's council budget meeting, when the increase could have easily been kept down to just three per cent.

This was an increase that was promoted by Councillor Aileen Morton as Liberal Democrat leader of the council and Tory councillor Gary Mulvaney, deputy leader, both representing Helensburgh, supported by their administration colleagues from the Mid Argyll and Kintyre and the Islands area.

Also within their budget proposals was a payment of £750,000 to Rothesay Pavilion from council reserves. I tabled an amendment to refuse this funding request. The council could have kept the council tax increase to three per cent for everyone across Argyll and Bute if they had agreed not to give the £750,000 to Rothesay Pavilion.

The decision to raise council tax will cost every Band 'D' council taxpayer across Argyll and Bute an extra £58 to £90. The decision to

give £750,000 to Rothesay Pavilion will cost them an additional £19 to £63.

Without agreeing to the Rothesay Pavilion payment, the council tax increase for band 'D' properties could have been kept down to £27 to £39.

Councillors Morton and Mulvaney and other administration members will say that the £750,000 is coming from the council's reserves.

The money could have been used to cover other revenue costs within the budget which could have then kept the council tax increase to just three per cent.

Councillor George Freeman,
Lomond North.

Public works are needed on Islay and other islands

It was great to catch up with constituents in the villages of Portnahaven and Port Wemyss as I was checking up on road conditions.

Like so many areas across the Kintyre and the Islands ward, residents are justifiably demanding instant action from both local and central government.

With so much tax revenue leaving our island's shores every week, it only makes sense that we on Islay are at least given some recompense in appropriate public spending.

It is high time the government, no matter what its political stripe, got on with its day job and looked to serving the commonwealth of our country, our rural constituency and our island communities.

Sooner or later a programme of works must

Press policy

At The Campbeltown Courier, we endeavour to ensure all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk; telephoning the chief reporter on 01586 554646 or write to the Group Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will try to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can call IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body that deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers. We will abide by its decision.



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be rolled out across Islay, and other islands, to fix our crumbling roads network.

Roads and ferries are the vital arteries that keep our islands' economies alive and well.

**Councillor Alastair Redman,
Kintyre and the Islands.**

Think of mums around the world this Mother's Day

This Mother's Day, I am thinking about everything women do to give their children the best start in life.



Like the women in countries such as Malawi, Liberia and India, who rise early each day to cook and serve food to hungry children in their communities with the charity Mary's Meals.

Their dedication epitomises powerful motherly love, and it is thanks to them that Mary's Meals is able to feed 1.6 million hungry children around the world every school day. The food they lovingly serve attracts little ones into the classroom, giving them the energy to gain an education that can, one day, be their ladder out of poverty.

I am in awe of these incredible women. And that's why I am asking your readers to send a Mary's Meals gift card to the special women in their lives this Mother's Day. For just £15.90, it will feed a hungry child every day for an entire school year.

www.marysmeals.org.uk/shop/
Sophie Thompson, actor.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



Pip Mayberry captured this stunning photograph of a carpet of delicate snowdrops during a walk at Saddell with Elizabeth McTaggart early last month.

Pip, who moved to Campbeltown about 15 months ago, said: 'I love the town. It's a great town in beautiful countryside with the best people - perfect.'

■ If you have a photograph you would like to share, please email it to editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk, send it via the Courier's Facebook page or bring it into the Courier office to be copied.

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The Editor welcomes letters and emails for publication, however we reserves the right to shorten, amend or refuse to print them. Names and addresses MUST be supplied to indicate good faith, although details can be withheld from publication. Phone numbers, if available, should be included. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Please write to: Letters, The Campbeltown Courier, Main and Longrow South, Main Street, Campbeltown PA28 6AE. Email editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk

Cosy Cottage Pie

On a cold night, this satisfying FREE beefy pie topped with leek and potato mash is just what the doctor ordered! Serves 4, ready in 45 minutes, Syn FREE!



1kg floury potatoes peeled and chopped



2 leeks thinly sliced



450ml boiling beef stock



500g lean beef mince (5% fat or less)



750g mixed casserole veg or veg pack



Method: Brown the beef for about 5 minutes add the casserole veg along with the stock, simmer for 30 minutes. Cooked the potatoes for 12 minutes and add the leeks. After 5 minutes drain well, mash and season to taste. Spoon the mash over the mince mixture in a square oven dish, place under the grill for a nice crispy top.

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FROM OUR FILES

TEN YEARS AGO Friday March 5, 2010

Stig dumped...but only for the time being

Plans for the BBC to film a Top Gear episode at Machrihanish have been pulled for now.

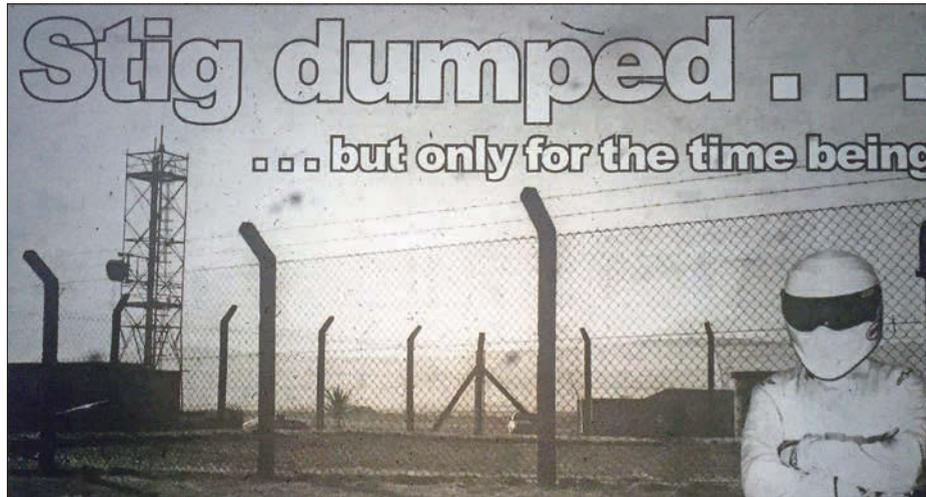
So fans shouldn't be upset as the BBC may come back in the future to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) base.

Production teams from the popular TV programme visited the site two weeks ago, and although on this occasion plans for filming are not going ahead, a Top Gear spokeswoman said: 'We would consider other filming opportunities in the area should they arise.'

The crews came to assess the site and discussed with the MoD whether the programme could be filmed on site. Alan Muir, head of establishment for Defence Estates area north, said: 'The matter was given very careful consideration and for a number of reasons the Ministry of Defence could not support this use at this particular time.'

It's not just fans of the show who have been disappointed; global viewing of the show would mean massive publicity for the area.

Councillor Donald Kelly told the Courier: 'Whilst I am disappointed that Top Gear have decided on this occasion not to proceed with their project, I would like to think that in the future they will return to Kintyre and promote the area.'



Plans to film Top Gear at Machrihanish have been dumped.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO Friday March 10, 1995

Drumlemble family's fears after garden starts sinking

A Drumlemble family whose house was built over old mine workings are living in fear after a hole appeared in their garden at the weekend.

Flo and Hamish Beattie, who live at Rhudal Cottages, Drumlemble, were evacuated from their home, along with other Drumlemble residents in 1982, to allow infill work to be carried out in the old mine workings beneath their homes.

Last summer they noticed a slow subsidence in their back garden and contacted Argyll and Bute District Council.

Officials inspected the area and six weeks ago workmen used a digger to excavate a hole two-and-a-half metres deep. The earth was replaced and the garden was left in a muddy and untidy state. Mr Beattie asked the workmen to erect a fence round the area but they refused.

Last Sunday morning, Mrs Beattie crossed her back garden to visit her mother and noticed nothing unusual, but on the way back, she says, a hole had appeared in the garden.

'I thought I was seeing things,' she said. 'Usually I take my grandchildren with me to see my mother and they could easily have fallen in. We have the sense not to go near a hole but children do not realise how dangerous it can be.'

The back garden used to be level and could easily be cut with a lawnmower, but it now shows distinct signs of subsidence. Around the hole, the earth which was left in the garden after the excavation is caving in towards the centre and the Beatties fear the hole will become even bigger.

There have been several instances of subsidence at Drumlemble which have been attributed to the mine workings. Last year, the road to Torchoillean above Drumlemble was closed for a short time when a hole appeared in the field beside the road. The hole extended under the road and the mine workings were clearly visible around 20 feet below. In 1982, before the residents were evacuated, a large bubble began to appear in the children's playground after heavy rainfall.

Mr and Mrs Beattie's daughter, Mary Anne, said: 'Children began jumping on the 'bubble' but were chased off by concerned adults and shortly afterwards the whole area caved in.'

And a book by the late James McNeil, former head teacher at Drumlemble Primary School, tells the story of a farmer who lost a horse in the 1930s. The horse was missing for weeks and eventually the farmer found it wedged several feet underground in a tunnel of the old workings.

FIFTY YEARS AGO Thursday March 5, 1970

Guides prepare for Diamond Jubilee year

This year – the Diamond Jubilee year of the Girl Guide Association – Kintyre Guides, Brownies and Ranger Guides will be taking part in many events planned to celebrate the Jubilee.

The movement in Argyll is increasing in strength, especially around Campbeltown.

The annual report of 1968-69 shows a total of 1,446 members in Argyll – an increase of 73 members on the previous year's figure.

The national events to which Argyll representatives have been invited include services in Westminster Cathedral. Eight members will represent the county – two from Kintyre.

Other events to which the Argyll Guides movement has been asked to send representatives include a service in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, and four larger Jubilee Camps in Scotland.

This year is going to be an expensive one for the Argyll Guide movement. Already £40 has been raised through a coffee morning held by the Campbeltown, Carradale and Machrihanish Guides and Brownies.

Former members of the movement have been invited to attend the annual general meeting, which will be held in the Town Hall on March 17 at 7.30p.m.

ONE-HUNDRED YEARS AGO Saturday March 6, 1920 Campbeltown and District Cottage Hospital

The annual meeting of the subscribers to the Campbeltown and District Cottage Hospital was held in the Town Council Room on Tuesday. There was a fair attendance, and Provost Colvill was called to the chair.

The secretary (Mr M. B. Cordiner) read the annual report of the managers as follows:-

The managers have pleasure in submitting their annual report – the twenty-third. During the year ended October 31, 1919, 62 patients were under treatment, of whom five were in residence at the beginning of the year.

The daily average number in residence throughout the year was 4.7, the average residence of each patient being 28 days, and the total number of persons under treatment since date of opening 1,975.

The financial statement shows a debit balance of £51 11s 2d and the ordinary income of £706 15s 4d shows an increase of £66 4s 4d and the ordinary expenditure of £745 12s 4d is £87 19s 4d more than that of the previous year, leaving a deficit of ordinary income of £37 17s which with the adverse balance of £13 4s 2d of 1918 makes a total debit balance of £51 11s 2d as stated.

The inordinate high cost of commodities of all kinds, principally provisions, surgery and dispensary, fuel and light, as well as advances in wages, explains the increased expenditure. Contributions and donations exceed those of 1918 by £75 8s 6d.

In this connection the managers wish to emphasise the fact that if the usefulness of the hospital is to be maintained unimpaired, a steady and increased flow of subscriptions is absolutely essential. They accordingly earnestly hope the public will bear this in mind and will make the next collection a more general and liberal one.

The legacy of £700 bequeathed by Miss Margaret Cordiner to the hospital, has been added to the Endowment Fund, which now amounts to £7,812 19s 6d. The loan on the new building account stands at £220 7s 5d, and balance at credit of Equipment Fund remains as previously at £5 4s 7d.

The managers again record their thanks to members of the Medical Staff, to the Ladies' Committee, the Collectors and the Auditor, for their valuable services, as well as to the ministers and other visitors who have interested themselves in the welfare of the patients.

They are also much indebted to various kind donors for gifts during the year.

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Name the location!

The Courier is putting our readers' local knowledge and attention to detail to the test again by asking who can name another location based on small details from the site.

Last time, the eagle-eyed among you realised that the unidentified Campbeltown building was the Lorne and Lowland Church.

This time, rather than a single building, these photographs were all taken at particular points at one specific location – and it is a little further afield this time.

Do you recognise the features? Can you name the location? See next week's Courier to find out if you are correct.



Do you recognise this lady?



Have you seen this wreath and cross combination before?



Is this statue familiar?



Does this carving of a boat ring any bells?



There are various Celtic-style crosses throughout Kintyre but have you seen this one?



This could be a big hint for those who understand the Gaelic 'achadh na sithe' inscribed on the stone below the cross.

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Michael Russell will not fight seat in 2021 election

'Independence is so much closer than it was when I first voted for the SNP 46 years ago. I hope I have contributed something to that success and I still hope to contribute more, but in a different way and role.'

Michael Russell MSP for Argyll and Bute has told members of the constituency party at the weekend that he is stepping down at the next election in May 2021 – a decade after winning the seat.

Mr Russell, who is also the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs, broke the news to the SNP constituency association meeting in Tarbert on Sunday.

Before winning the seat he was previously a regional member for the South of Scotland from 1999 to 2003 and 2007 to 2011.

'I have been the MSP for Argyll and Bute since 2011 and it has been an enormous privilege as well as a greatly enjoyable task,' he said.

He added: 'I am proud of the work the SNP in government has done in Argyll and Bute, securing much new investment, supporting individuals and communities



Michael Russell MSP visited Glen Scotia Distillery last year as part of a campaign to position Campbeltown as the 'whiskiest place in the world'.

which is a fact borne out by much evidence.'

He added that his biggest challenges had been those faced since August 2016 when he was tasked by the first minister with attempting to secure Scotland's place in Europe and to make Scotland's voice heard in Whitehall.

'There is no doubt that we are now faced with the most hostile, arrogant, heedless and thoughtless UK government in many generations, which is determined to have its own way no matter what the people of Scotland want or vote for,' said Mr Russell.

'It has been particularly distressing to have seen Scotland dragged out of Europe, against our will, by them;

though that is something I am sure we can reverse before too long.

'Over the next year I will continue to work on that aim and in addition, the new responsibilities the first minister recently asked me to take on, in external affairs, will enhance the ability of my portfolio to develop a greater domestic and international understanding of the case for independence and our capabilities as we achieve that status.

'I fully intend to go on working hard on those tasks for as long as I am in post.'

through many difficulties and promoting the many advantages of the place to the rest of Scotland and the world.

'I am also proud of the work

that we as a party have done in government, including the tasks that I have undertaken in my ministerial roles in education, culture, the environment and in improving

electoral law. We have done, and go on doing, the day job of government in a dedicated and thoughtful manner and we are doing it better than anywhere else in the UK

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Michael Russell MSP hosted a Scottish parliamentary reception in March 2018 at which eight Campbeltown social enterprises had their achievements recognised.

'Stepping back, not stepping away'

'After next May I still intend to be active in the political sphere,' said Mr Russell.

'I think of my decision as stepping back from some current roles, not stepping away from my commitment to our country and the better future it can have and should choose. I will have more time to write and argue Scotland's case.'

'I also have unfinished business in academia and the media which I wish to pursue.'

He added that he and

his family also have plans: 'Cathleen, Cailean and I also want to spend more time together as a family and travel a bit more.'

'Politics is very disruptive of personal lives and there comes a time when that must stop. Independence is so much closer than it was when I first voted for the SNP 46 years ago.'

'I hope I have contributed something to that success and I still hope to contribute more, but in a different way and role.'

Distress as Argyll's older graveyards become full

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

The news that graveyards do not have space left for burials can come as a shock for families at a time of bereavement when they are often at their most emotionally vulnerable.

Recently this plight was highlighted by members of a family who said they were 'devastated' to find out there were no more burial plots left on Lismore.

Argyll and Bute Council now says it will be asking residents about their personal choices and views this year, so 'a new set of cemetery policies can be proposed'.

Local authorities are only required to provide one cemetery per area, but Argyll and Bute has 65 cemeteries available for the purchase of lairs across the council area.

The council also has a large



Kilkivan Cemetery is one of Kintyre's closed cemeteries. 50_c06kilkivancemetery01

number of lairs that have been sold, but 70 years have lapsed without them being used.

One option now being considered is that in areas of most need these plots could

be investigated to see if these lairs are still needed and claim them back if not.

The English cemetery in Campbeltown falls into the category of closed and in Kintyre the others are:

Gartnagrenach, Kilchenzie, Kilkivan, Saddell, Waterfoot, Old Clachan. On the islands of Islay and Jura the cemeteries are: Kilnave, Kilarrow, Kilchiaran, Kildalton, Tarbert and Inverluss.



Michael Russell MSP, sixth from the right, at the Remembrance Day service at Campbeltown War Memorial in November 2019.

MSP says 'thank you' to his constituents

In his last year in office Mr Russell hopes to meet and thank personally many individual constituents and SNP members across Argyll and Bute for their support and friendship.

He said: 'I am particularly grateful to my local office team Marie-Claire, Heather and Keir, to whom this decision wasn't a complete shock but will be nonetheless unsettling.'

'I know that they, too, over the next 12 months will remain fully focused on our biggest privilege of all - serving and supporting the people who live in this huge, wonderful, constituency.'

Last call to take advantage of employee incentive scheme

Employers have until the end of the month to take the opportunity to recruit and train employees through the Argyll and Bute Employer Recruitment and Training Incentive.

The scheme is run by Argyll and Bute Council's Employability Team, under

the new employability model of 'no one left behind'.

It aims to help people, aged 16 to 67 years, who are facing many barriers, to enter into sustainable employment.

Employers will receive £3,500 per employee.

There are only a few places left, so anyone interested in

the scheme is urged to sign up as soon as possible. To qualify, employees must be in post by March 31.

For further details and to find out if you are eligible, visit www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/contact-employability-team or call the employability team on 01586 555990.

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SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS 2020

Council doubtful on workplace parking levy

It is unlikely that Argyll and Bute Council will introduce a levy on workplace parking for its staff.

The Transport Scotland Act 2019, implemented by the Scottish Government, gave councils powers to charge staff for parking at their workplace. But a document prepared for Argyll and Bute's environment, development and infrastructure committee on the implications of the Act suggests that such a measure will not be introduced in the area any time soon – if at all.

The report says that improvements would need to be made to public transport in the area if a levy were introduced, and warns that any such move could also lead to more cars being parked on public roads.

The committee was due to debate the report at a meeting yesterday (Thursday).

Kirsty Flanagan, executive

director with responsibility for roads and infrastructure services, said in the report: 'The provisions [of the Act] provide discretionary powers for local authorities to establish a Workplace Parking Levy scheme, a devolved revenue-raising measure which promotes local decision-making and allows councils to implement initiatives that best work with the specific considerations of their area.'

'Such measures have the potential to encourage modal shift towards public and sustainable transport, and to enhance transport infrastructure and services in local areas to the benefit of those who do not primarily travel by car.'

'In drafting these amendments, the Scottish Government has taken an approach to ensure that levies are viewed in a strategic local context and in alignment with

other transport initiatives.

'This is an initiative which would need a policy position establishing. At the time of writing this report officers would not recommend introducing a levy where there is a fragile economy and depopulation issues.'

'This provision...may not be effective within the Argyll and Bute Council area unless improvements are made to transport infrastructure, specifically public transport provision, to allow the modal shift to be made from cars to other travel types.'

'Improvements to the cycle network may also be worth considering in this context.'

'The introduction of levies may, in some cases, lead to displacement of vehicles on to public roads if parking costs are passed on to staff.'

The report also says that assessments would need to be carried out in order for

any penalty charge notices for pavement parking to be implemented.

Ms Flanagan added: 'It is understood there will be minimum footway widths to be maintained (probably 1.5 metres) which won't leave many places within Argyll and Bute where we could have footway or partial footway parking.'

'There would be a need for an assessment to be carried out in local areas where we are aware that the prohibition may cause issues.'

'The council would have to promote orders, provide signing and lining; these may become cost pressures. Penalty charge notices would be issued for any contraventions.'

'This is likely to be subject to regulation by Scottish ministers for both footway assessment and the form of exemption orders.'



Customers Amanda Grant, left, and Kenny Docherty, right, standing either side of Su Black, Hall's of Campbeltown manager Kevin Hart, and Gareth Scott-Dodd.

KC_c10meetthedistiller01

Sampling cocktails with Beinn an Tuirc's distillers

Beinn an Tuirc Distillery's head distiller served up a selection of cocktails at a 'meet the distiller' event at Hall's of Campbeltown last Saturday.

Su Black welcomed customers to the Longrow South wine, beer and spirits shop which is owned by the team at Beinn an Tuirc Distillery.

The event was an opportunity for customers to talk with Su and distillery assistant Gareth Scott-Dodd about all things gin-related.

Su said: 'We had mixed four different cocktails using our range of gins made here at Beinn an Tuirc Distillery. The customers had the opportu-

nity to sample the cocktails and we gave them a recipe card so they can make them at home.'

The cocktails were Basil Smash made with Kintyre Gin; Clover Club made with Kintyre Pink Gin; Glass Slipper made with Ceann Loch Gin; and Kintyre Rose made with Tarbert Legbiter Navy Strength Gin.

Su added: 'The event was successful and a few of the customers bought the ingredients to make cocktails at home. We are looking to do something similar in the future with a focus on wine, beer or spirits.'



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Could Gigha offer you the perfect work/life balance?

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

Gigha is looking for someone to run its holiday cottages.

The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust is the community organisation that manages the assets of the island on behalf of the community and now it is seeking a new operator for the well-established and profitable holiday cottage business on the island.

There are five holiday cottages available for lease, giving someone the opportunity to develop the business, support tourism on the beautiful west coast of Scotland, be part of the island community and, most importantly, be their own boss.

The cottages have been in community ownership



The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust is looking for someone to run the profitable holiday cottage business.

since the buy-out in 2002. The trust and its subsidiary company own a range of strategic tourism assets across the island, including the Boathouse Restaurant, Gigha Hotel, Achamore Gardens, the pontoon and

moorings, and an activity centre.

In addition, funding has been secured for a camp and motorhome site which is currently being developed.

The trust therefore is keen to find an operator who can work with existing tourism businesses and the trust to develop Gigha as a visitor destination.

The decision to offer the opportunity to lease the business privately is in line with the trust's plans which support the development of private business and increasing the sustainable population of the island.

Ian Wilson, who is chairman of the trust, said: 'This opportunity to manage and develop the holiday cottage business is a great chance for someone to work with the existing businesses on

Gigha and the trust to increase visitor numbers and make sure everyone has a great time when they come to Gigha.

'The cottages are all in very good condition, in great locations and offer a steady and growing income.

'Hopefully, it will be interesting to someone who wants to become their own boss and manage and develop a profitable and successful business in partnership with the trust. We are really keen to support small businesses to grow and develop on Gigha, and this is a great opportunity to do that.'

Visit www.gigha.org.uk to find out more.

VISITUS
www.campbeltowncourier.co.uk



Felling at Beinn Ghuillean started in January.

Public warned to heed forestry safety signs

Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) is urging the public to take notice and act on the safety signs erected as felling continues at Beinn Ghuillean, writes Hannah O'Hanlon.

The warning comes as some members of the public appear to be ignoring the warnings, putting themselves at great risk.

Felling at Beinn Ghuillean started in January in order to tackle larch trees which have been infected by Phytophthora Ramorum.

The diseased trees and those in the surrounding area are being felled to help slow down the spread of the disease.

Jo Maclean, FLS's communities and visitor services manager, said: 'It's vitally important that all members of the public take heed of the safety notices and follow them.

'Ignoring the signs and walking into restricted areas where the felling work is in operation is extremely dangerous. I am urging all visitors to please keep well away from work zones at all times.

'We are working hard to complete the felling as soon as we can and expect it will all be completed during the summer this year. To date, the works are all going to plan, however, if

we find further infections of the tree disease we may need to extend our felling operations.'

FLS is also asking the public to help prevent the spread of the disease by brushing off forest debris and mud from their boots, walking gear, bike wheels and dogs' paws before and after visiting the forest.

Access restrictions are in place from the Tormaig Road/Narrowfield entrance and as well as other locations near the work machinery.

There will be no through route and/or access along this route for the duration of operations.



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UK first for CalMac as ferry performance stats go online

West coast ferry operator CalMac is launching a UK first online tool that allows anyone to access carrying data for individual routes at the touch of a button.

From the CalMac website simply select a time period, route and traffic type to generate a report.

The results will then be displayed in a table with the option to download it as an Excel file.

The data will be refreshed once a month, so customers will always have access to the most recently audited statistics.

The tool will allow anyone interested to view the number of passengers and vehicles carried, and allow them to compare these over different time periods.

Carrying information

will be available on each of CalMac's 29 routes.

'We are delighted to be the first major transport operator in the country to offer this level of transparency around our carrying statistics across all of our routes,' said CalMac's managing director, Robbie Drummond.

'Previously if anyone wanted this level of detail it would have meant an extremely labour intensive series of reports to be run manually, then sent to the customer. All this information is now available instantly for anyone interested.'

Last year the company's 33 strong fleet carried more than 5.6 million passengers and 1.4 million vehicles to 53 harbours and slipways up and down the west coast.

Mr Drummond added:

'We continue to see more and more people choosing to travel with us to our west coast destinations.

'People will now be able to see for themselves what our carrying figures look like on a monthly basis.'

Robbie Drummond, managing director of CalMac Ferries Ltd, is delighted that the move means all the information is now available instantly to anyone that is interested.



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Council could use AI to check the condition of roads

Argyll and Bute Council could be using artificial intelligence (AI) to help monitor the condition of roads, bridges, harbours and pavements in the near future.

A report was due to go before the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee yesterday (Thursday) for consideration.

Kirsty Flanagan, the authority's interim executive director with responsibility for roads and infrastructure services, said: 'AI is becoming increasingly popular and may well have a role to play in monitoring structures and other infrastructure.'

'Officers are currently considering various opportunities for which AI could be utilised. While the use of this technology is in its infancy, it is anticipated that over the next two to three years there will be an increase in use of AI.'

'Through the use of data captured through video survey and through algorithms, projections of future deterioration/condition [AI] should be able to be modelled which will enable a greater focus



Kirsty Flanagan.

on a stitch in time/right first time fixes.

'AI has the potential for use across the marine sector, bridges and structures as well as carriageway and footway surfaces.'

'It is not expected that AI will fully replace the current inspection regime, more that it would provide earlier indication of possible failure and also reprioritise how our existing resource can be best utilised.'

'There is further scope to develop the 'internet of things' including data transfer between systems and over networks.'

Ms Flanagan said that 'initial discussions' had taken place between the council's ICT team and the Scottish

Government's digital office about a detection system being implemented for ports and harbours.

It is felt that this would help harbour masters during out-of-hours periods and free up time, with a rota standby system in place.

Ms Flanagan added: 'Route optimisation is being progressed to provide effective and efficient logistical routing for a number of the operations carried out by the service.'

'This would include activities such as routing for bin collections, winter maintenance, gully emptying, mechanical street sweeping, routing for safety inspections etc.'

'Route optimisation would also allow for live re-routing in the event of a vehicle breakdown.'

'This technology, coupled with on-board satellite navigation equipment, would enable effective and efficient deployment of the council's fleet.'

'This would also have the benefit of being able to provide more up-to-date and accurate information relating to service disruptions.'

Ferry group calls for fair fares for island children

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

Young people aged 18 and under will potentially get free bus travel, after the Scottish Government reached a deal with the Scottish Greens to pass its budget.

But in communities where a ferry can be as common as a bus, the offer should be extended, the CalMac Community Board believes.

The board represents the users of the Clyde and Hebrides ferry services and welcomed the news about free bus travel, but members want to see this opened up so that young people in all areas have equality of access regardless of their geography or financial status.

Rights

'This brings into focus the position for young people for whom the ferry trip is their connecting bus trip, their way of accessing services, and we believe all young people of the same age should be afforded the same rights and opportunities for free travel,' said Angus Campbell on behalf of the independent CalMac Community Board.

'The agenda for fairer fares for our youth is not a new one for the community board.

'As part of the Year of Young People 2018, the board proposed a revision of the fares charged to minibuses taking young people to extra-curricular activities between islands and the mainland,' Mr Campbell continued. 'This would remove the anomaly of such minibuses



being charged significantly higher rates than an equivalent length motorhome and actively encourage educational and sports travel for island pupils.'

After putting forward a convincing case, a pilot project was planned but the board has been disappointed: 'Almost 20 months on, we still have not even got the introduction of a pilot through the bureaucracy of approval within the CHFS2 contract.

'It is our hope that island youngsters receive the equal benefits and opportunities by extending the scheme to include ferry crossings.'

At present children under the age of five travel free and from the age of five to 15 they pay half the adult pedestrian

passenger fare. The free bus fares are planned to begin in January 2021.

Michael Russell MSP for Argyll and Bute welcomed the news, saying: 'Free bus travel will be an enormous benefit to young people in Argyll and Bute - keeping money in their pockets and improving their opportunities to work, study and socialise.

'Alongside the £500 million investment in bus infrastructure previously announced by the Scottish Government, this radical and innovative approach will help deliver a step change in the use of public transport.

'Encouraging the use of public transport is an essential part of our world-leading

Left, could young people using the Gigha ferry travel free in the future?

25_c10gighaferry01

People aged 18 and under could have free travel on buses throughout Scotland from 2021, below.

50_c10wcmibus01



efforts to tackle the climate emergency. Concessionary travel has brought enormous benefits to those aged over 60 and I'm delighted that it will now be extended to young people.'

Highlands and Islands Labour MSP Rhoda Grant, said: 'The only commit-

ment given by the Scottish Government is to examine the possibility of free bus travel for 18s and under.

'But should this policy come to fruition, and I very much hope it does, it must be island-proofed and no community should be left disadvantaged.'

Greens delight at bus deal

Scottish Greens MSP John Finnie MSP hailed the deal struck by the party to deliver free bus travel for young people aged 18 and under as 'transformational'.

The Scottish Government agreed to implement free bus travel for young people in a major concession to the Scottish Greens as part of the annual Scottish budget process.

This means from 2021 all under-18s across Scotland will be able to use a concessionary scheme to travel for free on bus routes, in a similar way to the entitlement currently held by over-60s.

Greens Highlands and Islands MSP John Finnie MSP said: 'Free bus travel for young people is a transformational step towards tackling the climate emergency. This scheme could save young people and families thousands of pounds a year, and encourage whole generations of public transport users.

'Buses are the backbone of local public transport and the key to employment and training opportunities for so many of those starting out in life.'

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ADVERTORIAL

Machrihanish golfers dig deep at dinner and auction

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

Machrihanish Golf Club raised more than £12,000 last Saturday at its first dinner auction.

There were 16 items up for grabs at the black tie event in the Argyll Arms Hotel, Campbeltown, including four-ball golf courtesy of Royal Troon, Royal Dornoch, Castle Stuart, The Renaissance Club, Machrie, Gullane, Royal St George's, Royal Birkdale, Hillhouse Group, and Western Gailes.

There was also accommodation on offer, including a weekend stay in a lodge with a hot tub at Machrihanish Holiday Park, and a two-night stay at Skibo Castle, including all food and drink and unlimited golf.

Other lots which were available were two return tickets for any flight on



Club members and guests at the gala dinner and auction; and right, the new clubhouse is beginning to take shape.

the Loganair network, and VIP hospitality tickets for a Glasgow Warriors v Cheetahs rugby union match courtesy of McCrea Financial Services.

A club spokesperson said: 'We would like to say a big thank you to all the contributors for the items that were auctioned and to all the members who attended the dinner.

'All items sold very well on the night and the club made a staggering £12,750 that will go towards the new clubhouse.'

A new clubhouse is currently being built after the previous building was destroyed by fire in December 2018.

Building firm McKinven and Colville was announced



as the main contractor for the project in September last year and work began on the new clubhouse, designed by Glasgow-based G1 Architects, soon afterwards.

Work was delayed slightly by the recent storms, but the structure is beginning to take shape, with the roof trusses on, the internal staircases in and the external timber frame has started to go up.

It is hoped that better weather and longer hours of daylight will enable the builders to make up the lost time and finish the construction on schedule later this year.

Once complete, it will be the first time in the club's history that men, women and juniors will all be housed under one roof.

Speaking to the Courier last year, club captain Willie Ross said: 'Finally Machrihanish will have a five-star clubhouse to go with a five-star course.'



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Vulnerable customers urged to join SSEN's Priority Service Register

With recent storms bringing high winds and heavy rain to the UK, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) is reminding its customers of the additional support it offers during adverse weather events, and is encouraging them to sign up for its free Priority Services Register (PSR).

Across its distribution area in Scotland, SSEN already has almost 150,000 customers enrolled in its PSR. These customers are proactively contacted to warn them of potential bad weather to help them prepare for the event and to offer extra support where required.

SSEN's teams also keep in close and regular contact with its PSR customers during power cuts to check they are getting the help they need.

Those eligible to register for PSR include those who are deaf or hard of hearing; have a disability; live with children under five; are blind or partially sighted; have a chronic illness; use



medical equipment or aids reliant on electricity; or are over 60.

Customers who sign up to the PSR will be offered communication in many different formats including braille, large print, audio CD, Easy Read and alternative languages.

If their power does go off, PSR customers are kept up-to-date with SSEN engineers' progress until supplies are restored.

On occasions where it is logistically possible, SSEN may be able to provide small generation for PSR customers temporarily to allow them to use their home medical equipment.

Louise Jones, SSEN's

priority service manager, said: 'Joining the PSR is free and can help customers in many ways. We have almost 150,000 customers who are already benefitting from the free service in the north of Scotland, but we know that there will be more out there who haven't signed up.'

'If you think that you may be eligible, or know of a friend or family member who may need a bit of extra help during a power cut, then please get in touch.'

'We're keen to make it as easy as possible to register for the PSR, and so our application form is available to download in 11 different languages; if computers aren't your thing, just give us a call and we'll send you a form out by post.'

For more information about the PSR, call 0800 294 3259 (landline or mobile) or 0800 316 5457 (textphone), and visit ssen.co.uk/ready-together for further information on all the support available from SSEN, and for helpful advice on preparing for and dealing with a power cut.

LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT'S ON IN CAMPBELTOWN AND KINTYRE

Golf captain chips in to help town's lifeboat station

Campbeltown's lifeboat station is almost £2,000 better off thanks to the generosity of a former golf club captain with links to Kintyre.

Cheques to the value of £1,919.26 were presented to George Bradley, the station's lifeboat operations manager, and Craig Ramsay, deputy coxswain, by Craig's sons Finlay and Robbie Ramsay on behalf of their aunt, Jennifer Owen.

Jennifer, past captain of the Old Course Ranfurly Golf Club, Bridge of Weir, chose the RNLI as one of her nominated charities due to her strong family connections with Kintyre and the RNLI. She thanked members and friends of the Old Course for their help in raising the money.

The RNLI is the largest charity that saves lives at sea around the coasts of the UK, the Republic of Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, as well as on some inland waterways.

The charity receives 65 per cent of its funding from legacies and 28 per cent from

voluntary donations, with the remainder from merchandising and investment, so it relies on the generosity of people like Jennifer.

Donated money helps with the day-to-day running costs of stations, as well as essentials like crew training and personal protective equipment.

Full kit for one crew member costs £1,500, with the bill for kitting out the full team in Campbeltown costing £45,000.

The station holds annual fundraising events – a coffee morning at Easter and another at Christmas – as well as a gala day every two years, and a station open day in the intervening years but always appreciates contributions.

George said: 'All at Campbeltown Lifeboat Station would like to thank Jennifer for her very kind donation.'

Finlay and Robbie Ramsay presenting the cheques to George Bradley, left, and Craig Ramsay, right.



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Castlehill Primary School, P5 class

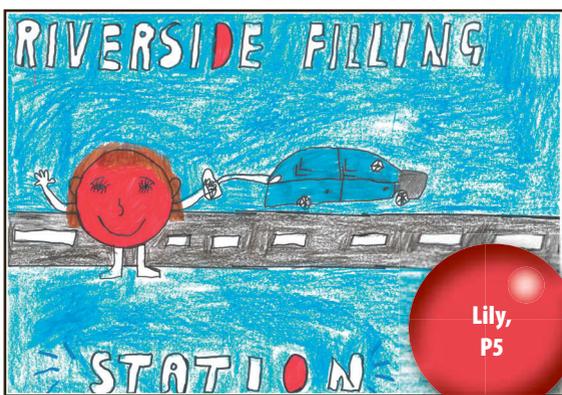
It's time for Sport Relief again, it begins on Monday March 9 ending on Friday March 13, so pull up those shorts, lace up those trainers and boots, get your swimming cozzie on and join in.

You'll feel great, have fun, and you will help people along the way.

The money raised by Sport Relief supports people living incredibly tough lives in the UK and around the world by tackling issues such as homelessness, domestic abuse, mental health stigma and child poverty.

Did you know that Comic Relief created the first ever Sport Relief in 2002, and since then eight Sport Relief campaigns have raised more than £378 million?

And, since it began in 1985, Comic Relief has raised and invested more than £1billion.

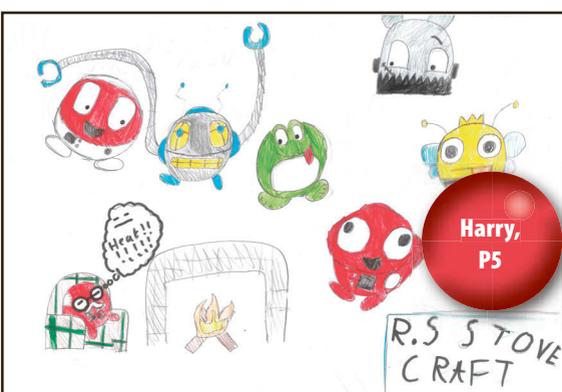


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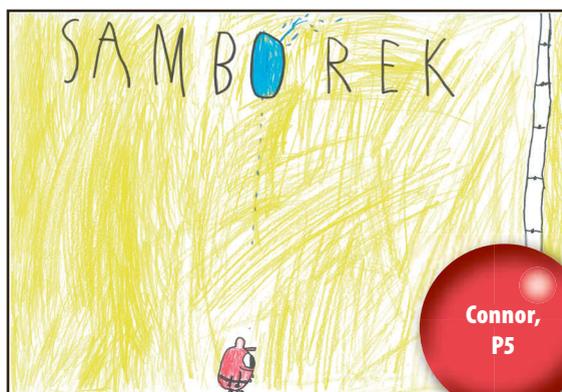
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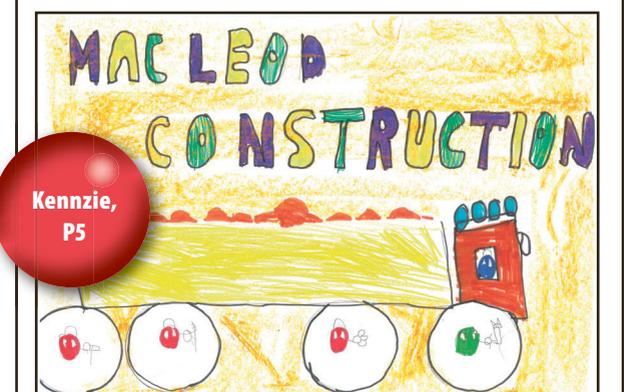


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Mental Health has been a priority for Comic Relief's funding in the UK for more than a decade by investing in therapeutic services; services for young people; campaigning and policy change work; anti-stigma and discrimination work; and maternal mental health. In the UK, and in some of the world's poorest communities, £11.7million has been spent on supporting people with mental health difficulties and tackling stigma and discrimination.

Achievements over the last three years thanks to Comic Relief and Sport Relief:

- helped to vaccinate 538,400 children against deadly diseases in Africa.
- £7.1M has been committed to help fight the threat of malaria.
- 5,076 homeless people in the UK have been helped to find safe accommodation and access services.

- £1.3M has gone to anti-trafficking programmes to help prevent the exploitation of vulnerable people across the world, and support the victims.

So what are you waiting for?! Join in the Sport Relief fun, like the talented youngsters whose work is seen here. Pupils were set the challenge of creating a Red Nose-themed poster to promote businesses.

At Castlehill Primary School in Campbeltown, P5 and P6 pupils were excited from the onset and discussed ideas, layout and colouring methods enthusiastically.

They made A3 posters using the given business titles, all pupils have hand drawn them and have coloured with either felt pen, coloured pencils, crayons, oil pastels and a few have used chalk which has been hair-sprayed to prevent smudging.

They then worked hard to create eye catching, bright, humorous posters which they felt would look attractive in

the newspaper and would encourage people to use these businesses.

Teacher Alison Semple said how much the children enjoyed joining in and that the whole idea captured their imaginations.

One pupil said that their poster was bright and eye catching. They explained that they were proud of their hard work and hoped that the local business which they had focused on would agree it was great work!

Another said: 'This activity was so much fun. I'm pleased with my finished poster because the red noses stand out really well!' To find out more about Sport Relief get some inspiration on how to raise funds at www.sportrelief.com/get-involved.

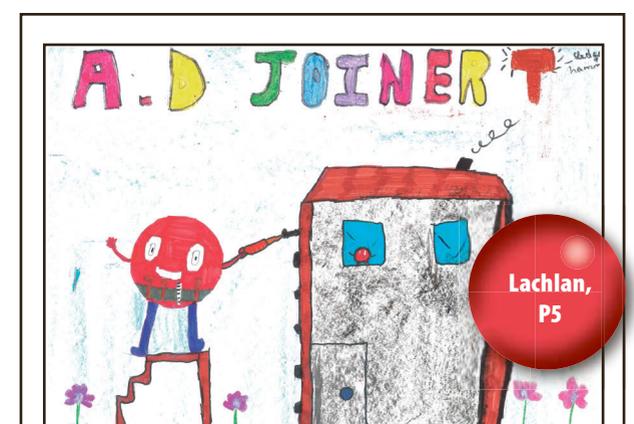
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Race night raises cash for

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

A charity race night at Campbeltown's Masonic Hall has boosted funds at Campbeltown Nursery Centre by £1,000.

The money raised at the recent event at St John's 141 Recreational Club will support both of the nursery's settings, at Ralston Road and at Aqualibrium.

A nursery spokesperson said: 'Everyone at Campbeltown Nursery Centre would like to express a sincere thank you to all who made the race night such a success.'

'A massive thank you goes to Donnie Lawson and all at the Masonic Lodge for organising and hosting such a fabulous event.'

The spokesperson also thanked the following people and businesses for sponsoring races: Hugh Wilson, Kintyre Motors, West Coast Electrical, C&D McTaggart, Andrew Thompson Painting and Decorating, Calum



Back from left: Donald James Angus Lawson, Robert Wilson, Jim Parr and Archie Martin. Front: Harrison Ward, Eva McFadyen and Rowan Brodie.

McKinven, Kintyre Decor, DMC and Harvey's Hot Tubs.

They also thanked the following businesses and families for donating prizes for the raffle: Springbank Distillers, Numero Dix Hair Salon, Munch, Tesco, Streaks Ahead Hair Salon,

The Kintyre Larder, McIvors, McKellars, The Royal Hotel, Carol Linfield Childminding, the Lafferty family for raffle prizes, and the Cameron family for the 'win a bottle' prize.

'Finally we send a big thank you to all who purchased

horses and jockeys as well as all who came along to support the night,' added the spokesperson.

A cheque for £1,000 was presented by representatives of the lodge to children from the nursery on Monday, March 2.



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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Saturday 14th March

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SCOTTISH FIELD March issue



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Life in the Borders... Actor Brian Cox under the spotlight... Sleek St Andrews interiors... Wonderful world of razor clams... Delicious pork recipes... Katherine Grainger's Credo... Dog-friendly hotels...

nursery



Clockwise from above left: Louise Conley, Stephen MacSparran and Alexandra Brough at the race night. KC_c10racenight01; Raymond Harvey and Robbie Herbertson enjoyed the charity evening. KC_c10racenight02; Carla Jackson and Janna Brown at the nursery fundraiser. KC_c10racenight04; Linda McKellar and Lindsay Colville had a catch-up at the recent event. KC_c10racenight03

Raising a glass in memory of Martin

People from across the community came together to raise a glass in memory of Campbeltown man Martin McMillan who passed away recently, writes Hannah O'Hanlon.

Martin, who died aged 45 on December 30, 2019, was well-known in Campbeltown and on Gigha, where he also recently lived.

During his life Martin served in Kosovo with the Royal Corps of Signals, one of the combat support arms of the British Army.

Organisers of the Ailsa Bar gathering on February 22 described Martin as 'a true friend, a true gentleman, a patriotic Scotsman, and last but not least a Campbeltown man'.

The event featured 'music, grub and beer, just the way he would like it', and darts and dominoes competitions helped to raise £500 which will be donated to local causes.



The evening was held in memory of Martin McMillan, left; John Thomson and Willie Ross, bottom left, and Jamie McGougan and Randall Robertson joined a packed Ailsa Bar to celebrate the life of Martin McMillan.

KC_c10martinmcmillan02/03



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Curtain closes on project



A still from one of the stop motion animations, entitled Bob Splodge.

Campbeltown Picture House has reached the end of its Campbeltown Film Institute project.

Over the past year the cinema has presented film screenings, held workshops and visited schools as part of a project funded by Cashback for Creativity (Creative Scotland).

There were free screenings of Detective Pikachu, The Secret Life of Pets, Rocketman, Chariots of Fire, The Wizard of Oz, Hairspray, Little Shop of Horrors, Kubo and the Two Strings, Fantastic Mr Fox, Rushmore and events including WesFest Feast and Whackbat.

Several workshops were held at Campbeltown Picture House, at The Hub and schools and there was a special visit from Aardman Animation's lead model maker Jim Parkyn.

The final workshop was on stop motion animation. The cinema has shared the films the young people made using a variety of materials, including drawings, modelling clay and toys.

A spokesperson said: 'They are all amazing considering they only had a couple of hours. We have some talented youngsters in Kintyre.'

Visit the cinema's Facebook page to see the movies.

Social Scene – what's on in Campbeltown

Campbeltown always has plenty to offer those seeking something to do during evenings and the weekend. Here are some of the events taking place in and around Campbeltown over the next couple of weeks:

■ Argyll and Bute TSI is hosting a coffee morning tomorrow (Saturday March 7) from 10am until noon at the SKDT Hall on Kirk Street. There will be refreshments, home-baking, a raffle and a tombola. Admission £2.

■ Kintyre Schools Pipe Band has organised two concerts on Saturday March 14 at Campbeltown Grammar School.

Featuring more than 100 young performers, not just from the pipe band, the matinee concert is at 2pm and the evening concert is at 7pm.

There will be performances from the chanter group, drumming beginners on stick and pad, the beginners' band, the novice band, those performing 'jig-tag', Erin Soudan and Iona Renton and members of the

James McCorkindale School of Dancing. Admission for adults is £8 with senior citizens and children aged 12 paying £6. Tickets are available from the Yorkshire Building Society.

■ Also on Saturday March 14, the Monday Social Club is hosting a tea dance, from 2pm to 4pm, at the Masonic Hall.

There will be music from The McMacs and Lorna Hume, as well as refreshments and a raffle.

■ Kintyre Chorale is holding a concert at A'Chleit on Sunday March 15 at 7.30pm and in Southend Village Hall on Tuesday March 17, also at 7.30pm. Posters for the event promise a 'varied and joyful programme'.

Proceeds will be donated to A'Chleit Church, the Mairi Semple Fund and Southend Village Hall.

Military Wives on song in town

The tale of a group of women dealing with the absence of their partners, who are away serving in Afghanistan, hits the silver screen at Campbeltown Picture House today (Friday).

Military Wives celebrates a band of misfit women who form a choir on a military

base. As unexpected bonds of friendship flourish, music and laughter transform their lives and the ladies help each other overcome their fears for loved ones in combat.

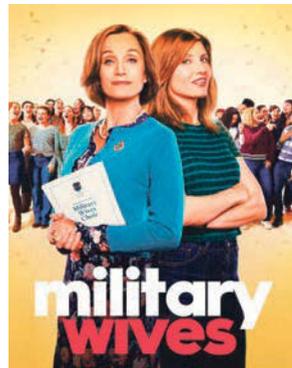
They find themselves at the centre of a media sensation and global movement.

The movie, rated 12A, stars

Kristin Scott Thomas, Sharon Horgan and many others.

Catch it and many other movies at Campbeltown Picture House. See the cinema's website for full listings.

Military Wives hits Campbeltown screens.



YOURSTORY
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Friday 6th March - Thursday 12th March

Military Wives (12A)

Friday 2.00pm & 7.00pm

Saturday & Sunday 4.15pm & 7.00pm

Monday 2.15pm & 5.00pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 3.15pm & 6.30pm

Onward (PG)

Friday & Saturday 2.00pm, 4.30pm & 6.45pm

Sunday 1.45pm, 4.30pm & 6.45pm

Monday 2.30pm, 5.00pm & 7.30pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 3.45pm & 6.00pm

The Call of The Wild (PG)

Friday 4.15pm

Sonic The Hedgehog (PG)

Saturday 1.45pm

The Gentlemen (18)

Monday 7.45pm

Riverdance 25th Anniversary Show

Sunday 2.00pm

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Farm union president pops up in podcast

President Andrew McCornick is the subject in the first of two podcasts recorded at NFU Scotland's two-day conference, AGM and annual dinner in February.

The OnFarm podcast team, presented by Scene and Herd director Anna Davies, were at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Glasgow's city centre to record not one but two episodes of their increasingly popular Scottish farming podcast.

The first episode – which is out now and can be listened to at www.on-farm.co.uk or downloaded from the Apple Podcast app and Spotify – focuses on the subjects on everyone's lips at this year's AGM including seasonal workers, climate change, veganism, geese and many more.

The next instalment has a one-on-one interview with NFU Scotland President Andrew McCornick, in which he discusses where the industry is now and where he sees its direction of travel.

The next episode, also from the AGM, very much con-

centrates on rural Scotland and the many ways in which farmers are working together and with scientists to tackle climate change.

NFU Scotland director of communications Bob Carruth said: 'It was fantastic to work with an experienced podcaster like Anna for NFU Scotland's first ever venture into this growing area.'

'NFU Scotland is always exploring new ways to engage with our members. This spring saw the launch of the new NFU Scotland phone app and the quality and content of this podcast may see this become a permanent string to our communications bow.'

Climate change

Anna added: 'These episodes provide a taster as to what the union does on behalf of the industry and the importance of speaking up so that they can represent you to the best of their ability.'

'We also take a look at what farming is doing to tackle climate change – the issue of the decade.'

'We were delighted to work

alongside NFUS to produce these episodes of OnFARM. Podcasting is a superb way to get key messages across in a way that is enjoyable to listen to and yet informative at the same time. Podcast

listenership is rising at an incredible rate and a tractor cab or lambing shed are perfect places to listen. It really is easy to download an episode – give it a try, you might like it.'



Anna Davies with NFUS president Andrew McCornick.

Stroneskar bullock tops Dalmally cattle trade

Dalmally

On Saturday February 29 United Auctions sold 177 store cattle, 24 breeding cattle and 264 sheep of all classes. Bullocks averaged £768.19 (+£54) per head to a top price of £1070 for a 490kg, LimX from A McNair & Son, Stroneskar Farm and averaged 228.8p/kg (+12p) to 270.8p/kg for a 240kg, CharX from Laggan Farms. Heifers averaged £638.78 (+£8) per head to £860.00 for a 442kg, Limx from W MacLeod, Lurignish and averaged 221.93p/kg (+4p) to 254.90p/kg for a 255kg, BSx From I & R Malcolm, Poltalloch. In calf heifers sold to £1,220 for a SimX from F Ronald, Duntuim and incalf cows sold to a top price of £880 from Balantyre Farm Partnership. In the sheep section, hogs averaged £63.04

(+£23.54) and ewes averaged £60.28 (+£36.60). An excellent show of quality stock in all sections was presented to a good ringside of buyers resulting in sellers receiving satisfactory returns on the day.

Leading Prices:

Cattle per head:

Bullocks – BSx - £640, Tayvallich Estates. CHx - £830, £810, Barnakill; £740(9), Laggan Farms. LIMx - £1,070, Stroneskar; £950(2), £920, £910, Lurignish; £890(20), £850, Stroneskar; £840(2), Barbreck Farm; £840, Stroneskar. SIMx - £990, Couston Farm Co; £970, £940, Stroneskar, £890(5), Achnacone; £850(6), Stroneskar.

Heifers – BSx - £780, Barnakill. CHx - £780(3), Barnakill; £750, Couston Farm Co; £710, Laggan Farms. LIMx - £860, Lurignish; £840, Ardenraive; £780,

Tullochcan; £760, Barbreck Farm; £750(4), Ardenraive. SIMx - £770(8), £740(2) Achnacone.

Per Kilo:

Bullocks – BSx – 241p, Tayvallich Estates. CHx – 271p(2), 261p(9), Laggan Farms; LIMx – 271p(3), Barbreck Farm; 262p, Tullochcan; 259p, Ardenraive; 250p, Barbreck Farm. SIMx – 244p(5), 241p(5), Achnacone; 236p, Couston Farm Co.

Heifers – BSx – 255p, Poltalloch. CHx – 254p(7), 252p(9), Laggan Farms. LIMx – 255p(2), Poltalloch; 245p(3), Scoor Farm; 234p(4), Ardenraive; 231p(3), Scoor Farm. SIMx – 241p(8), 233p(2), Achnacone.

In calf cows:

AAX - £830, Balantyre Farm Partnership. SALx - £880, £820, Balantyre Farm Partnership.

In calf heifers:

SIMx - £1220.00, Duntuim.

Sheep:

Hogs – Suffx - £67.00, £63.00, Tiraghoil. Cross - £93.00, £89.50, £81.00, Bunlarie. BF - £84.50, Musdale Farm; £76.00, Bragleenmore; £64.00, Musdale Farm; £63.00, Tigh Airidh; £62.00, Musdale Farm.

Ewes – Tex - £98.00, Fidden; £88.00, £80.00, £60.00, Glenshero. ChevX - £97.00, Keppochan; £89.00, 83 Borve, Barra; £86.00, Ardsheal Farm; £85.00, Treshnish Farm; £68.00, Keppochan. Cross - £91.00, Glenshero; £70.00, £67.00, 17 St Brendan Road, Barra. Mule - £92.00, 123 Craigston, Barra. BF - £75.00, 83 Borve, Barra; £72.00, Glenshero; £66.00, Tiraghoil; £66.00, Fidden; £66.00, Bragleenmore; £62.00, 123 Craigston, Barra.

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Spring Farming



This winter seems to have gone on forever and spring cannot come fast enough for us all.

The prolonged wet weather – 2020 had the wettest February since records began – has seen all kinds of delays for crops and livestock, not to mention all the news about Brexit. So it is no wonder everyone is looking forward to the warmer, longer and, hopefully, drier days.

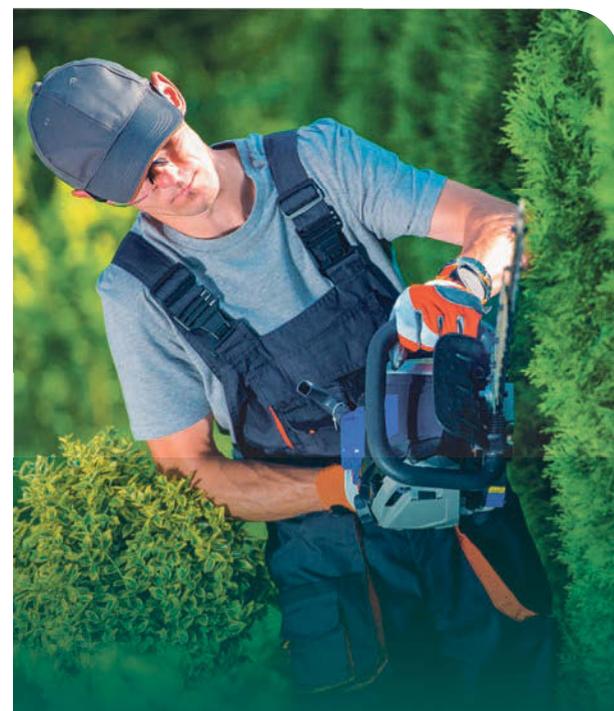
A lot of farms are reporting there is still plenty of ploughing to be done.

Now is the time to be looking forward and preparing for the best possible start for the busiest part of the farming year.

An Argyll customer has just taken delivery of a new Hurlimann Prestige tractor, says David Tunstall of Tunstall Tractors Ltd in Cumbria. The firm has been selling, servicing and repairing new and second-hand tractors since 1984 and now offers Steyr, Hurlimann, Zetor and Solis tractors.

David says that Czech firm Zetor continues to be a customer favourite for the quality finish, low running costs and depreciation, high performance and an interest-free five-year finance offer this spring.

‘As well as an excellent offer like this, we are finding that quality used tractors are becoming very sought after. Premium used tractors continue to sell well; as new tractors are becoming increasingly expensive,’ David added.



Hedge cutting ban reminder

From March 1 as the bird nesting and rearing season begins, until August 31 a closed period comes into force that places a ban on cutting and trimming hedges and trees due to cross-compliance requirements, with exceptions for sowing some crops and road safety.

A Breath of Fresh Air – Ventilation Made Simple



Winter housing brings with it problems – most common of which are pneumonia and reduced feed intakes, which can be caused by many things.



These workshops will address the important areas which farmers should be aware of when housing livestock, primarily ventilation and air flow.



Speaker: Jamie Robertson, Livestock Management Systems Ltd

Thursday 12th March 2020 Ballygreggan Farm, Campbeltown

The meeting will run from 11 am till 3 pm with lunch provided
To book your place please call 01586 552502



Kintyre & District Ayrshire Breeders Club A.G.M.

Monday 9th March 2020 at 8.00pm prompt in the Ardshiel Hotel, Campbeltown
Guest speaker: Mr Arthur Lawrie, Cuthill Towers President, World Federation of Ayrshire Breeders
All welcome

Kintyre Agricultural Society SUMMER LET OF SHOWFILEDS

The fields will be offered for let from 1st April until 30th September 2020
Stock must be removed between 9th July and 9th August
Written or e-mail bids only to the secretary before Friday 20th March
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PUBLIC MEETINGS

NEW ISLAY VESSEL

Public meetings have been arranged to engage with the Islay and Jura communities on the requirements and specification of a new ferry to operate between Kennacraig and Islay. The ferry is the next major vessel to be ordered for the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service.

Communities are invited to attend their local meeting:

Monday 23 March 2020, 5.30pm to 7.30pm
Ionad Chaluum Chille Ìle (ICCI), Bowmore

Tuesday 24 March 2020, 5.30pm to 7.30pm
Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen

The meetings will include a 30-minute presentation followed by a Q&A with representatives from Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL), CalMac and Transport Scotland.

Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd
Municipal Buildings, Fore Street, Port Glasgow PA14 5EQ
01475 749920 | operations@cmassets.co.uk
cmassets.co.uk

Energiekontor UK Ltd
ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

Notice is hereby given that Energiekontor UK Ltd, Sovereign House, 212-224 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8HQ has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate a wind farm within Argyll and Bute, approximately 1.6km east of Tayinloan (Central Grid Reference NR 751474). The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be up to 95.2 MW comprising 17 turbines with a ground to blade tip height of 180 metres. The proposed development is subject to Environmental Impact Assessment and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report has been produced.

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

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

Location	Opening Hours	Address
Argyll and Bute Council Offices	Monday to Friday: 9am to 12.30pm, and 1.30pm to 4pm	Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT

The EIA report can also be viewed at the Scottish Government Library at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ; on the application website at www.energiekontor.co.uk or at www.energyconsents.scot.

Copies of the EIA Report may be obtained from Energiekontor UK Ltd telephone: 0141 354 6544 at a charge of £600 hard copy and £15 on CD. Copies of a short non-technical summary are available free of charge.

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

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

All representations should be received not later than 6th April, although Ministers may consider representations received after this date.

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

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

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

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

General Data Protection Regulations

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

Campbeltown Lawn Tennis Club
A.G.M.
Wednesday
18th March
at 7.30pm
in Ardshiel Hotel

R N L I
Mid Argyll
Fundraising Branch
A G M
Tuesday 10th March
2020
2.00pm
Lochgilphead
Community Centre
All Welcome
SC037736

East Kintyre Community Council Windfarm Trust

Applications are invited for funding from the first disbursement this year from the above trust. Grants for capital or revenue funding may be available to charities, community groups and village halls within the East Kintyre Community Council area bordered by Grogport to the North and Peninver to the South.

Advice, criteria and application forms are available on the Windfarm Trust pages of the new East Kintyre Community website - eastkintyre.org or alternatively from the Secretary/Treasurer:

Alasdair Bennett
Tel: 01583 431112

E-mail: ekccwft@hotmail.com

Closing date for applications: Thursday 23 April 2020

69%
of the business community
read the regional press



Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

Regional Press
CLOSER TO HOME

Argyll and Bute Council PLANNING

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12.30 - 13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD. They can also be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and at your Local Customer Service Point (check opening times).

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
20/00040/PP	Amendment to Condition 2 of planning permission reference 14/01279/PP (Erection of 100 metres high meteorological mast for temporary period of 5 years) to allow retention of the mast for a temporary period of 5 years	Cnocan Gean, Tany Wind Farm, Kilkennie, Argyll And Bute
20/00134/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 3 Land North East Of Bayview, Carradale, Argyll And Bute
20/00137/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 1 Land North East Of Bayview, Airds, Carradale, Argyll And Bute
20/00321/PP	Change of use of land for the siting of timber clad modular building for use as office accommodation (retrospective)	Mowi Scotland Limited, Craobh Haven, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute, PA31 8UA
20/00165/PP	Formation of temporary site compound comprising modular buildings, material storage area and associated heras fencing to enable sewer upsizing (Flood Alleviation Works)	Land Adjacent To Tarbert Fire Station, Garval Road, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

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Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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Candidates for both positions would ideally have industry related experience and knowledge of quarrying operations, be a versatile, flexible and an accommodating working who has a clean driving licence and would be available to commence employment at the earliest opportunity.

If you wish to apply to join our team, please download an application form from our website

www.leiths-group.co.uk/careers

and submit to

recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk

Leiths Group are an Equal Opportunities Employer

Ormsary Farmers Vehicle Maintenance Manager

A vacancy has arisen for a qualified motor vehicle engineer to maintain a fleet of cars, estate vehicles and vintage cars, together with some seasonal servicing and maintenance of private boats. There will be a requirement for driver/courier service when required. The successful candidate will be self-motivated and will be required to maintain relevant records, control stocks of spares and equipment and keep excellent garage facilities functioning to a high standard.

If you wish to discuss the role or apply, please send a CV to James Lithgow, Ormsary Estate Office, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8PE or email enquiries@ormsary.co.uk



Oban Cruise Operations – local representative

We are seeking an enthusiastic team player to assist in coordinating shore excursion services for cruise ships visiting Oban. Our ideal candidate must possess good local knowledge, organizational and interpersonal skills, communicate effectively, and be flexible.

This job will only be on an occasional basis and will involve outdoor pier side work (5 dates total during the 2020 summer season).

Please email CV and cover letter by Thursday 12 March 2020 to Felix Lopez at flopez@europeancruise.no

Job description available upon request. Interviews will be held in Oban on Wed 18 March 2020.

Career opportunities



TELEHANDLER OPERATIVE – OBAN

We are recruiting for a qualified Telescopic Handler to fill an available position on Dunbeg Housing Development in Oban. Full Time/Permanent role, available for immediate start.

Please send CV with references and relevant certificates to jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk or call 01546602989.



Career opportunities



SITE SUPERVISOR

We are recruiting for an experienced Site Supervisor to join our team in Argyll & Bute. The candidate should have a background in Construction.

Full Time/Permanent position, available for immediate start.

CV with references to jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk or call 01546602989.

GENERAL LABOURERS

We are recruiting for General Labourers in the Oban area. Construction experience is desirable but not essential.

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CV with references to jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk or call 01546602989



Crear Weddings are recruiting full & part time housekeeping, waiting staff & general assistants.

Accommodation available.

Please email julie@crear.co.uk or call 01880 770369



Delivery driver

We are a thriving and long established food distribution business covering the West coast and most of the Inner Hebrides.

Due to pending staff retirement and increasing workload, we wish to recruit a smart, reliable, resourceful and customer focused driver for our delivery runs around Argyll, Lochaber and the islands. Occasional stores work may also be required.

Ideal candidates would have a class II licence and CPC, or, be a van driver looking to undergo paid driver training to Class II

Early starts and manual handling skills are essential.

Please apply with CV and covering letter to Eric Walton, Waltons of Oban, 13 Lochavullin Road, Oban, PA34 4PL. Or email to eric@waltonsofoban.co.uk



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As Editor you will be responsible for managing the day to day production of the print title "Fish Farmer" as well as sourcing and contributing news to the website and associated social media. Industry experience or B2B experience would be preferred, but not essential - you may be a talented journalist or editor looking to move into a B2B role.

The applicant will be commercially minded, and close liaison with the sales team will be required.

The role involves writing and commissioning articles, working closely with freelancers, contributors, trade bodies and an editorial advisory board to implement ideas and recognise commercial opportunities across a variety of platforms.

There will be a degree of international and UK travel and attendance at trade events.

Driving licence essential.

Apply with CV, covering letter and current salary to:
jobs@fishfarmer.com

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£ **GENEROUS BASIC** + £ **BONUS** + **ENHANCED PENSION**

Fish Farmer magazine has been part of the aquaculture scene for over 40 years and is known and respected in Europe and across the world.

If you are a motivated sales professional then we would like to hear from you.

You will be selling online and print advertising in Fish Farmer as well as attending trade shows in the UK and abroad.

Key skills include excellent time and territory management, plus the ability to work well under pressure and deliver a consistent sales performance to tight deadlines.

Experience in media sales and/or an understanding of the aquaculture industry would be advantageous as would an equivalent background in B2B sales.

The position is based in our
Edinburgh or Oban office.

Please email a copy of your CV, present salary and a covering letter to
Brian Cameron at
recruitment@fishfarmermagazine.com



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For further information contact enquiries@jrobindixon.co.uk tel: 01880 821 133



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PERSONAL NOTICES

Thank You

to Sally and Simon for rescuing me when my car was in the ditch at Craobh Haven on 3rd March.
Your help was much appreciated – you made my day!
Billy Mundie

To **Ami**
Happy 40th Birthday



lots of love from
Dad, Jinty, Lee, Aron and Kyra xxx



Ruby Wedding Anniversary
Livingstone – Smith
Russell to Lorna
on 7th March 1980 at Glassary Church

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AEG DOUBLE OVEN - Brushed Stainless Steel, in good order, £80.00 Telephone 01631 730323

TABLE TOP ELECTRIC OVEN - and grill with instruction book. Very clean, used only 2/3 times. After 6pm, £30.00 Telephone 01631 562175

CARMEN SALON STYLER - Carmen Salon Styler hood type hair dryer. VGC, £10.00 Telephone 07867 624679

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STRADA VIENNA DRESSAGE SADDLE - Black Strada Vienna Dressage Saddle, I Fit with 24 mm panels.

In very good condition and very comfortable. Please phone or email. I can bring it to you to try it on your horse, £850.00 ono Telephone 01855 811227

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FIREARMS

FIREARMS FOR SALE - Franchi Alcione One 12B O-U M-C, as new £600, Bettinsoli Universal Game 20B O-U M-C, new £900, Telephone 07990886646

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Fawn Colour
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ISLAY



The new ferry will complement the service provided by MV Finlaggan.

Ferry users urged to attend meetings about new vessel

Two meetings will be held on Islay to engage with communities on the requirements and specification of a new ferry to operate between Kennacraig and the island.

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) will host the meetings on March 23 at Ionad Chalum Chille Ile (ICCI) in Barmore and on March 24 at Ramsay Hall in Port Ellen.

The two-hour meetings will start at 5.30pm and include a 30-minute presentation followed by a question and answer session with representatives from CMAL, CalMac and Transport Scotland. The new Islay ferry is the next major vessel to be ordered for the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service. It will complement the service provided by MV Finlaggan, although it will be developed with a clear focus on freight.

The Islay route is one of the busiest services for freight on the Clyde and Hebrides network.

ISLANDS

Radio training aims to build resilient island communities

Free radio training will be provided in Colonsay, Tiree and Coll this month after successful training in Islay and Jura last year, all thanks to resilience funding from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN).

Glasgow and Clyde Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network (RAYNET) recently received more than £16,000 from SSEN's Resilient Communities Fund to enhance radio communications across the Argyll and Bute islands during emergency events.

The funding has been put to good use, providing 30 Very High Frequency (VHF) radio sets for communities on Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Tiree and Coll.

Following successful training and deployment of radios in Islay and Jura in November last year, SSEN and RAYNET have now confirmed training dates for Colonsay, Coll and Tiree this month.

Samantha O'Connor, regional customer relationship manager at SSEN, said: 'We're pleased to support RAYNET through our Resilient Communities Fund,



SSEN RAYNET radio training taking place on Jura last year.

providing VHF radio sets to enable communications to continue without landlines or mobile phone coverage, all year round.

'These radios will be owned by the local community once the training sessions are complete, so I'd encourage anyone interested in joining us to come along, learn how to use the equipment and be part of the ongoing effort to build resilience across the islands for years to come.'

Paul Lucas, group controller at Glasgow and Clyde RAYNET, added: 'After the successful deployment of VHF radios on Islay and Jura in November 2019, we are delighted to be working once again in partnership with SSEN.

'We're really looking forward to rolling out phase two of the project and bringing resilience communication support to the communities of Colonsay, Coll and Tiree in the coming weeks.'

Sufficient passenger accommodation will also be designed to meet anticipated demand.

The project is in its early stages; a naval architect consultancy, n-Value GmbH, has been appointed by CMAL to support the feasibility analysis phase of the project and

the tender programme to award a shipbuilding contract.

Jim Anderson, director of vessels at CMAL, said: 'We are working closely with all parties to develop the specification for a vessel that meets requirements and supports the island's

economic activities.

'Engagement with the island community is a key part of the process to ensure user needs are considered during the early planning and feasibility stages. We would like to see as many people as possible at the meetings.'

Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Shedden

It always happens late on a Friday afternoon when everyone has gone home for the weekend and nothing can happen till Monday.

Yes, our heating went off about 4pm on Friday.

It was going to be a very cold weekend with the latest storm, including the threat of snow, making its way towards us.

Phone calls to the 'big companies' proved fruitless and we were dreading a cold few days ahead.

Our hopes were raised, however, when we were given the phone number of someone who might help. And Malcolm turned out to be our 'God-send'.

Late on Friday afternoon, still working on another job, Malcolm said he would come and try to help.

Malcolm came and not only helped, but completely sorted our problem.

It turned out to be a simple procedure which only took a few moments to sort.

That was not the point. The point was that someone was prepared to take the time late on a Friday afternoon to help.

Often it is the small things that make all the difference.

It is the small act of kindness, the gentle word, the small gift, that can lift our spirits and renew our hope.

There is a book called The God of Small Things.

All that it takes to make this world a better place is to do the small things.

When we can't make major changes in government or national affairs, when we despair of the tragedies and disasters around us, we can do these small acts that make a difference.

We can, in our own wee corner of our world, try to be a 'God-send' to someone.

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BIRTHS

MOLLER - Carwyn and Iona (née Thonger) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son, Cai Owen, born on December 27, 2019 at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. A wee brother for Seth. A precious gift from the Lord.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS



REID - MACPHERSON
At Lorne Street Church, on March 6, 1970, John and Ailsa were married by Rev James Hood.

DEATHS

CARMICHAEL - Peacefully, at the Campbeltown Hospital, on February 28, 2020, Margaret McKinven Muir, in her 87th year, 9 South Moy, Campbeltown, dearly beloved wife of the late John Carmichael and a loving sister-in-law and aunt.
LANDEG - Peacefully, after a long illness, on February 25, 2020, Cheryl Landeg, passed away at home, in the place she loved, Drumgarve, Glenlussa, Peninver, aged 59 years, dearly beloved wife of Daryl, much loved mother of Geraint and Riordan, loving sister of Roy, much loved daughter-in-law of Carole and Ken and a loving mother-in-law of Tania and Meaghan.
MCKAY - Peacefully, at the Campbeltown Hospital, on March 1, 2020, Mary Jane Anderson McVicar, in her 81st year, 7 Harbour View, Campbeltown, dearly beloved wife of Neil McKay, much loved mum of Neil and Christine and a loving granny of Maryann, Jennifer

and Alison. A service will be held in the Lorne and Lowland Parish Church, on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 11.00am, funeral thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. Family flowers only please. A retiral collection will be held in aid of the Red Cross and Kidney Dialysis, Campbeltown.

MITCHELL - Elizabeth (Betty), formerly of Monabachach, Skipness, died peacefully, at Peterborough City Hospital, on February 17, 2020, aged 83 years old. Betty was much loved wife of the late William and mum to Gordon, Fiona and the late Andrew, granny to Gemma, Melissa, Mitchell, Morna, great gran to Isabelle and Callum. Betty's funeral will take place at Grantham Crematorium on March 13, 2020.

IN MEMORIAM

BROWN - In loving memory of Janet Nicolson MacLean, passed away February 28, 2011. Miss you dearly and always will.
- Peter Marshall.

BROWN - Treasured memories of a special dad, granda and great granda, Joe, who died March 5, 2015. Remembered with love every day.
- John, Neil and families xx.

BURTON - For our boys Paul and David, in our hearts and minds forever.
- The Burton family, Oban and East Kilbride.

CUNNINGHAM - Christina Soudan, loving daughter of Christine and the late Neil, loving sister to Neil, Marilyn, Kenneth and James, and loving aunt and great aunt, passed away March 7, 2015. Loved and remembered every day.
- Mum and all the family.

GILCHRIST - In loving memory of Leonard, a loving husband, dad and grandad, who died March 5, 2010. Always loved and remembered every day. - Your loving wife Gloria and family, home and away.

MCGUINNESS - In loving memory of Robert, a dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle, died March 8, 2016. Not one to trouble or make a fuss, You asked for nothing from any of us, God called you to him and we had to part, Leaving us lonely and with a broken heart. - From the family at home, Carlisle and Ayr.

MCMILLAN - Another year rolls by, my boy, and you're always on my mind, Another decade started... hope it will be kind, Happy family news has lifted us so far, But there's always a missing bright star, You would have led the celebrations and partied through the day and night, But, lovely boy, the reality is you're not here and that will never be right. Loved and missed forever, Gordon x.

ROBERTSON - In loving memory of our dear sister and aunt, Margaret, died March 6, 2006, and our dear brother and uncle, Jim, died March 14, 1997. In our hearts you will always stay, Loved and remembered every day.
- Love, Norma, Jim and family.

WARDROP - Our beautiful Lynsey, Somewhere over the rainbow, We love you.
- Mum, Dad and Fallon xx.

CHURCH NOTICES

LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity Number SC 11686
Sunday 8th March
11.15am Morning Worship
Creche, Triple C, Gen 1
Rev W Crossan
Tuesday 10th March
Tiny Tots 9.45am
New Hall
BB Anchor Boys 6.00pm
Junior Section 7.15pm
Church Hall
Thursday 12th March
Choir Practice 7.00pm
Friday 13th March
Lunch Club 12.00 noon
New Hall
Saturday 14th March
Guild Sale of Work
Church Hall
2.00 - 4.00pm
Everyone welcome

HIGHLAND PARISH CHURCH



SC002493
Sunday 8th March
The service will be conducted by Rev Steve Fulcher and will be held in the church at 11.15am
All welcome

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



75 Longrow, Campbeltown
Friday 6th March
SKY Youth Group Meeting at Lorne & Lowland Church
7.00 - 9.00pm
Sunday 8th March
Family Communion Service 11.00am
Pastor Steve Davies
All welcome
Wednesday 11th March
Bible Study 7.30pm
All welcome
Pastor Steve Davies
Enquiries 01586 551200
www.springbankchurch.org.uk
SCO14646

ST KIARAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Sunday 8th March
Lent 2
Holy Communion
10.45am
Enquiries tel:
01586 551141
The Scottish Episcopal Church is a Province of the Worldwide Anglican Communion

ST KIERAN RC CHURCH

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

SALVATION ARMY



Sunday Services
10.30am Morning Service
Army Kidz
6.30pm Evening Service
Wednesday
Lunch Club 12.15pm
CAMEO 1.30pm
Make 'n' Munch Craft Group 7.00pm
Major Ruth Russell
All welcome
Scottish Charity Number SCO09359

CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH

George Street, Campbeltown



Sunday 8th March
11.15am Worship Service
Rev Rodger Crooks
11.15am Sunday School
4.00pm Service in Tayinloan Village Hall
Monday 9th March
4.00pm Road to Recovery
Wednesday 11th March
12 noon Prayer & Bible Study
2.00pm Water of Life Cafe
All welcome
www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH



Sunday 8th March
11.00am Family Service
Speaker - Pastor Mark Jasper
with Sunday school Refreshments after the service
Playgroup
Every Thursday
10.00 - 11.30am
(Term-time only)
Pastor Mark Jasper
pastor@campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk
www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk
SC043322
We meet at the SKDT Hall, Kirk Street PA28 6BL

ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES

"It is good to sing praises to our God"
Services in Ardrishaig at 11.00am and Achahoish at 12.30pm
All welcome

CHRIST CHURCH SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Bishopton Road, Lochgilphead (SC013787)
Sunday 8th March
11.00am Eucharist & Coffee
St Columba's, Poltalloch (SC031391)
1st Sunday of the month
9.00am Holy Communion
3rd Sunday of the month
3.30pm Evensong
All welcome
Father Simon Mackenzie
01546 602315

ST MARGARET'S RC CHURCH

Lochgilphead
Holy Mass Sunday 10am
All Saints, Inveraray
Holy Mass Sunday 12.30pm
Fr Ronald Campbell
01546 602380
All Welcome
(SC002876)

GLASSARY, KILMARTIN & FORD PARISH CHURCH

Kilmartin
Sunday 8th March
10.00am
Communion
Rev Stanley Hood
All very welcome
(SC0 02121)

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

Charity number SC001002
Sunday 8th March
Bellanoch Church
10.30am Choir Practise
11.30am Morning Worship
Mr David Logue
6.30pm Achnamara Hall
Second Sunday Supper
Friday 6th March
3 Braeface
7.00pm Alpha Week 5 Meal and video
7.00pm St Margaret's World Day of Prayer
Saturday 7th March
Achnamara Hall
10.30am - 12.30pm
Café Connect
All welcome
www.northknappdale.org

SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 8th March
Skipness Service
10.00am
Dr J L Morrison OBE
Tarbert Service 11.30am
Mr J Malcolm
Kilberry Service 2.00pm
Mr J Malcolm
Friday 6th March
World Day of Prayer
Tarbert Church Hall
2.30pm
Monday 9th March
Tarbert Guild 2.30pm
Tarbert Church Hall
All welcome
Tarbert and Kilberry
Charity No: SC002622
Skipness Charity No: SC004280
For all church enquiries and pastoral care contact CFulcher@churchofscotland.org.uk

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND WEST LOCHFYNESIDE

Church of Scotland
Sunday 8th March
Cumlodden Church
10.00am
Inveraray Church
11.30am
Rev Dr Roderick Campbell
Westlochfynside
Charity No SC016665
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Action from Kintyre athletics

There was a good field of contestants at the Argyll Sports Hall Athletics Kintyre meet on Sunday.

All those placed have qualified to compete in the Argyll final to be held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban on Sunday March 22, starting at noon with registration from 11am. Entry is £2 for competitors.

Results: Under seven girls: 1 Niamh McSporran, Dalintober, 23; 2 Eva McKinven, Dalintober, 13; 3 Abigail McAllister, Castlehill, 12; 4 Jessica McGeachy, Castlehill, 7; 5 Quinn Anderson, Castlehill, 3.

Under nine girls: 1 Eleya McEachran, Castlehill, 18; 2 Carla Renton, Castlehill, 17; 3 Emilija Kirmuska, Dalintober, 16; 4 Taylor Russell, Southend, 8; 5 Louise Ralston, Castlehill, 7.

Under 11 girls: 1 Erin Ralston, Castlehill, 23; 2 Ayla Campbell, Dalintober, 19; 3 Lucy McFadzean Castlehill, 16; 4 Ceira McPherson, Dalintober, 9; 5 Hannah Gilchrist, Dalintober, 3.

Under 13 girls: 1 Niamh



Quinn, Castlehill, 20.5; 2 Beth Johnstone, Tarbert, 19.5; 3 Emma Millar, Castlehill, 17; 4 Hannah Millar, Castlehill, 12.5; 5 Annie Watson, Castlehill.

Under 17 girls: Caryn Kerr, Campbeltown Grammar School.

Under seven boys: 1 Millar MacKay, Drumlemble, 20; 2 Murray MacKay, Drumlemble, 16; 3 Valters Kirmuska, Dalintober, 10; 4 Jamie McPhee, Castlehill, 7; 5 Max Grumoli, Dalintober, 5.

Under nine boys: 1 Kian Campbell, Dalintober, 25; 2



Craig MacMillan, Castlehill, 12; 3 Charley Gilchrist, Castlehill, 9; 4 Lewis Shields, Dalintober, 8; 5 Sean McArthur, Castlehill, 6.

Under 11 boys: 1 Jack Green, Dalintober, 26; 2 Jake

McKechnie, Castlehill, 20; 3 Isiah Dosey, Drumlemble, 12; 4 Cameron Ralston, Drumlemble, 10; 5 Ollie Mamson, Castlehill, 2.

Under 13 boys: 1 Robert Kerr, Dalintober.



All the competitors who took part in the Kintyre competition. [KC_c10indoorathletics01](#); Craig MacMillan competes in the javelin competition. [KC_c10indoorathletics04](#); Hannah Gilchrist taking part in the speed bounce. [KC_c10indoorathletics02](#); Some of the senior Campbeltown Grammar School students who assisted with the competition. [KC_c10indoorathletics09](#); Making it over the bar in the high jump. [KC_c10indoorathletics05](#)

Pupils left to rue late league defeat

Parkhall Ams	3
Campbeltown Pupils	1
SAFL Premier Division One	

Campbeltown Pupils stumbled to defeat in the league last Saturday in a tightly contested match away to Parkhall.

Travelling to the Scotstoun Stadium, the home of professional rugby union side Glasgow Warriors, the Pupils competed well in the opening stages, in their first outing for three weeks since their league win away to Neilston.

Personnel changes from that game saw John McCallum slot in to central defence beside Ross Souden, while Ryan Gilchrist replaced Gregor Croll as the Pupils' lone striker, and Craig Lamont pulled on the gloves in place of Alasdair Ferguson, with the team playing a 4-2-3-1 formation.

The Pupils' first sight at goal saw Gregor McFadyen cut in from left midfield to find a central position, but his shot drifted wide of target. Then, from left back, Pupils' captain



Keith Mitchell wove a path between several Parkhall defenders and was unlucky to see his effort diverted wide by the hosts' keeper, amidst mounting pressure from the McFadyens-sponsored

Pupils. Disappointingly, though, the visitors conceded a goal from a simple throw-in routine which undid their good work in the previous half hour - Parkhall midfielder Dougherty running

Scott Souden, photographed in action last year, scored the Pupils' only goal on Saturday. [20_c39pupils04](#)

off his marker and unleashing a sweet strike beyond Lamont to put Parkhall in front.

Minutes later, Lamont, who was between the sticks for the team's consecutive league titles in 2013 and 2014, then pulled off a wonder save to deny Parkhall a second.

The Feathers Inn-sponsored Pupils then produced another attacking spell of their own before the half-time whistle, with Liam Renton having two efforts on goal tipped round the post in the space of a minute by the Parkhall keeper.

From the second save, the Pupils made the most of the resultant corner kick, when Renton delivered a swerving ball which found right winger Scott Souden, who guided a firm downward header into the Parkhall net to make it 1-1.

Into the second half, the Pupils had to weather a storm from their hosts, but found

composure again and began to create excellent chances for themselves.

Renton went close again from a free kick 25 yards out, but was denied by another fingertip save from Parkhall's impressive keeper.

Scott Souden had a chance to put the Pupils in front, after being put through on goal by a cutting through-pass from Ryan Deans, but a loose touch gave the home keeper a chance to make a diving save and divert the ball wide.

Then, the Pupils were pegged back for the second time when a corner from the hosts' left-hand side was side-footed home by Parkhall's Cannin, beyond Lamont's clutches.

Pushing hard for another equaliser, the Pupils had a lot of the play around Parkhall's penalty area, and Donald McCallum, introduced as a substitute, pounced on a loose ball in the box from a Pupils free-kick but saw his effort blocked in the six-yard box.

Into injury time, Parkhall, who had defended their lead resolutely in the closing stag-

es, broke forward against the tide of Pupils pressure and made it 3-1 through striker Kevin Williams, who tucked a low effort into the Pupils' net.

The Pupils must now regroup for more league action tomorrow (Saturday) with the visit of Neilston AFC.

Kick-off is 2pm with Kintyre Park the expected venue. For more details see Campbeltown Football on Facebook or @PupilsAFC on Twitter.

Campbeltown Pupils' squad v Parkhall: Craig Lamont, Keith Mitchell (captain), John McCallum, Ross Souden, Stuart Crossan, Gregor McFadyen, Liam Renton, Ryan Deans, Ellis Robertson, Scott Souden, Ryan Gilchrist. Subs (both used): Donald McCallum, Michael McKinlay.

Lastly, the Pupils would like to thank individuals, groups and fellow amateur clubs from Kintyre and beyond for their kind messages, after the club was featured on BBC's Scottish football programme View from the Terrace, last Friday, February 28.



Morgan Sinclair competed in the intermediate class on Just William.

Pony club trots into 2020

Argyll South Pony Club finally held its first event of 2020 on Sunday February 23.

Rain and wind every weekend since Christmas had prevented the young riders from having fun with their ponies but thanks to the generosity of Mary Broadfoot the first dressage day of 2020 was held in the indoor school at Stronachullin Farm at the weekend.

The event was well supported and 14 tests were judged by visiting dressage judge Mary Kingshot from Helensburgh. Tuition was provided before each test by Sheila MacCallum and parents and committee members were delighted to slip back into their usual catering and organisational roles.

Argyll Riding Club members joined in with the young pony clubbers and a good time was had

by everyone. All the riders were praised as their horses and ponies were in tip-top position in spite of the recent bad weather.

The next event will be show jumping at Tarbert next weekend, on March 14 and 15, and more details will be shared on the club's Facebook page.

Results: Novice RC: 1 Gillian MacVicar, Barney; 2 Colette Benham, Blake. Novice PC: 1 Willow Ryan, Minstrel; 2 Freya Urquhart, Joey; 3 Willow Ryan, Tony; 4 Amy Kate Anderson, Ophelia; 5 Rebecca Baillie, Fergus. Intermediate: 1 Amy Anderson, Stella; 2 Cerys Baird, Dancer; 3 Zoe Prentice, Molly; 4 Colette Benham, Blake; 5 Morgan Sinclair, Just William. Open: 1 Josephine Boase, Valerie; 2 Shelagh Oakes, Pery.

Results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: Central Scottish AFL Division 1B – Oban Saints 3 Bridgewater 2; Greater Glasgow AFL Division Three – Kilbarchan 1, Oban Saints GG 0; Scottish Amateur FL – Premier Division One – Carlton YM 1, Lochgilhead Red Star 4; Dunoon v Busby, postponed; Parkhall 3, Campbeltown Pupils 1; Premier Division Two – Tarbert v Strathaven, postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures: Central Scottish AFL: Cinema Cup, first round – St Patrick's FP v Oban Saints; Greater Glasgow AFL Division Three – Oban Saints GG v Westcliff; Scottish Amateur FL: Premier Division One – Campbeltown Pupils v Neilston; Lochgilhead Red Star v Dunoon; Premier Division Two – Houston United v Tarbert.

High winds and high scores in February Medal

Exceptionally high winds led to Dunaverty Golf Club members posting high scores in the February Medal.

David MacBrayne had the best outward half with 37 strokes followed by Derek Graham on 38, with John Docherty and Bill Brannigan both recording 39.

The wind played havoc with the scores on the inward half with Bill managing a 44, while David fell back with 46 and John and Danny Halliday both posted 45.

A chip-in for a birdie at the 18th secured the win for Bill, who pipped David by one stroke but Bill insists that everyone who played on the day deserved to be a winner.

David and Bill had the joint best scratch score of 83 each. CSS for the day was 66.

Results: 1 Bill Brannigan 83-12=71, 2 David MacBrayne 83-11=72, 3 William Ralston 94-20=74 (bih), 4 John Docherty 84-10=74, 5 Danny Halliday 93-16=77 (bih), 6 Derek Graham 89-12=77.

new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

Win!
THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT
£2500

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

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 2pm Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into any of our offices - The Oban Times, Lochavullin, Oban; The Lochaber Times, High Street, Fort William; The Campbeltown Courier, Main Street, Campbeltown; The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilhead or the Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

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



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

Name

Address

Tel No.....

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

RECENT WINNERS:

T Campbell Sept '18 **£2500**
S Campbell Sept '18 **£2550**
L Currie Nov '18 **£800**
L Nicolson Dec '18 **£3900**
D MacLellan Jan '20 **£2000**

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



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

D Campbell
Dunbeg
J MacVean
Lochgilhead

Kintyre athletes selected for Argyll finals in Oban

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

There was an entry of 55 young athletes for the Kintyre competition of Sports Hall Athletics last Sunday, held for the first time in the games hall at Campbeltown Grammar School.

This is the 27th year the indoor athletics have been held in Kintyre and was the last of four area competitions held in Argyll this winter.

After three hours of intense competition, Castlehill Primary School dominated in the girls' age groups, with Dalintober and Drumlemble primary schools successful in the boys' events.

Niamh McSporrán from Dalintober was one of the top performers on the day winning five out of the six events in the under-seven section and she was very impressive in the two running events, recording 27.1 seconds for the three-lap race and an amazing 61.7 seconds in the six-lap race. Niamh also won the long and triple jump competitions and soft javelin.

Eva McKinven from Dalintober was runner-up, just one point ahead of Abigail McAllister from Castlehill, who won the speed bounce.

Eleyna McEachran from Castlehill was the winner of a very competitive under-nine contest, only one point ahead of fellow Castlehill pupil Carla Renton, who in turn



The winners of each age group at the Kintyre heat. Back row, from left: Niamh Quinn, Erin Ralston, Caryn Kerr, Jack Green and Robert Kerr. Front: Kian Campbell, Eleyna McEachran, Millar MacKay and Niamh McSporrán.

KC_c10athleticswinners01

The track judges were stressed in deciding the places in the three-lap time trials due to an exceptionally close finish in the second of three races. Jamie McPhee from Castlehill was given the points just inches ahead of Millar MacKay.

In the six-lap race it was Max Grumoli from Dalintober who won in another close finish, in 60.5 seconds, a fraction ahead of Murray MacKay.

Kian Campbell from Dalintober was outstanding in winning the under-nine age group, with first places in five out of the seven events. Kian won the six-lap in 55.4 seconds, which followed earlier wins in the javelin, speed bounce and both the long and high jumps. Runner-up Craig MacMillan from Castlehill won the three-lap race in 24.9 seconds and Lewis Shields from Dalintober impressed in the standing triple jump winning with 4.74 metres.

Jack Green from Dalintober was the under-11 champion thanks to outright wins in six of the seven events. Jack won the three-lap race in 24.7 seconds and the six-lap race in

53.9 seconds, and impressed by winning the javelin and all three jumping events including a 1.14 metre clearance in the high jump.

Jack's mum Laura Paterson was the Argyll under-nine champion in 1994 which was the first year the indoor competitions were held in Argyll. Laura did not win the Kintyre contest in 1994 as Leighann Ramsay was the local champion, but Laura won at the final in Lochgilphead. Both Laura and Leighann attended Carradale Primary School in 1994.

Jake McKechnie from Castlehill was runner-up to Jack thanks to success in the speed bounce.

Robert Kerr from Dalintober was the under-13 winner and his older sister Caryn the under-17 winner.

Successful athletes from Sunday's competition are now invited to compete in the Argyll final to be held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban on Sunday March 22, starting at noon with registration between 11am and noon.

See inside for more photographs and the full results.

was one point ahead of third placed Emilija Kirmuska from Dalintober.

Eleyna dominated in the running events winning the three-lap in 27.9 seconds and the six-lap in 58 seconds, going on to win the speed bounce. Emilija excelled in winning the three jumping events, while Louise Ralston from Castlehill won the javelin.

Erin Ralston from Castlehill was a clear winner in the under-11 section, winning four events – javelin, speed bounce, high and triple jumps. Ayla Campbell from

Dalintober placed second on overall points thanks to an exceptional display of running, recording 25 seconds in the three-lap event and 55 seconds in the six-lap race.

It was success again for Castlehill in the under-13 age group, with Niamh Quinn the champion, just one point ahead of Beth Johnstone from Tarbert Academy. Niamh won the three-lap race in 24.5 seconds and the triple jump, leaping out to 5.40 metres.

Beth won the long jump and high jump in which she cleared 1.27 metres, arguably the top

individual performance of the day. In the same age group Emma Millar from Castlehill was third on overall points thanks to a win in the shot putt, throwing 5.06 metres, while her twin sister Hannah won the speed bounce and six-lap race.

In the boys' events, the MacKay twins from Drumlemble dominated in the under-seven contest, with Millar the champion four points ahead of Murray. Millar won the javelin, long jump and triple jump and Murray was first in the speed bounce.



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Don't forget - Mother's Day, 22nd March 2020!

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