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# Community rallies round as virus lockdown continues

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

In just two weeks Kintyre Community Resilience Group (KCRG) has registered more than 80 volunteers and has received countless offers of help from local businesses as it works tirelessly to minimise the impact of the coronavirus pandemic in the area.

Volunteers have offered to shop, drive, deliver, call or do whatever is needed of them while businesses large and small have provided vehicles and drivers as the country remains in lockdown to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Eric Spence, manager of South Kintyre Development Trust (SKDT) and KCRG's local area coordinator, told the Courier: 'The majority of the smaller localities and villages around us have already formed their own groups and are supporting the vulnerable in their local communities.'

'We will continue to offer these

groups the assistance of our volunteers where required.

'We are aware that there are many, many more people who are not registered as volunteers but who are already looking after and checking on the older or vulnerable members of their family, as well as friends and neighbours. That is really heartening to see and should remind us all of how lucky we are to live in such a tight-knit, supportive community.'

KCRG has broken Kintyre into smaller, more manageable chunks with each 'neighbourhood' having a nominated coordinator as well as a back-up. All inquiries and requests received by the group are sorted and then sent to the volunteer coordinator who can call on the bank of volunteers to allocate specific tasks to them.

SKDT has allowed the use of Campbeltown Town Hall which has been set up as headquarters in readiness for the coming weeks. It can be used as a preparation and packing station for

shopping and a central point for volunteers for drop-off, pick-up and distribution purposes.

The group has been offered a grant of £1,000 from Laggan Community Council to help with upfront shopping costs and volunteer expenses for which the volunteers express their gratitude.

Eric said: 'Small charities like Shopper-Aide are doing a fantastic job providing their services to older people. However, they are already at capacity and will need the support of volunteers to continue their excellent work.'

'We are, though, acutely aware that many of the people we will need to support now are normally totally self-sufficient and would not need these services in normal times.'

Eric explained that there are about 700 people in Campbeltown alone who fit the government criteria for shielding – a measure to protect people who are clinically extremely

Continued on page two

## Let Mia's rainbow bring colour to your day



Staff at Campbeltown Hospital released a video this week in which they pleaded with people to stay at home to reduce the chance of catching coronavirus. One of the people heeding that advice is six-year-old Mia McConnachie, who drew a colourful chalk rainbow outside her Campbeltown home, accompanied by the message 'Stay safe'. Mia's mum, Nicola Forshaw, told the Courier some of the other activities keeping her daughter occupied. She said: 'Mia has been busy with online learning with her teacher on GLOW, and her Highland dancing school has been doing online videos too.'

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## Community rallies as lockdown continues

Continued from page one vulnerable by minimising all interaction they have with others.

'It is a huge task to keep these people safe and supported in their homes,' he said, 'so we have been busy organising and preparing our volunteers and putting systems in place to ensure that nobody is missed out.'

'For this reason we would ask the good citizens of the area to continue to look after your neighbours and only use this service if you really need to. That way we can ensure that we focus our energies on those who need it most.'

Anyone needing assistance should call Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership's newly launched Caring for People helpline on 01546 605524. Appropriate requests will be referred to KCRG and volunteers will then make contact directly.

KCRG is also rolling out the 'green thumb scheme' which will allow those who need assistance to alert their neighbours – turn to page 4 and 5 for more.

# Call for more urgency over Kintyre economy

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

Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism has said that South Kintyre's councillors were not invited to a meeting about the area's economic future as it 'would have pushed numbers too high'.

Fergus Ewing MSP responded to a letter from Councillor Donald Kelly asking why he and his fellow local elected members were excluded from a follow-up meeting in March of the working group established at last year's emergency economic summit.

Despite being told at the 2019 meeting that local councillors would be involved in subsequent economic summits, they were not even told last month's meeting was taking place.

Mr Ewing told Councillor Kelly: 'Local elected members



were not invited as I felt the focus of the meeting should be on local businesses, their role in identifying actions that can help to create new employment opportunities and how they can work with Argyll and Bute Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to protect and enhance the

local economy. To ensure that focus, numbers of attendees had to be kept relatively low and the local constituency MSP, the constituency MP, the seven regional MSPs and three councillors from South Kintyre, plus three from Kintyre and the Islands would have pushed numbers too high

**Councillor Donald Kelly told the Courier some stakeholders believe there is a lack of urgency from agencies meant to be supporting community.**

to retain that focus and reduce the opportunity for businesses to contribute to the discussion, as would inviting representatives from over a dozen hotels and guesthouses in the area. Therefore, only three local hoteliers were invited to keep numbers manageable.'

Mr Ewing added that the presence of Councillor Aileen Morton, leader of Argyll and Bute Council, as well as a council official, ensured representation by an elected member.

Councillor Kelly told the Courier: 'After speaking to a number of stakeholders who

attended this meeting I am of the opinion that there is a distinct lack of urgency from all the agencies that are currently meant to be supporting our community.

'There is a need to set up a motivated group in similar terms to that of the former Kintyre Initiative Working Group, a group which could lobby work and represent the business community of Kintyre and call the government, the council and HIE to account.'

Mr Ewing added that he intends to chair one further meeting of the working group in the autumn, adding: 'In the meantime, I expect HIE to continue to lead intensive liaison with all local business to identify where new jobs might be created as, principally, it is the local businesses who are in a position to respond in the short term.'



## Davaar Island Safe Walking Times

	Morning Safe Walking Times			Afternoon Safe Walking Times		
	Low Tide	From	Til	Low Tide	From	Til
Wed, 1 Apr 2020	11:18	08:18	13:48			
Thu, 2 Apr 2020	12:26	09:26	14:56			
Fri, 3 Apr 2020				13:47	10:47	16:17
Sat, 4 Apr 2020				15:08	12:08	17:38
Sun, 5 Apr 2020				16:08	13:08	18:38
Mon, 6 Apr 2020				16:56	13:56	19:26
Tue, 7 Apr 2020				17:40	14:40	20:10
Wed, 8 Apr 2020				18:22	15:22	20:52
Thu, 9 Apr 2020	06:50	03:50	09:20	19:05	16:05	21:35
Fri, 10 Apr 2020	07:33	04:33	10:03	19:49	16:49	22:19
Sat, 11 Apr 2020	08:17	05:17	10:47			
Sun, 12 Apr 2020	09:04	06:04	11:34			
Mon, 13 Apr 2020	09:54	06:54	12:24			
Tue, 14 Apr 2020	10:54	07:54	13:24			
Wed, 15 Apr 2020	12:13	09:13	14:43			
Thu, 16 Apr 2020				13:35	10:35	16:05
Fri, 17 Apr 2020				14:42	11:42	17:12
Sat, 18 Apr 2020				15:37	12:37	18:07
Sun, 19 Apr 2020				16:24	13:24	18:54
Mon, 20 Apr 2020				17:04	14:04	19:34
Tue, 21 Apr 2020				17:39	14:39	20:09
Wed, 22 Apr 2020				18:09	15:09	20:39
Thu, 23 Apr 2020				18:38	15:38	21:08
Fri, 24 Apr 2020				19:07	16:07	21:37
Sat, 25 Apr 2020	07:15	04:15	09:45	19:38	16:38	22:08
Sun, 26 Apr 2020	07:49	04:49	10:19	20:14	17:14	22:44
Mon, 27 Apr 2020	08:28	05:28	10:58			
Tue, 28 Apr 2020	09:11	06:11	11:41			
Wed, 29 Apr 2020	10:02	07:02	12:32			
Thu, 30 Apr 2020	11:00	08:00	13:30			

Stay safe: Check weather conditions and hours of daylight before you go



In an emergency, dial 999 and ask for the Coastguard

## Shuttle bus plan for shopping and medication

West Coast Motors is planning to use buses to shuttle vital shopping and prescriptions to people in isolated communities, including Campbeltown, during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Campbeltown-based bus operator has seen a dramatic fall in passenger numbers which has worsened since last week's official lockdown.

With shops, schools and workplaces shut and the message to stay at home backed up with new police powers, regular bus users are staying away.

Bus bosses have had to rip up regular timetables and temporarily 'furlough' a number of drivers, but have kept some 'key routes' going and are now in talks about how the company's fleet and drivers can help the area.

In a double whammy for vital services, tourists are no longer coming to the area which has forced a radical rethink of the service model.

West Coast Motors confirmed this week it has been working with stakeholders such as local councillors to try to develop new ideas.

A spokeswoman said the company is working with

Argyll and Bute Council to provide a service to those who most need it.

Talks are ongoing and she said there was a need to ensure that any idea closely observed safe social distancing and coronavirus preventative measures. Hand sanitisers have been put on buses and face masks made available to drivers.

She added: 'On Friday March 27, we announced free bus travel for all NHS workers. This is available by presenting a valid NHS card to our driver.'

'In some areas, such as Campbeltown, Ardrishaig and Dunoon, we are working with local communities and offering a delivery service for those most vulnerable.'

'This is an area we expect to further develop as more people self-isolate and to reduce the growing pressure on local pharmacists and shops. We expect a more detailed coordinated plan will be agreed with the local council.'

'At this time, we would encourage community groups and local businesses to get in touch with our teams.'



Clare Little is the contact for people in the Campbeltown area and she can be contacted by

emailing [c.little@westcoastmotors.co.uk](mailto:c.little@westcoastmotors.co.uk)

At the moment, the Campbeltown Calton and Meadows circular route, number 100/440, is currently running four times daily from Monday to Saturday, while there is a reduced number of trips on the 200/442 Campbeltown to Machrihanish, 300/445 Campbeltown to Carradale, 443 Campbeltown to Sound of Kintyre; and 400/444 Campbeltown to Southend routes.

The 926 Campbeltown to Glasgow service is currently operating a reduced timetable, with a bus leaving Campbeltown at 8.30am and arriving in Glasgow at 12.50pm. It then leaves Glasgow at 2.20pm, returning to Campbeltown at 6.37pm.

See the company's website at [www.westcoastmotors.co.uk](http://www.westcoastmotors.co.uk) for all current timetables and updates.

## No blanket break for council tax payers

Council tax will be collected as usual for Argyll and Bute residents during the coronavirus outbreak – but the local authority says help is at hand for anybody who has trouble paying it.

Some local authorities in the UK have announced changes to their council tax payment regulations during the COVID-19 crisis, while members of others have called for such action to be implemented.

However, Argyll and Bute Council says there will be no blanket break for residents during the pandemic as the funds are needed to keep key services going.

Jackie Baillie MSP, whose Dumfries constituency includes the Helensburgh and Lomond area of Argyll and Bute, called last week for the authority to change the 'council tax break' months in its calendar from February and March to April and May.

Councillors recently voted to increase Argyll and Bute's council tax rates by 4.5 per cent as part of the annual

budget-setting process for the 2020/21 financial year.

The budget was decided before UK government measures aimed at slowing the spread of the coronavirus were enforced.

A council spokesperson said: 'Vital services, that our communities need every day, continue to need funding so we will be asking people to pay their council tax.'

'We recognise that this is a difficult time for many people financially, and as always will be keen to support anyone who has difficulty paying it at this time.'

'Our Caring for People helpline number is 01546 605524. For health advice please call the NHS on 0800 028 2816 or visit [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot).'

East Ayrshire Council has stated it will not take legal action against those who are unable to pay council tax during the crisis.

People in that region are also able to sign up for reduced council tax payments if they have lost their jobs.

# Kintyre says 'thank you' to NHS and all key workers

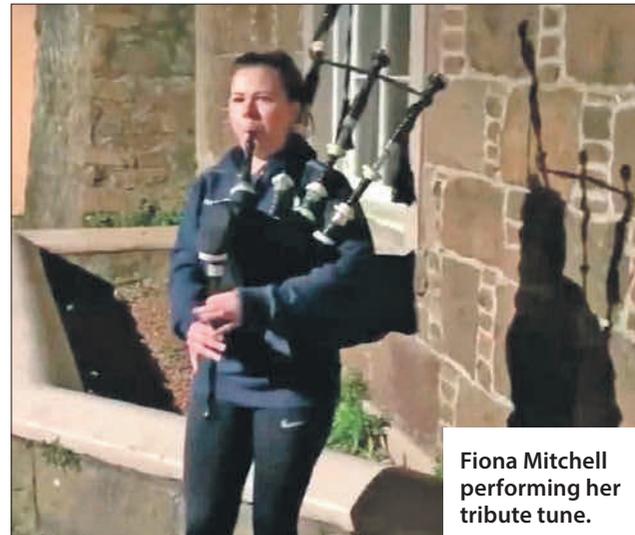
by Hannah O'Hanlon  
editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk

People in homes throughout Kintyre joined others from across the UK last Thursday evening to give hard-working healthcare staff and other key workers a giant round of applause.

Although the remit was to stand on doorsteps at 8pm and clap to show appreciation for all that the essential workers are doing to keep the country running during the coronavirus lockdown, some put on even more of a display.

In Campbeltown, Kintyre Schools Pipe Band Pipe Major Fiona Mitchell stood on the street outside her house to belt out a tune on her bagpipes, while other pipers and drummers from the band performed their own tributes.

Fiona said: 'I'd like to thank the NHS and all healthcare workers on the amazing work



Fiona Mitchell performing her tribute tune.



Sienna MacMillan with her drawing in honour of essential workers.

they are doing in this current crisis.'

Seven-year-old Sienna MacMillan not only joined children from across Kintyre in cheering on the workers with her parents but she also drew a special picture thanking NHS staff, as

well as Tesco, Co-op and Post Office employees, ambulance crews, carers, police, delivery drivers and teachers.

Sienna's little sister Laila, who had a quiet celebration when she turned two on March 22, missed out on clapping as she

was in bed, but both girls have been busy drawing rainbow and Easter egg pictures for their windows which they also emailed to their granny and papa in Carradale and their granny and granda in Southend.

## Kintyre councillor voices concerns over closure of 'vital' amenity sites

A South Kintyre councillor has written to Argyll and Bute Council's chief executive asking her to reconsider the decision to close amenity sites including at the Roothing in Campbeltown.

Councillor Donald Kelly wrote to Pippa Milne after being contacted by a number of constituents when it was

announced that all civic amenity sites would be closed to the public because of the coronavirus pandemic.

He said: 'Since the change to three weekly bin collections, the general public relies heavily on the Roothing site to dispose of their rubbish.'

'If the lack of available staff is

the problem, I have suggested that the council employs more people on temporary contracts in order to keep this vital service open.

'This pandemic has a long way to go and we don't want to cause another public health issue with rubbish being fly-tipped throughout the area.'

## Close family-only funerals introduced in Argyll and Bute

Funerals in Argyll and Bute should only be attended by close family members during the current coronavirus outbreak, the council has said.

Attendances will be limited to up to eight family members being allowed in to say farewell to a loved one while the pandemic is ongoing.

But Argyll and Bute joins a number of councils who are imposing restrictions on who should attend a funeral during the COVID-19 crisis.

A brief statement by a council spokesperson said: 'Attendance should be limited to close family members only.' Neighbouring West Dunbar-

tonshire Council has announced that only five people will be allowed to attend a funeral during the pandemic.

Funeral directors and ministers in the area have been told to advise grieving families that they will have to choose who is allowed to attend.

Glasgow City Council has also recommended that hymn books are removed from chapels to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Argyll and Bute Council has also suspended new wedding bookings until at least June, while birth registrations have been postponed until normal service is resumed.

## POLICE FILES

■ A man was assaulted by another man near to 16 Davaar Avenue, Campbeltown, between 10pm and 10.20pm on Saturday March 28. Police are investigating and are appealing for witnesses.

■ A 52-year-old man allegedly behaved in an abusive manner at about 4.45am on Wednesday March 25, in Bruichladdich, Islay. Police traced the man who was charged and issued with a recorded police warning.

■ 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.

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# Vulnerable people urged to use window alert system

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

Kintyre Community Resilience Group (KCRG) has launched a community alert initiative to help vulnerable self-isolators communicate their needs with neighbours and passers-by from within their homes during the coronavirus pandemic.

A simple idea which has already been deployed successfully in other communities, the initiative involves asking needy or vulnerable members of the community to display the signs printed on the adjacent page in the most prominent window of their house, facing outwards, which will signify their general wellbeing to those outside.

A green thumbs up will mean that everything is OK and no help is needed, while a

**HELLO!** If you are self-isolating, I can help.

**My name is** .....

**I live locally at** .....

**My phone number is** .....

**If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:**

Picking up shopping       Posting mail

A friendly phone call       Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

**Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.** #ViralKindness

red thumbs down will indicate that the person in the house needs help or support in some way.

Those displaying the signs are asked to add their name

and telephone number so people know how to contact them should they require help.

A KCRG spokesperson said: 'This will allow the vulnerable and those in need to be easily

**If you are well and wish to help your neighbours or if you spot a red 'needing help' sign in someone's window, why not print and complete this slip and pop it through their letterbox?**

The person may be perfectly well although displaying a red thumbs down image – it's not to say that they may have COVID-19 but that they are in the vulnerable or elderly category and have no family or nearby friends who can collect the goods they need, especially as transport is reduced and other help mechanisms and organisations are now at capacity.

'If anyone spots this in a window then they will know that they need some sort of help – whether it be for essentials, groceries or picking up prescriptions etc.'

If people know the person requiring help and are fit and able to help them, KCRG suggests they make contact themselves in the first instance, by telephone or dropping a postcard – like the one on this page – with their details

through their door.

Alternatively they can contact KCRG on Facebook or phone the Caring for People helpline on 01546 605524 and a volunteer will be assigned to check on the person requiring assistance.

The spokesperson added: 'No one should compromise their own health to help others and everyone should follow all government guidance and observe social distancing rules.'

'Campbeltown and Kintyre has such a great community spirit and we want to ensure everyone plays their part and looks after each other.'

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## Chilled raspberry-ripple lemon soufflés



1 Syn per serving | 1 hour | Serves 4

### Ingredients

- 5 sheets leaf gelatine
- 200g raspberries, reserving 4 berries to decorate
- Zest and juice of 3 unwaxed lemons, plus thin lemon wedges to decorate
- 3 large egg yolks, 4 large egg whites\*

### Method:

- Tightly tie strips of non-stick baking paper around 4 individual, straight-sided soufflé dishes (about 9cm wide x 5cm deep, or 200ml), leaving a 4cm collar above the rims. Then soak the gelatine in cold water for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, purée the raspberries in a food processor and set aside.
- Put the lemon zest and juice, egg yolks and sweetener in a large, heatproof bowl. Boil a pan of water, then turn off the heat. Place the bowl over the water, making sure the base isn't touching the water. Using an electric hand whisk, beat the lemon mixture for 5 minutes, or until pale in colour and slightly thickened.
- Heat 3 tbsp water in a small pan, so it just covers the base. Squeeze the water from the gelatine. Put the leaves in the hot water, take the pan off the heat immediately and stir until dissolved. Then whisk into the lemon mixture (still over water); set the bowl aside to cool completely.

- 4 level tbsp sweetener
  - 500g fat-free, no-added-sugar vanilla yogurt
- \*Pregnant women, the elderly, babies and toddlers are advised to choose eggs showing the British Lion stamp if eating raw or partially cooked eggs*

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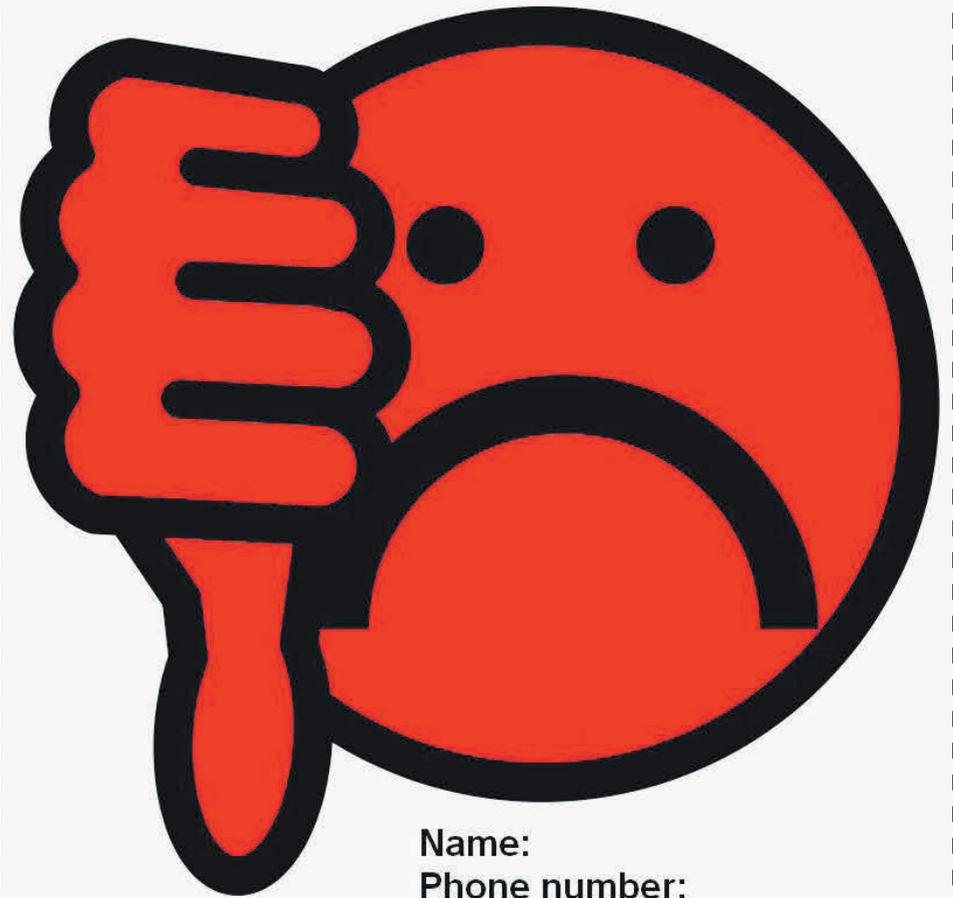
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## LETTERS

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or The Editor, Campbeltown Courier, Main St, Campbeltown PA28 6AE

## Living through history

The snow of 2013 which features in this week's Down Memory Lane is remembered by many as an event 'as bad as the snow of 1963'.

However, the situation we find ourselves in at the moment is completely unprecedented.

Even the oldest among us would struggle to remember anything similar, as the Spanish flu pandemic – one of the most severe in history – swept the world in 1918 and 1919.

As such, it can be hard to know what to do for the best – whether to self-isolate or volunteer to help others if we're healthy, when to shop, how much to buy ... the list goes on.

It is really disappointing to have been contacted by a third person this week who has experienced abuse when shopping at our supermarkets.

All three were shopping for large families and other households of vulnerable people.

The thought of venturing out the shops is hard enough at the moment without fear of judgement from others.

We really are living in a historic crisis: let's try to work together to make this situation the best it can be so we can look back without regrets.

## Please consider for whom others are shopping

I read, with empathy, the letter from your reader last week who encountered unpleasantness while shopping for his/her large family.

I live with my husband, our five children and two dogs, and I have struggled to get basics for us all in the past few weeks. I have been unable to do my usual 'big shop' due to the restrictions and lack of stock.

While most people I have spoken to have been understanding, I, too, had to run the gauntlet coming out of the Co-op in Campbeltown on Monday.

I would like to address the person in the queue outside who was unkindly commenting on the amount of shopping I had. To be very clear, I was shopping for four households today, a total of 14 people and three dogs.

These households include my own and the others with over-70s, people with health conditions and my 95-year-old nana, all at risk from COVID-19.

While you stand there commenting, I advise you to stop and think before you judge and spout off virtuously. I am following the guidelines issued to every person in the UK to reduce the amount of times you are shopping and to shop for relatives and neighbours who should not be going out.

If the amount of shopping I had offended you, perhaps you would like to take over my shopping responsibilities and do something kind for others. Or you are very welcome to come to

my house and inspect my fridge to see I am not stockpiling anything! Would this suit you?

Perhaps you should also think about the signs in the supermarkets restricting stockpiling. If I had taken too many of an item, I would not have been allowed to buy them all.

It really is upsetting when people who know I have a large family and elderly relatives still feel they have the right to comment.

I am very pleased to be able to help others during this difficult time and I will continue to do so despite the nasty attitudes of the minority.

Finally, I would like to pass on my gratitude and appreciation to the management and staff of the Co-op who are, as always, very helpful and kind. A huge thank you to you all.

Carol McEachran,  
Campbeltown.

## There are alternatives to toilet roll

I have listened to the consternation of fellow townfolk regarding the unavailability of toilet roll in Campbeltown and would like to help allay undue fear.

I had the privilege of living in India for a couple of years in the 1980s and was introduced to how they cope without toilet rolls. I have to admit I found it a much more civilised practice than the western approach.

The heartening thing is that it all depends on water and we have plenty of that in Campbeltown, Scotland and indeed the UK.

If you don't have a bidet, all you need is a

plastic jug which you fill with water. After using the toilet, you simply use water from the jug and your left hand to clean yourself. Then you wash your hands with soap and water for as many 'happy birthdays' as you want.

If you don't understand the concept, I recommend you look up YouTube and key in 'COVID-19 toilet paper Wilbur Sargunraj'.

A final point to make for us here in the UK is that under no circumstances should you put anything other than toilet paper or water down the toilet. Kitchen roll, baby wipes, other wipes and any other alternatives will block the sewer. And that will be a consequence that you will live to regret.

Liz Ferguson,  
Campbeltown.

## No child should go hungry

We find ourselves writing this in uncertain times. Every area of our lives has been turned upside down and, for the first time in living memory, many families have had to consider what life would be like if they didn't have enough food to eat.

The brilliant people working hard to keep producing and delivering the food we need have come to the fore, and there is more than enough food for us all, as long as we are careful with our buying choices.

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area schools work hard to ensure they get at least one good meal a day during term time with the free school meals programme.

The ongoing crisis we find ourselves in now means that these children are facing the prospect of being off school for a very long time. Local schools are doing what they can but we can all do more to help.

Around the country Oasis UK's PLATE UP campaign helps the most vulnerable children get nourishing, healthy meals when schools are closed, and learn valuable cooking skills to support their families in future.

We are urging your readers to donate £5 to help feed two hungry children during these difficult times, by texting PLATEUP to 70085.

**Nadiya Hussain and Rosemary Shrager,**  
Television baker and chef.



Nadiya and Rosemary.

## PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



Following on from the spring photographs in last week's Courier, Elizabeth McTaggart has sent in her own seasonal snap. Mrs McTaggart, who took this shot near Drumlemble last Sunday, said: 'In the midst

of human gloom, the aconites make a cheerful sight.'  
If you have a photograph you would like to share, please email it to [editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk](mailto:editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk) or send it via the Courier's Facebook page.

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# FROM OUR FILES

## TEN YEARS AGO

Friday April 2, 2010

### Rhyme Time at Castlehill Primary

Two cool mice and hickory dickory dock from Castlehill Primary School performed at a spring concert on Tuesday and Wednesday evening for parents along with the rest of the school.

Their performance was called Rhyme Time and included songs and nursery rhymes.



Two cool mice and hickory dickory dock, centre, performed at Castlehill's spring concert.

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Friday April 7 1995

### Island owner survives in air pocket as boat slowly sinks

A Campbeltown man told this week of his nightmare trapped for an hour inside his slowly sinking boat.

Dick Gannon, 44, of Dunaskomel House, was transporting building materials to the island of Sanda, which he owns, last Wednesday afternoon on board his 27-foot boat Gille Brighde. But after running into a treacherous combination of wind and tide Mr Gannon started thinking about turning back.

Because the boat was starting to ship water on the open back deck near Johnston's Point, he opened the seacocks to drain her.

'The situation was already a bit nasty but from then on things got worse,' Mr Gannon told the Courier.

'The starboard seacock started emptying its

side, but the port was backfilling the boat. She is a very perky, game boat, but she was going dead in the water and starting to list.'

Mr Gannon was about to shut off the seacocks and try to bail the water out the back when the boat started to roll.

He jumped back into the forward wheelhouse and grabbed the VHF radio mic and managed to shout 'Mayday, Gille Brighde' twice on the emergency channel.

'I prayed to God that the Coastguards had heard me, and no stronger signal had gone out over the top of mine and blocked it out,' said Mr Gannon.

The Coastguard picked up Mr Gannon's Mayday and a farmer who had seen the boat going over had phoned them with its position just off The Bastard.

The Campbeltown lifeboat was launched and

a Royal Navy helicopter from HMS Gannet at Prestwick was scrambled.

Auxiliary Coastguards from Campbeltown and Carradale were sent to the scene in case a shore search was needed. Meanwhile, the boat had settled with her bow pointing towards the sky and was slowly sinking.

Mr Gannon had wedged himself using his hands and legs as high up the boat as he could with his head in the fore-peak so that only his legs were under the water.

After about 20 minutes, the helicopter arrived at the scene and shortly after that Mr Gannon heard the voices of the lifeboat crew.

## FIFTY YEARS AGO

Thursday April 2, 1970

### Kintyre Employment Committee calls for advance factory

A call for an advance factory for Campbeltown was made by the Kintyre Employment Committee at its recent meeting. The call came after a letter from the Scottish Office was read and discussed.

The letter referred to the difficulties in allocating the limited amount of money available for winter works programmes and mentioned the projected improvements to the Campbeltown/Tarbert road, among them the rebuilding of the Tayinloan Bridge at an approximate cost of £70,000 and the £360,000 four-and-a-half miles road to be built between Bellochantuy and Westport.

The letter went on: 'The government's concern to provide more vigorous incentives for industrial development in areas such as Campbeltown is reflected in the wide range of financial and other inducements to new and expanding industry.'

'In 1967, the government advance factory, now occupied by Afocal, was provided, and since the Highlands and Islands Development Board was established in December 1965, it has approved a total of some £353,000 by way of grant and loan to various projects in Campbeltown.'

## ONE-HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Saturday April 3, 1920

### Snakes in the grass

This week a boy named Andrew Clark, 12 years of age, came upon six adders lying together on Auchaglass Hill. The reptiles were from 12 to 18 inches in length, and as they are not active at this season of the year, the boy managed to kill the whole nest. Another boy killed one adder on the same hill the week before.

\*\*\*\*\*

Anxiety to conform to the 'summer-time' regulation on Sunday last had an amazing result in the case of a worthy elder of the district, but the direct opposite of what took place in a town manse.

The elder put the clock on an hour before retiring to bed, then a daughter of the house, not aware that the important duty had already been performed, repeated the operation. The result was that the worthy man arrived at the kirk an hour too soon.

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### The force of nature

Seven years ago, in March 2013, Kintyre's supermarket shelves were even emptier than they are now and homes were left without power for days as snow drifts up to 20ft high closed the A83 at Clachan.

While the issues Kintyre faced at the time were very different to those the community faces during the current coronavirus pandemic, both show the powerful force of nature.

While Clachan was the area worst affected by 2013's snow and strong winds, other parts of Kintyre were badly hit, too, with the Carradale to Skipness road also impassable.

Soon after the roads were closed on Friday March 22, 2013, power was lost across Kintyre as the weight of the snow and ice pulled lines down, leaving thousands of homes in the dark. Flights to and from Campbeltown Airport were cancelled and the town's Tesco and Co-op stores as well as the Esso station were closed.

Over the weekend ferries brought dozens of genera-



The snow drifts were 20ft high in some places.

tors and about 500 power workers from Kennacraig to Campbeltown, with electricity being restored to hundreds of homes by Sunday evening.

On Monday, the A83 at Clachan was opened to traffic, and shops had reopened, although many shelves were empty with deliveries unable to reach stores and some perishables donated to Campbeltown Hospital.

Alan Reid, MP for Argyll and Bute at the time, and Nicola Sturgeon, who was then deputy first minister, arrived in Kintyre on Tuesday along with BBC and STV news crews.

By Tuesday evening, power had been restored to all of Campbeltown although some outlying communities still remained without power on Wednesday.

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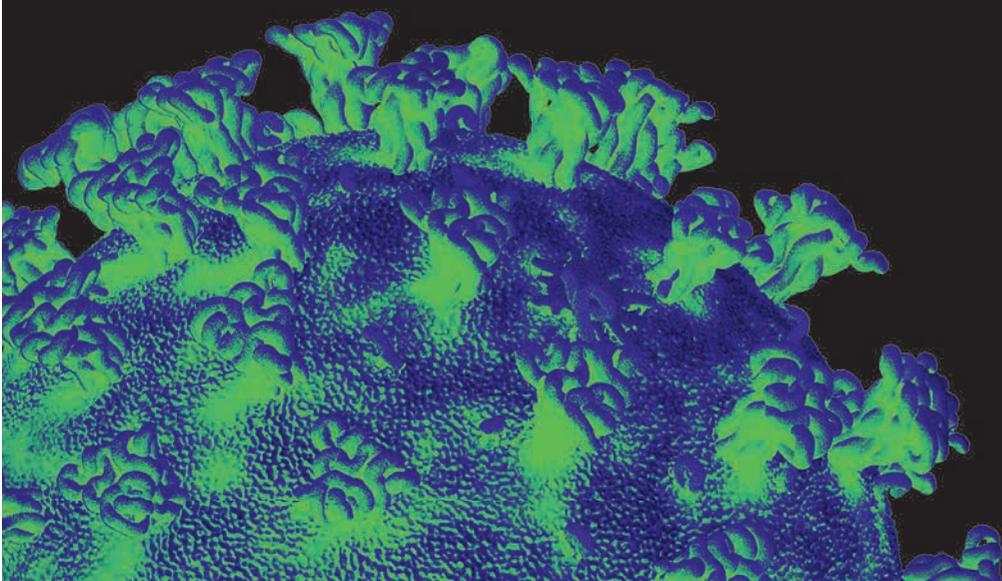
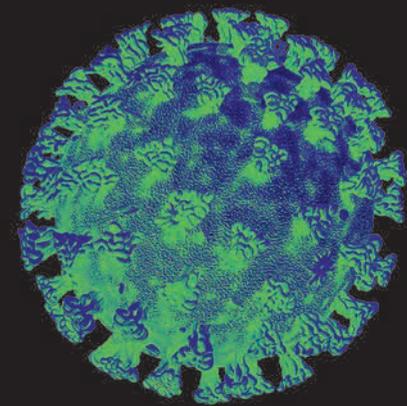
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- ✔ To exercise once a day, alone or with members of your household
- ✘ Do not meet others, even friends or family



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Keeping our community informed

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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT'S ON IN CAMPBELTOWN AND KINTYRE

## Confined Spaces lockdown art project launched

An art project that started in Campbeltown has become an international network of artists making work during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Confined Spaces started as an exhibition in the cells of the old police station at Castlehill during the Mull of Kintyre Music Festival in 2016. Now the project has reached out to artists around the world who find themselves trying to make work while their studios, galleries and workshops are closed during the lockdown.

Rhona Taylor, who organised the Campbeltown exhibition in 2016, put a call out to artists on social media and through Creative Scotland when the lockdown was announced. She said that she has been overwhelmed by the response, with more than 100 people getting in touch from as far away as the USA and Australia in the first few days.

She said: 'I was only expecting a few people to respond, and thought that I could repost

a few things on social media just to keep people feeling connected. But I've been slightly overwhelmed by the number of people who have been getting in touch.

'Like a lot of self-employed people, many artists have suddenly had their work and income cancelled or postponed, as well as the projects they were working towards.

'A lot of artists have been thinking of ways to support and motivate each other, and try to keep things up and running throughout the lockdown.'

Initially, the project will work digitally, highlighting artists' work on social media throughout the lockdown. In due course, the plan is that the project will result in new exhibitions of work and other collaborations.

Just as the exhibition in the old police station invited creative ideas about exhibiting work in a cell, the project will now focus on how artists are



Rhona Taylor's 'Deviation' exhibit during the Confined Spaces project she organised at the old police station at Castlehill in 2016.

Photograph: Raymond Hosie.

trying to adapt their work to very difficult circumstances.

Rhona, who is vice-president of the Society of Scottish Artists (SSA), said that the idea came out of a conversation

with the SSA's two presidents, Jamie McAteer and Olivia Turner, about how to work with their 1,200 members during the lockdown.

'The whole point of the socie-

ty is to support our members,' she said. 'We had such a fantastic programme of exhibitions around Scotland lined up throughout this year, and we're now having to change a lot of

our plans. People are finding it really hard to make work.

'Something that was said about artists working in lockdown sparked the idea about using Confined Spaces - it seemed an ideal fit. But this is very much open to all artists, anywhere in the world.'

To register interest in taking part in the project, please visit [confined-spaces.org](http://confined-spaces.org) or email Rhona at [contactconfinedspaces@gmail.com](mailto:contactconfinedspaces@gmail.com).

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# Old Largie Castle tour ta



Logan said that the castle measured 47 metres x 37 metres. Photographs: Marilyn Shedden

With wellies and water-proofs, people gathered at Rhunahaorine Primary School ready to be transported back in time on a tour of nearby Old Largie Castle, the ruins of which feature on the school's badge.

What was supposed to be the first of three tours on Wednesday March 18 turned out to be the only one, as shortly afterwards the school was closed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Visitors climbed over a fence, waded through a burn and plodded through the mud to be led through the fields by the children to the ruins of the castle high above them.

In 1647, at the Battle of Rhunahaorine Moss, during the Wars of the Three Kingdoms, the MacDonalds of Largie were routed and Old Largie Castle at Rhunahaorine was destroyed. The founder of the MacDonalds of Largie is Ranald Bane MacDonald whose grave slab rests in the old chapel at Killean.

The children, dressed in the costumes of the day, really looked the part. Led by the evocative beat of the bodhran,

they guided everyone on a historical journey across the fields, stopping to provide facts and information about these days of long ago, which are part of our history.

The pupils took turns giving information about the ruins. Kieran explained that the castle was built in the 15th century, around 1450, although the exact date is unknown. Mark said that as well as being known as Old Largie Castle it was at some point known as Dundonald or MacDonald Castle.

Logan told everyone that the pupils carried out a site survey with an archaeologist and measured the castle from wall to wall, finding out that it was 47 x 37 metres.

Louise wrote herself into an adventure story which captured everyone's imagination, as the wind whistled though the ruins disturbing the ghosts of the past.

Afterwards, the children shared some of the moments they enjoyed most. Charlotte said: 'I liked wearing my costume,' and Stuart added: 'I liked saying my lines and banging the drum.'

Marilyn Shedden, who joined the tour, said: 'It was a wonderful time and thanks are due to the West Kintyre Wind Farm Trust without whose very generous help, this amazing project would not have taken place. Funding like this enables achievements such as this project which brings past and present together and provides the opportunity for knowledge, learning and fun.'

'What a great afternoon, and thanks are due to both the children and to their inspiring and dedicated head teacher, Catriona Brown, for firing our imagination as well as that of her pupils.'

'Such was the atmosphere that I'm sure as I left I could hear the sound of swords clinking, as the sun caught something glistening on the hill.'

Mrs Brown said: 'The bodhran beat made it for me - this was a last-minute idea from Mandy Beveridge and made it feel like a real medieval procession.'

'It's been fascinating finding out about local history in such a beautiful area.'



Fabian said that many people would have lived in and around the castle including cooks, bakers, carpenters, stonemasons, servants and shepherds.

Kieran explained that the castle was built in the 15th century, possibly around 1450.

Keeping our community informed

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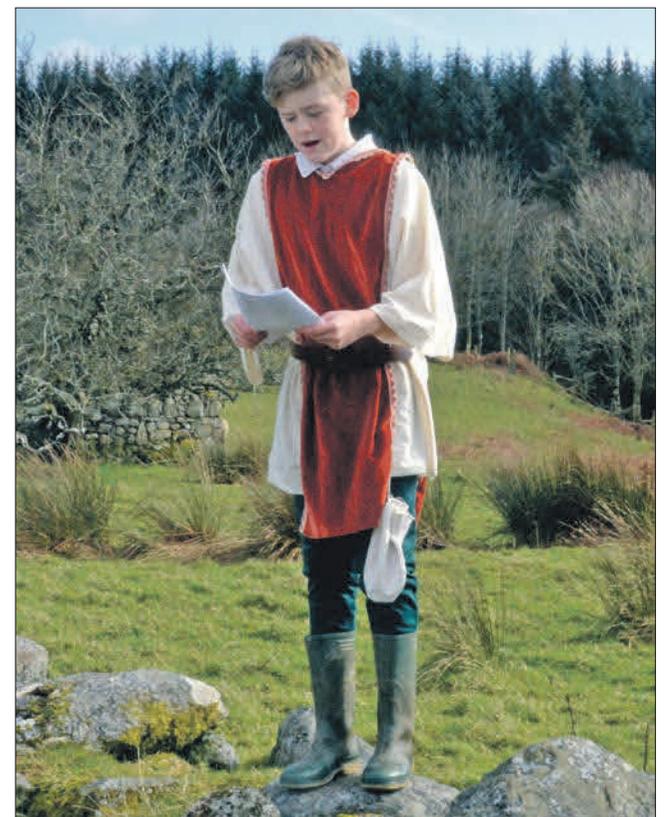
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# kes people back in time



Pupils and staff from Rhunahaorine with those who joined the tour of Old Largie Castle.



Lewis said that more recently a farm was built on top of the castle site.



Head teacher Catriona Brown, left, music instructor Mandy Beveridge, right, and fellow pupils listen intently during the tour.



Stuart led everyone up to the castle ruins as he played the bodhran.



Mark said that the castle was also known as Dundonald or MacDonald Castle at times.



Louise read her own adventure story.

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## Public must be aware when exercising on farmland

### Keep your distance from farm workers and keep dogs under control

As the government enforces lockdown on people leaving their homes for non-essential trips, NFU Scotland is urging those who will be exercising on farmland to ensure that they act responsibly.

It is understandable that, given social distancing requirements, members of the public are seeking routes where they are less likely to encounter other people. As this is often not on formal paths, farmers are reporting increased access levels in the countryside around towns and villages.

This has also seen a large increase in the amount of access issues being reported to the union by NFU Scotland members.

It is important for the public to remember that farming activities such as lambing and

calving are ongoing and to ensure that they do not do anything which could jeopardise this.

This includes not taking access to fields where there are young lambs or calves present, ensuring that they adhere to social distancing requirements if they come across farmers or farm workers and finding alternative routes when asked to do so.

#### Important

Where the public are exercising with dogs, it is important that they are kept in sight and under close control.

In order to ensure the safety of farmers and their workers during COVID-19, the public may encounter additional sign requests, which they are urged to adhere to.

Gemma Cooper, who heads



Gemma Cooper, who heads the policy team at NFU Scotland.

the policy team at NFU Scotland, said: 'In these unprecedented circumstances, farmers are already seeing an increasing number of access issues being caused by the public taking their daily exercise.

'It is important for the public to understand that farming

activities are food production and these must continue during COVID-19.

'NFU Scotland is asking the public to ensure that their behaviour does not make farming activities any more difficult than it already is in these unprecedented times.'

## Australia talk at Kintyre Ayrshire Breeders' AGM

Kintyre's Ayrshire Breeders' Club members held its AGM in the Ardshiel Hotel, Campbeltown, recently.

Arthur Lawrie, Cuthill Towers, chairman of Cattle Services (Ayr) Ltd and vice-president of The World Ayrshire Federation, was the guest speaker.

The business was undertaken first at the meeting on March 9 when the only change to office-bearers was the appointment of Wille Ralston as chairman as Andrew Ralston had completed two years in the post.

Treasurer John Ferguson reported the club to be in a sound financial position and preliminary arrangements were made for the next event, the herds' competition, which will be held - hopefully - in the summer months.

The Hamish Smith Cup for most points over the year's competitions was presented to Thomas M Ralston & Sons, East Drumlemble.

Arthur then gave a presentation on his recent trip to the World Ayrshire Conference in Australia. This illustrated and highlighted the very different farming conditions experienced there compared to Scotland; the hot, dry, conditions are in total contrast and necessitating irrigation in a lot of cases.

Many sight-seeing visits had been incorporated in the trip, which were well featured in the many photographs shown.

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Older people or those who may be concerned can call Age Scotland for information, friendship and advice, FREE on **0800 12 44 222**.

You can find the latest information and practical advice at **[readyscotland.org](https://www.readyscotland.org)**



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# West Coast MOTORING

✓ GARAGES ✓ DEALERSHIPS ✓ PRIVATE SALES ✓ NEWS

## PEUGEOT MAKES HISTORY BY WINNING THE PRESTIGIOUS 'CAR OF THE YEAR' AWARD FOR THE SIXTH TIME IN 2020

PRESS RELEASE



Peugeot has won Europe's most coveted automotive award, the 'Car Of The Year' title for the sixth time, becoming only the third brand to do so. The prestigious trophy was presented to the all-new Peugeot 208 after being judged by an independent jury of 60 European automotive journalists.

Peugeot has previously won the award five times across five different vehicles. These include the Peugeot 504 sedan (1969), 405 sedan (1988), 307 (2002) and 308 (2014) hatchbacks, and the 3008 SUV in 2017. The 3008 SUV was the first SUV to win the award since its creation in 1964.

The Peugeot brand's record reflects the outstanding design, technical innovation

and performance of its vehicles over the past 50 years.

The all-new Peugeot 208 has become the sixth Peugeot model to win Europe's most prestigious automotive award. With a sharp design, engaging driving dynamics and clever use of technology, the all-new 208 was awarded the 'Car Of The Year' title by more than 60 leading European automotive journalists.

With a choice of both efficient petrol and diesel engines, as well as a full electric variant, the all-new 208 forms a part of Peugeot's new strategy of 'unboring the future' by giving drivers the power of choice: 'choose your Peugeot, choose your powertrain.'

The all-new Peugeot e-208 represents a new leap in the world of electric mobility. With a range of 217 miles (under WLTP testing), its 100 kW (136 bhp) electric motor with 260 Nm of torque (available from 0mph) enables it to go from 0-62mph in just 8.1 seconds.

The all-new Peugeot e-208 also features three driving modes: Sport, Normal and Eco.

The all-new Peugeot 208 has already received 130,000 orders in Europe, including 15 per cent for the electric e-208 since its launch in September 2019. To find out more visit [www.campbeltownmotor-company.co.uk](http://www.campbeltownmotor-company.co.uk)

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# West Coast PROPERTY

✓ SALES ✓ LETS ✓ COMMERCIAL ✓ ESTATE AGENTS ✓ NEWS

## Property market adapts to social distancing measures

Guidance around property buying and selling during the COVID-19 outbreak from the government and relevant industry bodies is changing on a regular basis. Contact an ESPC solicitor estate agent for the most up to date information.

In the past couple of weeks, despite the new restrictions on daily lives, ESPC agents continue to report cases of buyers paying in excess of the Home Report valuation for a house or flat along with many properties going to closing dates. This indicates buyers are keen to secure property purchases despite the COVID-19 outbreak. Find out what ESPC agents are saying about the current market conditions below.

### Demand from buyers

Jenna Spence, operations director at Neilsons Solicitors and Estate Agents, cited several cases of properties across Edinburgh going to closing dates in the past couple of weeks. She also mentioned they have received multiple offers over the Home Report valuation for properties. In total, Neilsons had ten closing dates for properties last week with 36 offers received.

Tzana Webster, sales and marketing manager at Warners LLP, said they have seen similar cases. This week, ten offers were accepted on their properties, none of which was below Home Report value. A property in Portobello did particularly well, achieving an offer which exceeded Home Report value by over 10 per cent.

Stacey Wilson, director at VMH Solicitors, also noted cases of properties in the past week continuing to receive significant interest from buyers. One of their properties in Abbeyhill went to a closing date on March 25 and received 'more than half a dozen offers and achieved a price in excess of 15 per cent over Home Report valuation'.

Amy Howard, head of estate agency at Deans Properties, said they have also seen many cases of properties sold at or over Home Report valuation in the past week and commented: 'We've still got inquiries coming in and our team are actively working from home.'

Graham White, head of East Lothian operations and estate agency at Anderson Strathern, also had a case in the past week that achieved an offer 10 per cent over the asking price. He



said: 'If both parties enter into sensible talks and agree that the process can be carried on with a flexible date of entry then deals can still be done.'

Michael Maloco, senior partner at Fife-based Maloco + Associates, said that while there had been a decline in market activity over the past week, the firm had set a closing date for a property and had submitted some offers as well.

Ron Hastings, director at Borders-based Hastings Legal, said: 'We have had recent successes with closing dates including a cottage in Ayton on the Berwickshire coast, which attracted multiple offers and a sale well over the Home Report value despite the closing date being set for Tuesday March 24.'

### Homes coming to market

Some sellers are also still looking to get their homes on the market, with all the above firms listing more properties over the last couple of weeks.

Jenna Spence commented: 'Sellers seem keen to proceed to market if they have a Home Report, photography and floorplan in place to enable them to do so as they want to take advantage of getting online.'

'Due to surveyors not being able to visit properties, those properties who do not currently have a Home Report won't be able to come to market in the present circumstances. However, ESPC agents are proactively preparing these properties so that when the current restrictions are lifted they can be brought to market as soon as possible.'

### A word from Argyll Estate Agents

Let's turn a negative into a positive. There has never been a better time to prepare for the property market starting back up. Buyers, sellers and agents can all use this 'stay at home' time to get themselves in a prime position. Good housekeeping and carrying out the small jobs now will benefit us all in the long run. Current opinion is that the property market will bounce back significantly when this period of uncertainty ends. We do not need to go too far back to test this. Who remembers Brexit now? January and February 2020 were very buoyant months with record levels of sales and online traffic being reported by our major property website partners. We are expecting similar results, if not even better, this time around. Spring and early summer is historically the busiest time of year for home movers, and with the early spring buyers set to join the market at the same time, this can only lead to positive times ahead.



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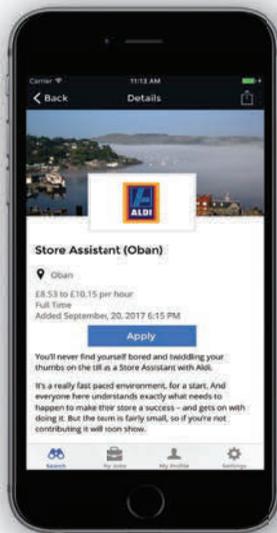
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## GIGHA



The project will improve walking and cycle routes on Gigha.

## Grant to improve Gigha's foot and cycle access

An initiative on Gigha is one of five projects that has received support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund in a bid to help address the sustainability of Scotland's seas and inland waterways and their habitats.

### Impact

The Gateway to Gigha project, which has been awarded £228,100, aims to encourage more people to travel without their car by providing foot and cycle access to the island's historic sites.

Gigha's popularity with tourists, with thousands visiting each year, has an impact on the beautiful island environment.

This project means the island will be better protected, and its carbon footprint reduced.

Caroline Clark, Director Scotland of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: 'As we celebrate Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters, there has never been a better time to raise awareness of the important role our marine heritage has in the future of a sustainable environment.'

'Not only is the direct conservation we fund vitally important, but we hope that through our projects, there will be increased awareness of how and why we need to change our behaviours in order to protect our future.'

## WEST ROAD

### Felt hare fetches top prize at joint bulb show for Zoe

A felted picture of a hare earned Zoe Weir the MacGregor Smith Trophy for the best exhibit in show at Clachan, Largieside and Whitehouse SWIs' joint bulb show.

This year's event was held in Whitehouse Hall, before any restrictions were put in place relating to the coronavirus outbreak, and was hosted by the Clachan contingent.

Judges from Bellochantuy SWI were impressed with the high standard of exhibits and were very generous with their marking.

The results were: Floral Cup: 1 Adrienne Bradley, 36 points; 2 Agnes Sillars, 30 points. Baking Cup: 1 Zoe Weir, 28 points; 2 Pauline Simson, 23 points. Arts and handicrafts: Liz Dale Trophy: 1 Louise Stanesby, 48 points; 2 Zoe Weir, 46 points. Best exhibit in show: Zoe Weir won the MacGregor Smith Trophy for a felted picture of a hare.

Total institute points: Clachan 349, Whitehouse 144, Largieside 81. Individual winners with most points: 1 Zoe Weir, 103 points; 2 Louise Stanesby, 74 points; 3 Pauline Simson, 73 points.



Some of the plants on display at the joint bulb show.

## Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Shedden

'May new things be revealed to us and new ways found to touch the lives of all,' says the morning liturgy of the Iona community.

Having felt somewhat depressed at the thought of all our churches being closed, I am now refreshed and uplifted by the wonderful new ways I can worship.

New ways are indeed touching the lives of many and new things are surely being revealed to us.

The online resources are varied and prolific. Within the Church of Scotland alone, we can worship each morning with the Moderator in his own home, and we can light a candle on Sunday evenings to join across the country in a time of prayer.

There are midweek times of prayer and reflection from a variety of faith traditions reaching us in our own homes.

Many of our churches are either live-streaming their Sunday services or pre-recording them for folk to watch at any time that is convenient.

At this busy time of year, our farmers often cannot come to church as they may be in the midst of lambing. Now there is the opportunity for the family to worship together when the 'work is all done for a while'.

One minister said that he usually had about 30 in his congregation, and now he has more than 300 tuning in online.

If we apply this to every online service, there could be a huge national and international congregation worshipping God in new ways.

People are going to church in a different way, and the opportunities to proclaim the gospel of God's love are unlimited.

'The church is dying,' claimed the voice of many.

Could this be resurrection? Maybe it just could.

## CONTACTUS

[emailusateditor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk](mailto:emailusateditor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk)  
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**GOLDEN WEDDING**

**CRAIG - MCCALLUM** - At Lorne Street Church Campbeltown, on April 3, 1970, by the Rev James W Hood. Alexander, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Bert Craig 70 Davaar Avenue, to Margaret Ann, youngest daughter of Mr John McCallum and the late Mrs Margaret McCallum, 120 Millknowe, Campbeltown. Present address Glenmhairi Campbeltown.

**DEATHS**

**MCDONALD** - Peacefully in the care of his family at home in Brora on April 1, 2020, Alex McDonald, aged 80 years. Formerly of The Chalet, Tarbert. Beloved husband of Moira, much loved dad of Carolyn, Jane and Lindsay and a loving pappy and grand-pappy.

**ROBERTSON** - Peacefully, at Ardfenaig Home, Ardrishaig, on March 24, 2020, after a long and happy life, Elizabeth Robertson, née Gardner, aged 94 years. Much loved wife of the late Iain Allan Robertson

of Tarbert. A private committal was held at Cardross Crematorium on April 2, 2020.

**SMITH** - Peacefully at the Campbeltown Hospital, on March 17, 2020, James Smith (Jimmy) in his 78th year, Shermore, Witchburn Road, Campbeltown, dearly beloved husband of Jean Duncan, devoted dad of Duncan and Jane and a loving papa of Ralphy, Catherine, James and Euan. Funeral private.

**STEELE** - On March 31, 2020, peacefully at home, Marina Steel, aged 65 years, beloved wife of Mike and much loved mother of Gavin, Nicola, David, Kyla and Paul, dear grandmother of Isaac, Jak and Ben, dearly loved and sadly missed by all. A private cremation will take place at Cardross Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Macmillan Cancer Support.

**THOMSON** - Peacefully at home, 16 Barochan Place, Campbeltown, on March 25, 2020, Margaret Merrilees McIntyre, in her

89th year, dearly beloved wife of the late James Thomson, much loved mum of Stephen and Jean and a loving grandma and great grandma. Funeral private.

**WARREN** - Peacefully at Ardenlee Care Home, Dunoon, on March 25, 2020, after a short illness, Margret Warren, née Nelson, in her 100th year, of 10 Caledonia Court, Ardrishaig. Beloved sister of the late Mary Coleman and Janet MacIntyre. Dearly loved aunt of Janette, Margaret, David and Ian. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. A private family funeral service was held at Achnabreac Cemetery on Wednesday April 1, 2020. Forever in our thoughts.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**CRAIG** - Kathryn, Susan, Janet and their families would like to thank all relatives and friends for the many kind expressions of sympathy received following the sad loss of their dad, William (Billy) Craig. Grateful thanks to all staff at the Mid Argyll

Hospital, local ambulance crews and to the social care team for all their care and attention given to Dad. Our thanks are also extended to Rev. David Carruthers for a comforting service and to Donald MacDonald funeral directors for their caring and efficient arrangements. Finally our sincere thanks to those that were able to attend the Funeral service to pay their respects, and to those who were unable to attend due to the current situation, we thank you for your kind words and thoughts at this time.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**MACKAY** - Linda, passed away April 4, 2017.

You're still our dancing queen. Gone but never forgotten. We love you. - Willie and all the family xxxxx.

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75 Longrow, Campbeltown

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George Street, Campbeltown



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If you would like someone to talk to or pray with you on the phone, please contact Rodger and Joan on 01586 554589 or Calum and Liz on 01586 301016 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.' Psalm 46

[www.campbeltownfree-church.co.uk](http://www.campbeltownfree-church.co.uk)  
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

**CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH**



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Please feel free to contact us if you require any help or even just for a chat

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**ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES**

On the first Palm Sunday the crowds shouted: "Hosanna to the Son of David"

(Matthew 21 v9)  
This Palm Sunday let's shout it too!

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Lochgilthead Palm Sunday 11am Eucharist

Maundy Thursday 7pm Good Friday 1pm Liturgy of the Passion

Saturday 11th 7pm Vigil of Easter

Easter Day 11am Eucharist

Daily Morning Prayer 8.30am  
Evening Prayer 6.30pm  
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**ST MARGARET'S RC CHURCH**

Church building closed and all masses suspended until further notice

For the most up to date information visit our website: [www.lochgiltheadcatholic.com](http://www.lochgiltheadcatholic.com) or our Facebook page.

[lochgilthead@rcdai.org.uk](mailto:lochgilthead@rcdai.org.uk)  
Fr Ronald Campbell 01546 602380 (SC0002876)

**Gratitude and Hope**

by Steve Davies,  
Pastor of Springbank Evangelical Church

If I may, I'd like to encourage you to be grateful.

Grateful for the long heritage of values that we in Britain still benefit from: values rooted in a historic conviction that the world is not without meaning and purpose, and in a firm belief in the value of human life. These have run deep in the soul of our nation for many generations - so deep that we risk taking them for granted. But their results have included the stable rule of law, the upholding of the family as a basic unit of society... and, of course, institutions such as our NHS.

Grateful, too, for many people today: in public service, the medical and caring professions, the emergency services and numerous other walks of life. People who are working tirelessly, both in the front line and behind the scenes, and who are sacrificially putting others' needs before their own; responding to the strong impulse to save and protect life.

And also for each new day: which, if we're honest with

ourselves and willing to accept it, must signify some degree of mercy. In a hazardous world, each new day that we're spared yet again is a gift, an opportunity to be glad and to give something back. Or to pay forward, as we often hear nowadays as well.

And for simple things - again, perhaps, taken for granted at times: the sunshine that's beginning to bring out the colours of spring; the birds we can hear singing; families; telephones; the cheery wave of a neighbour; good food, clean water, fresh air.

My reason for writing like this is simple: the belief that gratitude is a strong antidote to anxiety. When many of us are experiencing apprehension and fear, greater, perhaps, than at any time in our lives, a bit of gratitude can make all the difference. For a start, it takes courage to turn our gaze from the threats to the blessings - to recognise again some of the gifts and mercies we've received. And then, in turn, it bolsters and strengthens that same courage.

I'd also like to encourage you to face each new day with hope.

But I don't mean a thin, nervous hope, just "hoping for the best," or "We've no idea how this will all turn out, but we can always hope." I'm talking here about Hope as it's defined in the Bible and throughout Christian theology: if you'll permit the analogy, it's a huge, hearty Cullen skink for your tea, as opposed to a thin watery broth made from a hint of a chicken.

In other words, hope as a rock-solid confidence; hope founded on ancient promises, that have never yet failed. Hope that trusts in a future that is certain, even though still unseen. As one New Testament writer put it (Hebrews 6:19), "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." In short, it's a personal hope - in God the Creator, and his promise of ultimate rescue.

When the world is being shaken by a growing storm, as it is just now, that's a hope that has much to recommend it.

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## Tarbert charity shoot takes off for air ambulance



Charity shooters assemble at Barmore.

Shooters turned out in numbers to test their skills at a charity event hosted by Tarbert Gun Club.

The successful shoot on Saturday March 14, organised by Craig Samborek, was well supported by friends and colleagues, with some travelling a

distance just for the occasion. The total collected on the day was boosted during the following week by further donations. A total of £900 has been donated to the Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance.

All those who attended were aware and respectful

of the advice on COVID-19 that was in place at the time.

The rapidly changing situation means it is unlikely there will be another event like this for some time to come.

## Stay at home, stay safe and stay fit

Leisure facilities may be closed in Argyll and Bute – but the charity behind them is keen to keep people active during isolation from coronavirus.

Live Argyll is publishing daily online workouts, chosen by their fitness staff, to help residents to stay fit during self-isolation.

Libraries and public hire halls have also had to be temporarily shut by the charity as the UK goes into lockdown in its bid to beat the COVID-19 outbreak.

A statement from Live Argyll said: 'Just because you are staying at home doesn't mean you can't exercise.'

'The advice is to keep as healthy as you can, which means taking any form of exercise from the comfort of your own home.'

'As part of our commitment to contribute to the health and wellbeing of our communities, our fitness professionals will be recommending specific online video links that you can take part in.'

'The recommended fitness videos will be based on three levels – beginner, intermediate and advanced.'

Videos will be posted on Live Argyll's social media channels at 9am every day, and they are expected to last between 30 and 45 minutes.

Anybody participating is advised not to work out if they feel unwell. They must also ensure they keep well hydrated, and wear loose clothing and flat shoes.

The statement added: 'Remember, to get the maximum benefit from your workout you should exercise at least three times per week.'

'Following guidelines, as issued from the government, where appropriate please encourage all members of your household who are able to, to join in.'

'We would love to hear of how you are getting on! Please use the hashtag #liveargyll and mention us @liveargyll and share photos of your workouts.'

## Young footballers keep up their skills

Campbeltown's young footballers have come up with a novel way of battling boredom and retaining their football skills as they endure another week in lockdown.

Unable to take part in their usual training, the youngsters practised their keepie uppies – using toilet rolls instead of footballs!

Conner McMurchy from Campbeltown, who plays for Lochgilphead Red Star 2004s, edited clips of players showcasing their skills into two videos – one of his Lochgilphead teammates and one of his friends from the Campbeltown Pupils 2005s.

The boys from both teams are very much missing their football, especially Conner



Dylan Borthwick, the winner of CDJFA's first 'skill of the week' competition.

who was due to fly out to Portugal on Sunday to train with Benfica.

He was meant to spend his Easter holiday living like an academy player at the world-class training facilities of the Lisbon-based club.

Campbeltown and District Juvenile Football Association (CDJFA) has launched a 'skill

of the week' competition, asking youngsters to submit videos of themselves displaying a particular skill each week.

The first challenge was keepie uppies and the winner, judged by CDJFA chairman Rhys Blair, was Dylan Borthwick – who also used a toilet roll! – who won a £20 voucher for Wee Toon Sports.

## Juvenile association donates to health heroes

With its annual fundraising quiz cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic, Campbeltown and District Juvenile Football Association (CDJFA) was left with 12 hampers stowed with goodies meant for the event's raffle.

The committee considered running an online raffle to raise funds for the association but decided instead to gift the hampers to 'those deserving and those who have been working that good bit harder preparing our community for what lies ahead.'

### Thank

A spokesperson said: 'We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the local businesses that donated for our quiz night and hope you don't mind us passing these on.'

The business donations were added to the hampers of parents' donations and given to the following: CDJFA's hamper to a staff member at Campbeltown Hospital; the Campbeltown Picture House-sponsored hamper to the staff at Campbeltown GP Surgery; the Treehouse-sponsored hamper to a staff member at the Main Street branch of Boots; the Tea on the Quay-sponsored hamper to a staff member at the Longrow South branch of Boots; the McKellars Confectionery-sponsored hamper to a staff member at Kintyre Care Home; the Royal Hotel-sponsored hamper to a local Carr Gomm carer; the Cross Street Barber-sponsored



hamper to a staff member at Tesco; the Serenty Sponsored hamper, which included a candle holder donated by McMillans and some Body Shop goodies donated by Mhairi Lawson, to Donna Graham of the Co-op; the Norrie Thomson Plumbers-sponsored hamper to Linda McLean of the Kintyre Larder; the McGeachy Butchers-sponsored hamper to a staff member/volunteer at Shopper-Aide; the hamper sponsored by Lisa Nicolson to Helen Gilchrist who was meant to be the quiz master; the Cadenhead-sponsored hamper to Campbeltown's ambulance crew; and some donated bottles to the staff at Wee Toon Sports who sold tickets for the quiz.

### Appreciation

The spokesperson added: 'We know there are so many deserving people and we further extend our appreciation to you.'

The association also donated more than 100 toilet rolls from its football pavilion to local charities to be distributed to those in need who were not able to buy any as stocks ran out in shops.



Conner McMurchy, seen here playing keepie uppie with a toilet roll.

# CONTACTUS

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Tarbert charity shoot  
takes off for air  
ambulance

Juvenile association  
donates to health  
heroes

# This summer's Mach 1 Stages Rally cancelled

Even though it was not due to take place until mid-July, the Mach 1 Stages Rally, held annually at Machrihanish Airbase Community Company Business Park, has been cancelled.

'It is the only option we have,' said Davie Hatrick on behalf of the organisers, Dunfermline Car Club; the event was due to run on the weekend of July 11 and 12.

'It is with a heavy heart that we announce the cancellation of this year's Mach 1 Stages this July,' he said.

With the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic and Motor-sport UK not issuing any event

permits until the end of June at the earliest, the club felt this was the only thing to do.

Davie added: 'With this in mind, plus the amount of people involved in staging the event, we feel they may not be in a position to assist at this year's event.'

Running the event involves the officials, the organising team, rescue and recovery. Then there are the doctors, paramedics and emergency services who are needed, but are all currently dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

The club is also mindful of the many people who come along to help run the event.



Last year's winners, Alistair Inglis and Colin Inglis.

Photograph: Gavin Brown.

Davie continued: 'We are also aware of everybody's personal financial situation with no work and little income and with many bills to pay.'

'It would not be fair asking competitors, marshals and volunteers to attend the two-day event.'

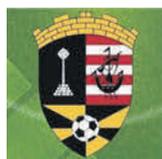
'Once again, apologies for the cancellation but we feel the early call-off will allow people to plan their time and cancel any travel plans already made.'



## ... and junior football festival is called off too

With the country in lockdown and just nine weeks to go, Campbeltown and District Juvenile Football Association (CDJFA) has cancelled this year's football festival.

Set to take place at Meadows



Teams from Arran and Campbeltown in action at last year's football festival.

Millennium Playing Fields on Saturday May 30, organisers say it is unlikely the social distancing measures brought in to reduce the spread of coronavirus will be relaxed in time for the festival to take place.

They believe cancellation at this stage will also allow visiting teams to cancel transport and accommodation bookings with more notice, in the hope that they can avoid any unnecessary costs.

A CDJFA spokesperson said: 'We appreciate everyone who attends our festival and gives our kids here in Campbeltown the opportunity to play

football given our location.' Those who had already booked and paid for entry to this year's festival can carry their entry over to the 2021 festival – which is set to take place on Saturday June 5, 2021 – or they will be issued with a refund.

Clubs will be contacted over the next few weeks to arrange this or they can email their decisions to [cdjfafestival@yahoo.com](mailto:cdjfafestival@yahoo.com). This email address can also be used to provisionally book places at next year's festival, with entry packs to be sent out later this year.

The spokesperson added: 'Everyone here in Camp-

beltown hopes everyone is managing to stay safe and a big thank you and well done to all the front-line workers; your efforts are appreciated.'

Despite living in isolation, the young footballers of CDJFA have found a unique way to practise their football skills. See inside for more.



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