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# Night vision – Argyll's single track trunk road

by Colin Cameron

[editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)

The door closes today – October 30 – on a five-week public consultation on alternative routes avoiding the troublesome Rest and be Thankful.

As the Transport Scotland consultation ends, the need for a permanent solution was underlined when trunk road management firm BEAR Scotland announced that the single track old military road detour would be used every night, under convoy, until the end of November for safety reasons.

By that point a barrier to intercept material tumbling down the hillside on to the A83 should be complete as part of ongoing 'mitigation' measures.

In the latest in a long series of such events over recent years, two significant landslides hit the A83 at the Rest in August and September. This left the slopes of Beinn Luibhean

heavily scarred and exposed to further erosion.

Heavy rain has been the main threat, and BEAR Scotland revealed that around 150mm (six inches) of rain fell in a week from Sunday October 18, with some debris and silt reaching catch-pits next to the A83.

Eddie Ross of BEAR Scotland said: 'We're continuing to put

**'We have taken the decision to close the A83 each night from 6pm as a safety precaution'**

motorist safety first, and as more seasonal wet weather approaches we have taken the decision to close the A83 each night from 6pm overnight as a safety precaution.

'The old military road will be used overnight for all road users with an inspection taking place at first light in the

morning ahead of a potential reopening on the A83 under traffic signal control.'

All of which throws the spotlight on the need for an alternative, and Transport Scotland last month unveiled 11 options for public consideration.

Argyll and Bute Council last week came out in favour of the pragmatic option of Option one – a road up the other side of Glen Croe.

Council leader Robin Currie said: 'After years of disruption, we now have the promise of a permanent solution, but we also need a commitment that our preferred option can be delivered within the term of the next Scottish Parliament.'

The council is also calling for greater investment along the whole of the A83 trunk road and, longer-term, consideration of a more ambitious route along the lines of option five and involving bridge crossings over Loch Long and Loch Fyne.



Not content with raising thousands of pounds for a Lochgilphead cause close to her heart, Mid Argyll's calendar girl Aileen Gillies has plans to help other charities in tough coronavirus times. More on page five.

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## Make sure Argyll's voice is heard in police survey

What should the priorities of Police Scotland be, particularly in these challenging times?

The question is being posed by the police force itself as it undertakes its 'Your Police 2020-21' public consultation in a bid to better understand the views and priorities of Scotland's diverse communities.

An online survey opened in April and is still available as part of this process. It should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete.

The feedback received so far has helped Police Scotland respond to emerging issues and shape policing approaches in local areas.

### Important

Encouraging people in Argyll to take part in the survey, Lochgilhead Police Sergeant Iain MacNicol said: 'It is very important the views of rural communities are considered equally as well as those from the major population centres in the country.'

When undertaking the survey, which

remains open until March 31, 2021, you will not be identified unless you choose to identify yourself in your responses.

At the end of the survey, personal details such as age and gender will be requested to ensure a comprehensive range of responses is received but these do not have to be answered.

Any information provided will be treated in confidence and stored securely.

Find the online survey by visiting [consult.scotland.police.uk](http://consult.scotland.police.uk) and searching for the consultation 'Your Police 2020-2021'.



Sergeant Iain MacNicol.

## POLICE FILES

### Excess load offence

Around 12.30pm on Friday October 23, on the A83 at Lochgilhead, road policing officers stopped a lorry for a routine check. The vehicle and load was weighed and allegedly found to be over the permissible maximum gross weight of 44,000kg. The driver, a 49-year-old man, was charged with the offence and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

### Anti-social driving

A green Vauxhall Corsa and a white Ford Fiesta were stopped by police at 12.15am on Saturday October 24 on the A846 at Bowmore, Islay, after being driven at excessive speed and in an anti-social manner. The drivers, a woman aged 19 and a 17-year-old woman, were issued with anti-social behaviour warnings, which are valid for 12 months. If the driver or the vehicle is involved in a similar incident again within that period, the vehicle will be seized by police and returned only on production of proof of ownership and payment of the recovery/storage fees.

### Kilmelford crash

Police attended a crash on the A816 Lochgilhead-Oban road near Kilmelford, involving a red Renault Clio and a blue Land Rover Freelander, around 2pm on Thursday October 22. The driver of the Clio, a 52-year-old woman, was arrested for allegedly failing a roadside drug test and careless driving. A blood sample was later taken for analysis.

# Kintyre member takes over as area committee chairman



South Kintyre councillor Rory Colville is the new chairman of Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands area committee.

He replaces the council's new leader, Kintyre and the Islands Councillor Robin Currie, as part of a raft of changes made by Argyll and Bute Council.

Councillor Colville also becomes chairman of the Argyll and Bute Harbour Board and a member of the environment, development and infrastructure committee.

Councillor Colville will be

Councillor Rory Colville.

replaced on the community services committee by Kintyre and the Islands Councillor Alastair Redman.

Oban North and Lorn councillor Kieron Green will take the place of Councillor Currie on the planning, protective services and licensing committee and the Argyll and Bute licensing board.

The new appointments were made by Argyll and Bute Council at its full meeting held via Skype on Thursday October 22.

Some of those came as a result of the sad passing of Helensburgh and Lomond South councillor Ellen Morton

earlier in October. As well as Councillor Colville replacing Councillor Morton on the environment, development and infrastructure committee, Oban South and the Isles councillor Mary Jean Devon joins the policy and resources committee.

### Vacant position

Lomond North councillor Iain S Paterson will take up the vacant position on the board of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority.

Another Lomond North councillor, Barbara Morgan, is the new chairwoman of Helensburgh and Lomond

Area Committee, having previously been vice chairwoman, a post inherited by Councillor Graham Hardie, Helensburgh Central.

Councillor Currie proposed most of the new appointments, which were seconded by his deputy Councillor Gary Mulvaney and unanimously agreed.

Councillor Paterson's appointment to the national park board was proposed by opposition leader, Mid Argyll councillor Sandy Taylor, at Councillor Currie's invitation for him to choose, with this appointment also agreed unanimously.

## The Dochas Carer Centre

**We are still here for you even though the Centre has to remain closed.**

We provide a service to unpaid adult carers across Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Isles (MAKI). We have three teams:

- Support outreach worker team
- Qualified counselling team
- Volunteer befriending team

The Outreach/Support Team are maintaining regular contact with carers via telephone. Our team is providing a listening ear during this challenging time and we have been fortunate to receive additional funding to support carers and those they care for with creative solutions to help with their mental and emotional health while in isolation.

Please visit our website – [www.dochasfund.org.uk](http://www.dochasfund.org.uk) and Facebook page – [www.facebook.com/dochascentre](http://www.facebook.com/dochascentre) which will be updated regularly with information and advice.

We are available 10-4pm Monday to Friday. Contact number for the centre 01546 600 022. Email – [enquiries@dochasfund.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dochasfund.org.uk)

Contact numbers for the outreach/support team

Mid Argyll: 07464 308 418

Kintyre: 0753 503 6953

Islay/Jura: 0791 201 5393

### The Volunteer Befriending Team

Our volunteer befriending service called Circle of Friends is continuing to run. Volunteers are maintaining contact with the individuals they are befriending by telephone. Our Co-ordinator, Ryan Taylor, continues to support this service. We are looking for more Telephone Befriending Volunteers. We would love to hear from you if you wish to help, please contact us on 0793 203 9801.

### Dochas Counselling Team

The dedicated Counselling Team are currently offering online and telephone counselling to unpaid carers and their families, those who have been bereaved or those living with a long term or terminal condition.

During the Covid-19 crisis, the Team have also set up a telephone support service for anyone feeling anxious or struggling during lockdown.

For further information or to arrange an appointment, please telephone Alison Whitefield, Lead Counsellor, on 07432 231217 or contact the service via [counselling@dochasfund.org.uk](mailto:counselling@dochasfund.org.uk) or message the Dochas Facebook page. We are here to support you.



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We have regular information and updates on our facebook page mid Argyll youth development services.

Online support is also available on [www.cool2talk.org](http://www.cool2talk.org).

Contact 07788900049 or [fiona@mayds.org.uk](mailto:fiona@mayds.org.uk) [lynn@mayds.org.uk](mailto:lynn@mayds.org.uk)

# Sewer project shut down after worker tests positive

by Colin Cameron  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Work on a long-awaited project to improve the sewer system in Tarbert has been halted after a worker tested positive for Covid-19.

Personnel were taken off site and the works secured for a ten-day period as a precaution.

A Scottish Water spokesperson said: 'Our alliance partner amey, Black and Veatch is currently delivering a sewer flooding project in Tarbert and following confirmation that a member of the team on site has tested positive for Covid-19, we need to take appropriate action in line with government and public health guidelines.'

'In order to protect the health and safety of our staff and the public, we are taking steps



which will mean a significant reduction in activity and potentially no work being carried out at the site for approximately ten days.

'We will ensure the site is left

safe and secure until the team can return to work. Posters will be erected on site to inform passers-by.

'We apologise for any inconvenience caused but we must

**Work on the Tarbert scheme has been halted for 10 days.**

06\_a51tarbertreview01

help protect public health during these unprecedented times.'

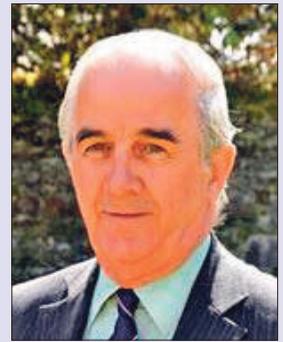
The project has suffered a series of setbacks.

It was originally due to start in 2019 but this was delayed until January 2020 - later extended to March.

Just before the coronavirus lockdown in March, Scottish Water revealed it was looking for a new contractor for the £3.4 million project to install new larger diameter pipes along Barmore Road, Harbour Street and School Road in the village.



Brendan O'Hara MP.



Councillor George Freeman.

## MP and councillor in spat over A83

Argyll and Bute's MP has hit back at a councillor's claims that he suggested tolls on the A83 road could be considered.

Councillor George Freeman made the claim during a debate on Argyll and Bute Council's response to Transport Scotland's consultation on the Rest and be Thankful on October 22.

But Brendan O'Hara MP slammed the Lomond North councillor's comments as 'absolute nonsense' and said he had been misquoted from a radio interview.

Councillor Freeman said at the meeting: 'I have had lengthy discussions with the local community council and with constituents in that area, with all supporting option one.'

'It is disappointing to note that at the last [A83] taskforce meeting, the MP for Argyll and Bute, Brendan O'Hara, suggested that tolls could be considered and he would not rule them out. I think it would be totally unacceptable for anybody to suggest Argyll and Bute should have tolls foisted on it when the Scottish Government removed them from every other network in Scotland.'

Mr O'Hara responded: 'This is absolute nonsense and Councillor Freeman knows it is nonsense.'

'At the recent meeting of the A83 taskforce, he misquoted what I said in a Radio Scotland interview about how the Faroe Islands pay for their tunnels and I publicly corrected him then.'

'Quite why he chooses to continue with such misleading information is completely bizarre. He knows he is wrong and I have already told him publicly that he is wrong.'

## Tarbert fireworks display is cancelled

Hopes had been high that it would go ahead, but the organisers of this year's Tarbert community fireworks display have called it off.

### Social distancing

Under strict coronavirus precautions and specifically for Tarbert residents, the event had been planned for Friday November 6, as reported in last week's Advertiser, but

concerns over social distancing controls have led to its cancellation.

Organiser Aggie Dennis said: 'It has been pointed out to us that we have no control over numbers attending or guarantees of social distancing. Therefore, we have no alternative but to cancel the firework display.'

'It is appreciated that a considerable

number of people donated money towards the cost of the fireworks, for which we thank them.

'We have two alternatives, either we can keep the money and hopefully provide the normal fireworks display next year or a refund can be given. Should you wish a refund please speak to myself or another committee member.'

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## Post office times in Mid Argyll

From Monday October 19, the post office times for Mid Argyll are as follows:

### Lochgilphead mobile post office

- Monday 10am-3pm (sorting office)
- Wednesday 10am-1pm (Stag car park)
- Friday 10am-3pm (sorting office)

### Inveraray mobile post office

- Tuesday 11am-2pm
- Thursday 11am-2pm

### Ardrihaig Post Office

- Tuesday 10.30am-1.30pm
- Wednesday 10.30am-1.30pm
- Thursday 10.30am - 1.30pm

Please note that information supplied by the Post Office and published in last week's edition was inaccurate. The times and locations above have been provided by Tarbert Post Office, which operates the services.

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# Work begins to replace lock gates

The canal dubbed 'Britain's most beautiful shortcut' will be out of commission over the winter as lock gates are replaced.

The Crinan Canal sees in excess of 1,600 boats passing through it each year, but Scottish Canals has identified it as priority for gate replacement due to condition, age and criticality.

### Vital

On its website, Scottish Canals says: 'Upgrading and replacement of the lock gates along the canal is vital to maintain the navigation of this historic waterway and any failure during operation could lead to serious health and safety implications.'

The canal will be drained at least from above lock eight at Cairnbaan to Loch Fyne at Ardrishaig to allow the work to proceed. Surveys and design works for new steel gates for locks one to seven have been



Portakabins arrive at the Ardrishaig sea lock earlier this week ahead of work starting.

completed and installation is due to take place between November 2020 and February 2021.

The canal will clearly be

closed to navigation for the duration of the installation works, and Scottish Canals states that there may be restrictions in the towpath.



Tighnabruaich RNLB lifeboat is launched.  
Photograph: Tighnabruaich RNLB.

## Kayaker rescued from Loch Fyne

A solo kayaker had to be towed to safety after getting into difficulty in the southern reaches of Loch Fyne.

Tighnabruaich lifeboat and Coastguard rescue teams from Tarbert, Kames and Inveraray were called out after Belfast Coastguard Operations Centre received a mayday call on the morning of Tuesday October 27.

Tighnabruaich Atlantic 85 lifeboat James and Helen Mason was launched at 10.30am to assist the kayaker, who was believed to be in the Portavadie area. The kayak was located and towed by a fishing vessel to Portavadie Marina. Kames Coastguard rescue team met the vessel and provided assistance.

The lifeboat was stood down on the way to the scene as the casualty was by then safely ashore.

The kayaker is understood to have been en route from Ardrishaig to Largs when he got into difficulty in inclement weather.

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# Aileen's colourful calendars boost charities

by Colin Cameron  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Her style has been favourably compared to that of no less an artistic figure than John Lowrie Morrison.

High praise indeed and it is easy to see where the similarity lies with the vibrant work of Jolomo in the images captured by budding amateur photographer Aileen Gillies.

And she is putting her talents to good use, having raised thousands for charity already this year, at a time when fundraising has been difficult.

Though a keen snapper, work commitments meant Lochgilphead resident Aileen rarely got the chance to take many pictures. Then lockdown happened and it was when out taking the government's permitted exercise that Aileen's innate talent had the chance to blossom.

As her collection of images from Mid Argyll and beyond grew, Aileen decided in the spring to put together a charity calendar – and it flew off the shelves, rapidly raising £1,000 for the Macmillan suite at Mid Argyll Hospital.

Aileen, originally from Ford, explained: 'The Macmillan unit looked after my mum three years ago before she died and they were also great with dad and I.

'I always said I would do something to thank them and



Aileen's charity calendars are selling like hotcakes.

I thought this was a good time as they must be missing out from donations from funerals.'

Aileen didn't stop there and it was a visit to Tarbert post office over the summer which led her to take photos of the scenic fishing village – which

then became the Summertime Tarbert calendar.

By Monday this week, Aileen's calendar sales had raised £2,800 for the Macmillan unit.

'I want to hit the £3,000 mark,' she said, 'plus I have calendars left and I think people are starting Christmas present buying.'

Kintyre charity Shopper Aide will also benefit from Aileen's photographic talents from the proceeds of a third calendar created from striking photos taken during a visit to Glencaigs Farm, Campbeltown, featuring sunflowers, poppies and wildflowers.

With a photo selected to be included in the 2021 Harbro calendar and high hopes of catching the eye of VisitScotland's Instagram account, Aileen has plans to expand as she gains experience.

She explained: 'My style has changed a bit as I am now editing and bringing the colours out more – and a friend joked that I will be the new Jolomo.

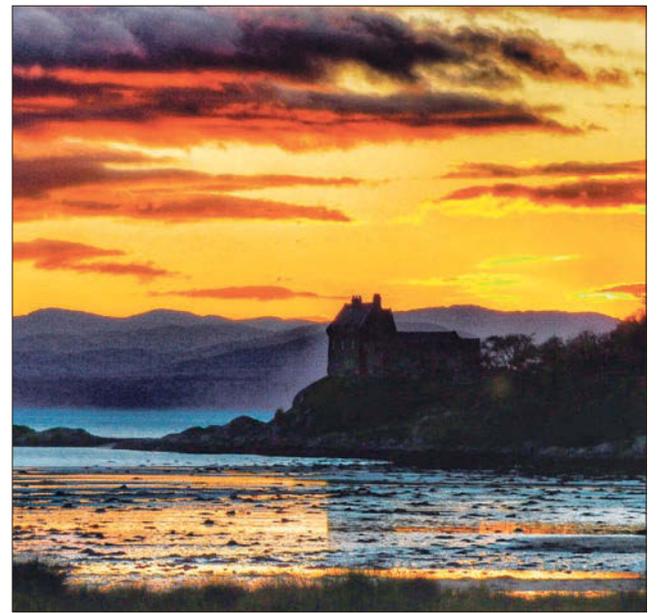
'With the calendars' success I decided to do cards, which can be bought in the Courtyard,

Inveraray and the Argyll Gift Company in Tarbert.'

A website is in development and already Aileen's calendars have been posted all over the UK as well as to Canada, France, the USA, Australia and New Zealand.

'I am planning my 2022 calendars already,' said Aileen, 'and planning Autumn in Tarbert, Mid Argyll sunsets and autumn days calendars.'

Find out more on Aileen's Facebook page, by emailing aileengillies@hotmail.co.uk or calling 07825 291614.



Duntrune Castle, by Aileen Gillies.

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## Dental chief asks for patience

A wider range of dental treatments being available does not mean a return to 'business as usual' in Argyll and Bute, a health chief has warned.

The Scottish Government has announced dental treatments are set to return to pre-pandemic levels from Sunday November 1.

But John Lyon, clinical dental director for NHS Highland, said appointments will inevitably have been cancelled over the previous eight months.

Mr Lyon also said that around

50 per cent fewer patients will be seen per day than prior to the pandemic and waiting rooms will no longer be in use.

Dentists in other parts of Scotland have also asked the public to be aware that they remain under strict and demanding hygiene rules.

Mr Lyon said: 'We are anticipating further clarification from the Scottish Government soon on the specific detail of what treatment we will be able to offer but inevitably over the past eight months a consider-

able number of appointments have had to be cancelled.

'Our dental practices will prioritise patients with the greatest clinical need when we start to offer more treatments but they will also be focusing on maintaining a Covid-safe environment for patients and staff which will mean that fewer patients, around 50 per cent, will be seen per day than in pre-Covid times.

'We also want to prepare patients who are attending for appointments that they will notice a lot of changes. This will include waiting rooms no longer in use and the dental team wearing PPE that is very different from what was used pre-Covid.'

He added: 'It's good news that we will soon be able to offer a wider range of treatments but we fully appreciate some patients will be disappointed at the time they will have to wait for a routine appointment.

'We would ask for understanding from all our patients during this time as our dental teams work hard to re-introduce services in a Covid-safe environment and we all get used to this new way of working.'



PPE is now the order of the day in dental practices.



## Vote for Caring for People team

by Colin Cameron  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

The efforts of an Argyll and Bute group during the coronavirus lockdown have been recognised in a prestigious annual awards scheme.

Argyll and Bute Caring for People team has been nominated for a new category at this year's Scottish Health Awards - the People's Choice - which will be decided by public vote.

In its nomination, the team is described: 'With 23 inhabited islands and 43 per cent of the population living in remote and rural areas, it can be difficult to make sure everyone in Argyll and Bute has access to health and community services - and even harder during lockdown.

'A community response, which made sure more than 3,000 vulnerable people still had access to food, support,

medicine and other supplies, became vital.

'The Argyll and Bute Caring for People partnership, made up of the local public health team, Argyll and Bute Council colleagues and the Third Sector Interface, was formed to co-ordinate this urgent community response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

'This would normally take months to set up but the response from nearly 1,000 volunteers was so great that the Caring for People helpline and local Caring for People teams were up and running within 10 days.

'The teams worked with local organisations and volunteers to arrange for food delivery of around 45,000 food parcels, other essential shopping supplies and medication delivery.

'The helpline provides a friendly ear to more than 3,000 people.'

The Scottish Health Awards are aimed at those working across NHS Scotland and its partners, recognising those who go that extra mile to improve the health and well-being of others.

There are 16 award categories including the People's Choice Award, which opened to a public vote from October 19. The category will recognise individuals and teams who have responded magnificently to the challenge of caring for people during the pandemic, while at the same time maintaining a range of essential services and continuing to provide essential care.

Voting closes at 5pm on November 6. The winner will be announced during the virtual Scottish Health Awards ceremony on Wednesday December 9.

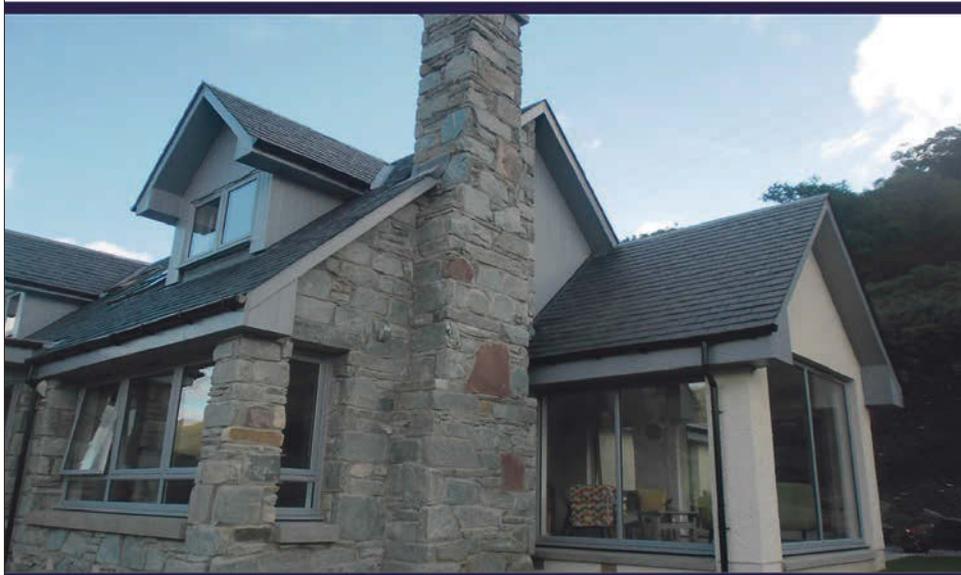
There is no limit on how many votes you can make.

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**Two by Two: Overboard! (U)**  
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**The Shining (15)**  
Saturday 5pm

**Uncle Vanya (12A)**  
Sunday 6pm

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## Combating Covid – but at what cost?

Will the impact of the coronavirus pandemic have a lasting impact beyond the immediate concerns of public health and the economy?

Our regular artistic contributor Ann Thomas of Tarbert muses on the possible loss of old traditions as a result of the pandemic. But also on another, more fundamental human issue – that of the development and recognition of emotion through facial expression (social referencing) by babies and infants – which may be impacted by others wearing masks.

What changes do you think could happen as a result of the pandemic and the measures taken to combat it? Contact the Argyllshire Advertiser on [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk) and tell us your thoughts.



## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)  
or The Editor, 44 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8NB

**Two issues confused**

So that's it. You've had your chance to comment on Transport Scotland's 11 options for the Rest.

There was just one, however, that appeared immediately feasible and, at the risk of sounding like a broken record, we suspect that's been the plan all along.

In the seeming panic to come up with these options, in our opinion two issues have been conflated.

First is the pressing need to bypass the Rest before someone is seriously hurt. But that aim cannot be met by cutting off Inveraray and upper Cowal. If done correctly, option one – up the other side of Glen Croe – could fit the bill.

But most of the other, expensive, options appear to be aimed at what needs to be the second priority – that of connecting Argyll in a way fit for the 21st century.

We would recommend that a more considered, less rushed, second transport options appraisal exercise be undertaken for Argyll and Bute's long-term benefit.

**Vote now**

On a lighter note, remember to cast your vote – see page six – for Argyll and Bute's Caring for People team, which has quietly worked hard to support so many.

**Addressing bullying problem**

Sir,  
I commend the efforts to have a separate independent inquiry carried out covering former council employees within the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).

The incidence of bullying of HSCP staff reflected in the survey earlier this year is quite shocking.

I also endorse the view expressed in the Argyllshire Advertiser leader column that training and management style should be looked at closely.

Having been involved in the public and allied sectors for many years, I saw many examples of bullying, which were seldom resolved by confronting the perpetrator and usually simply continued in a more insidious manner. Insidious bullying is commonplace and can take the form of exclusion from conversations in the office and belittling remarks. The distress caused to the individual is often substantial, not to mention the impact on work performance.

There is no doubt the culture of an organisation is difficult to change and takes time. One would presume that exit interviews when staff leave, to assess the extent of the problem, are already in place. So far as promotion to management posts is concerned, greater emphasis might now be given to leadership styles.

We are told that areas for improvement are being addressed and it would be of interest to hear further about practical examples of progress.

**Norman Beaton MA, Chartered FCIPD,  
Ardrihaig.**

**Scotland's pensions**

Sir,  
The UK state pension is the worst in Europe, despite the UK having the second biggest economy in the EU.

Scotland is a land of massive natural resources. We have a diverse economy. We have a highly educated workforce.

What we don't have is the power to direct these assets in the way that aligns with Scottish values.

Our economy has exceptional resources to support better pensions.

The Scottish Government has guaranteed to continue to pay every state pension. Occupational and personal pension rights will stay the same if Scotland becomes independent. We have accrued these benefits and are legally entitled to them.

**Maureen Beaton, Lochgilphead.**

**Environmental worry**

Sir,  
I am suffering from Ecological Anxiety Syndrome.

The symptoms are mixed but are characterised by night-sweats, unexpected bouts of crying over tree stumps and an unwholesome desire to grab some people by the shoulders and shake them repeatedly whilst shouting 'can't you see what you're doing' until they ask me to stop.

I have been to the doctor and he tells me it is just a symptom of my ardent belief that we are killing the planet. He's put me on a course of pills called 'Idongivadam'.

Apparently if I take three a day, with meals, I

will be over the worst within a few weeks and be able to integrate back into a society whose bodies naturally manufacture this wonder-drug.

Seriously though, how much do we care about the destruction of our environment?

Because every day I read or hear about some new type of poison we have thrown in extravagant quantities into our lochs or see waterfalls of newly-fallen rain washing out of our increasingly bare hillsides or listen to more news about valuable peat being dug up so we can grow a few flowers. Should we care? After all, our lifespans are finite and in a few decades it won't be our problem any more. No it won't - it will be our children left holding back the tide. Unfortunately, by then, the tide may overwhelm them so completely that there will be no coming back. A drowned world is no world at all. On second thoughts I have decided not to take the pills. I will just live with the symptoms. After all, I would rather care about the planet and Scotland's future than do nothing.

**Nick MacInneskar, Tayvallich.**

**Pets are not just property**

Sir,  
Following the debate in parliament on Monday October 19, Blue Cross is incredibly disappointed the UK government has not committed to change current legislation to make pet theft a crime in its own right.

We feel this is a huge missed opportunity to protect the lives of pets and reassure their owners that pet theft is taken as a serious crime. Pets are not simply 'property', they are sentient beings and much-loved family members.

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

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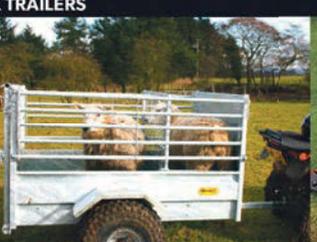


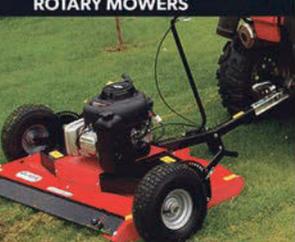
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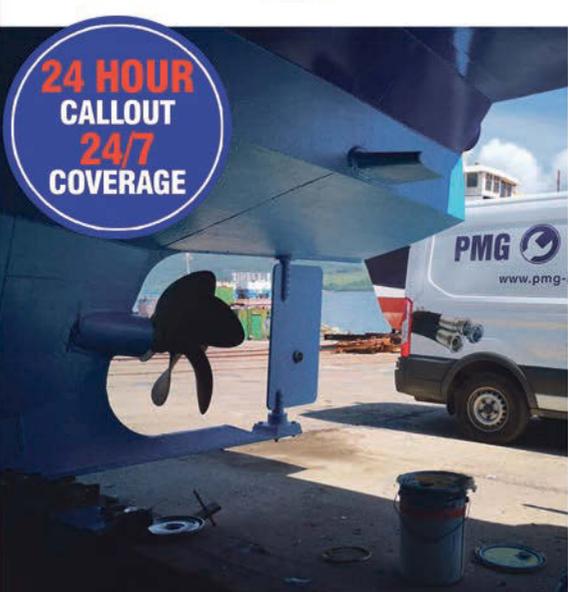




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Our pet bereavement support service has been supporting owners for more than 25 years and we know only too well the devastation, stress and anxiety caused by the theft of a beloved pet which deserves to be recognised and thieves punished accordingly.

We are, however, encouraged that the government has stated its willingness to engage in further discussion on the sentencing guidelines and we look forward to being fully involved.

**Becky Thwaites, head of public affairs, Blue Cross.**

### Poster slashed

Sir,  
I was out and about in Port Charlotte recently speaking to my constituents and hearing about many pressing local concerns while social distancing.

It was great to check up on the progress of pavement and road repairs in the village.

However, there is still much more work that needs to take place just outside of Port Charlotte, including pothole filling.

There was also justifiable anger about one of the 'Keep Islay Safe' posters being slashed.

I have contacted our council's Covid-19 department about this and have also spoken to Donald Cameron MSP.

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

## HAVE YOUR SAY

email [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)

## YOUR PICTURES



This autumnal scene of Dun na Cuaiche hill and tower was captured by Inveraray reader Donald John MacDonald earlier this month. Send your favourite photographs for publication to [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)

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# Picture-perfect Argyll in autumn

The clocks have gone back so it's darker earlier, the weather's not been brilliant and we're more than seven months into a pandemic which arrived in the UK before the clocks went forward for spring.

The leaves which burst forth during lockdown are almost completely gone from the trees and there seems to be very little to be cheery about in the

news as we contemplate the winter ahead.

It's at times like these that the genuinely important things in life really come to the fore. Family, friends, community and perhaps even just a straightforward gratitude for living in Argyll and the isles.

We have plenty of things to contend with that those in urban areas or without hills and



Alastair Redman, one of the Argyll and Bute councillors representing Kintyre and the Isles, took this photograph last week of a windy day at Claddach, Portnahaven, on the isle of Islay.

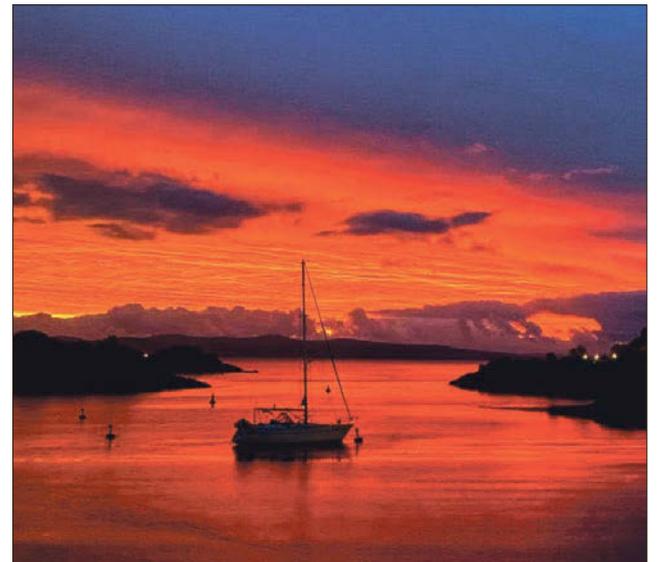
lochs would struggle to comprehend. We are geographically-challenged, which itself can lead to isolation and other problems with connectivity.

But the other side of the coin is we are geographically-blessed.

When life gets on top of us, we have stunning land and seascapes, plenty of wildlife and fresh air to enjoy. It's gen-

This stunning fiery sunrise over Cowal from Tarbert was captured by Tarbert's Janet West on Tuesday October 27.

erally raining, but who cares? The stunning images on this page capture just a hint of the beauty of Argyll.



Talented amateur photographer Aileen Gillies spotted this scene at Cairnbaan on Saturday October 24 and captured its autumn richness beside the Crinan Canal.

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# Going out guising – 2020 style

The official government advice is for children and everyone else to stay at home and not to go out guising house-to-house this Hallowe'en.

## 'Drive-by' event

But with every precaution in place, the MS Centre in Lochgilphead is ready for

a special, safe Hallowe'en 'drive-by' event on Friday October 30.

The rules are that anyone wanting to come to the outside of the centre between 5pm and 8pm must either be in a car or in a strict socially-distanced family bubble if walking.

There will be Hallowe'en goodie bags for children and adults for a suggested donation of £5.

## Precaution

Every precaution will be in place to make this event safe for centre staff, volunteers and for the community.



Eli and Karen on their eight-mile push between Ardrishaig and Crinan.

## Eli's charity push pays off

A charity fundraiser says she is 'blown away' by the generosity of donors after she raised three times more than her original target.

As part of the Virtual Kiltwalk 2020, Eli Pickering set off on Saturday September 12 to push her daughter Karen in a wheelchair for eight miles between Ardrishaig and Crinan in support of the MS Society Scotland.

Before her fundraiser, Eli explained: 'This is a charity close to my heart. Karen was diagnosed with MS 13 years ago and we have other family members who have got this devastating condition. The MS Society Scotland is a fantastic charity which offers help, support and research.'

An online donations page for 'Eli's Big Push' was set up, with a target of £500.

Earlier this week, Eli announced that between the web page and a sponsor sheet

in the Argyll Book Centre in Lochgilphead, where Eli is manager, she has raised £1,505.30 for the charity.

But there is more, as Eli explained: 'The Hunter Foundation very kindly topped up all funds raised at the Kiltwalk by 100 per cent this year - the Hunter Foundation usually adds 50 per cent - which took the total raised to £3,010.60.'

She continued: 'An amazing amount raised and it means so much to this very important charity.'

'I am blown away by the generosity of all the people who donated and supported me and Karen on our Kiltwalk escapade, especially this year when we are all going through such difficult and challenging times.'

'So I want to say a great big thank you - all this fabulous support is so much appreciated.'

Column sponsored by Safer Scotland

## Remember, remember... the impact of fireworks

With Bonfire Night approaching and many events cancelled, if you are planning a private fireworks display at home this year, it's important that you know how to keep you and your family safe. Make sure you know the risks, alongside the fun and enjoyment:

1. Check the latest Scottish Government guidance on meeting up with other households outdoors on [gov.scot/friendsandfamily](http://gov.scot/friendsandfamily)
2. Ensure you know what fireworks are suitable for private use, dependent on the size of your garden - visit [firescotland.gov.uk](http://firescotland.gov.uk)
3. Always follow the fireworks code and read fireworks instructions before use

Whilst fireworks are spectacular, they can raise background noise levels by up to 120 decibels, affecting the wellbeing of those with noise sensitivity. The loud bangs, lights and strong smells of fireworks can be challenging for autistic people and pet owners know only too well the distress it can cause to animals.

More often than not, it's children rather than adults who are injured by fireworks.

During the bonfire season last year, 85% of all firework injuries treated at emergency departments happened at informal private displays. Over half of those requiring treatment were children.

Deputy Assistant Chief Officer Alasdair Perry, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's Head of Prevention and Protection, said:

**"First and foremost we would urge all of our communities to follow the advice and guidelines around social distancing to help stop the spread of COVID-19.**

**"We know this means that people may consider hosting their own events this year but we would urge caution around doing so because every year people are injured by fireworks and admitted to hospital - and children are particularly at risk.**

**"We are therefore strongly encouraging anyone who does wish to host a private event to reduce the risk by ensuring to familiarise themselves with our firework code and fire safety guidance. Do not take risks because the consequences can be devastating."**

Enjoy fireworks safely. Visit [firescotland.gov.uk](http://firescotland.gov.uk)  
To report the misuse of fireworks anonymously  
call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



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# Roddy, Mutley and the Bike Rep

Kerrie Noor is a link worker with Alzheimer Scotland in Mid Argyll supporting families affected by dementia. She is also the writer of several books.

Kerrie, like many people, has her own personal dementia story. 'There is not a person I have not met over the age of consent that doesn't have a story of someone in their family with dementia,' said Kerrie.

'Charities like Alzheimer Scotland are a wonderful resource, so I have written a short story for Alzheimer Scotland in an effort to raise awareness.

'It is a tough time for those affected by the disease and I thought a short story may help people get a feeling for the effect the illness can have for those with dementia as well as those who care for them.'

As Alzheimer Scotland marks its 40th anniversary, you can help support the charity's work across the country by visiting the Just Giving page [justgiving.com/fundraising/alzscot-argyllandbute](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/alzscot-argyllandbute)

## Roddy, Mutley and the Bike Repair Kit

By Kerrie Noor

There were times when my dad was still there, but as

quick as I noticed he was gone again.

Roddy surveyed his garden. It was winter. There were clouds everywhere and yet he felt strangely warm...hot, in fact.

He began to wonder why when something wet tickled

his hand. He looked down to see Mutley, his dog, licking his fingers. He rubbed Mutley's head and stared into the garden. I was to look for something, but what?

'Mavis?' he shouted.

Mutley looked up at him, then raced into the henhouse and came out with his tail wagging. Roddy patted the dog, watching as he went back into the henhouse, and decided to follow.

He stumbled down the path, past the shed with a boat leaning against it. What was I looking for? He stopped to enter, catching his foot on something, and crashed like a pile of books.

His back clattered against the wall, his face screwed up in pain. He cursed using all his favourite words, until he looked up to see Mutley's nose in a pile of hay.

'Come away with yer,' he muttered, sliding his hand out for the dog. He grasped something cold and smooth and pulled out a white-as-marble egg.

'Good ol' girl,' muttered Roddy. He looked at the egg. 'This'll please Herself...Mavis,' he shouted. 'We've another one.'

Silence.

Where is she?

He followed Mutley into the kitchen. He heard voices and

he looked about. 'Mavis' was on the tip of his tongue, then he realised it was the radio – her favourite programme – and laughed at himself as the egg crashed to floor, thumping his big toe.

'Bugger...'

He opened the oven. What was I looking for again? He slammed it shut, then moved to the fridge and lifted off a photo of a young couple, a Chinese man with his arm around a young woman.

What is Mavis doing with him? Why isn't she home?

He stared for a long time, fumbling with the frame, then stopped. It was his daughter Denise, not Mavis. So where is Mavis?

'Mavis?' he shouted.

Mutley barked again, sliding his head under Roddy's hands.

'Mavis?'

Mutley licked Roddy's fingers. 'Good boy.' Roddy smiled with a belch, then let rip the sort of fart that deserved a slap.

'Really, Roddy,' muttered a distant female voice. 'It wasn't

me,' shouted Roddy. 'Aye right, it was your dog,' laughed the voice.

Roddy stared down at Mutley as he disappeared around the corner. 'That dog of yours could fart for Britain...'

Denise was driving in the rain. It was dark, and she had her phone on speaker.

'Dad, you OK? You eaten yet?'

Yes, the neighbours here are very good. Everyone knows everyone,' said Roddy.

'Neighbours?' Denise turned down her radio.

'Today,' said Roddy, 'I had cheese and whisky.'

'Who gave you whisky?' said Denise.

'Puts hair on your balls,' said Roddy.

'Dad!'

Denise swerved away from a cyclist. She cursed like a bricklayer.

'Don't you let your mother hear you talk like that,' Roddy laughed.

He paused...

Denise waited.



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# air Kit – a story for Alzheimer's

'How are things in China?' said Roddy. 'You still eating snails?'

'We left China years ago and we never ate snails – not even in France.'

'You moved to France?' said Roddy. 'No, I was saying we don't eat snails.'

'Snails? Your mother loved 'em.' He laughed. He stopped.

He remembered something; it hurt. He felt confused.

Denise let out a long sigh. Why the hell did I have to mention France?

'Dad, are you still there?'

He looked around the room... there were so many photos. He tried to focus, then he saw her – his Mavis, clutching a fishing rod.

'Is your mum with you?' he said.

'No, Dad.'

'I thought we could go fishing,' he said.

'Dad, you haven't been fishing in years.'

Years ago, when Roddy was young, he met Mavis while fishing at his favourite spot.

Mavis cycled by every Saturday and every Saturday he, poised with his catch, fantasised about impressing her with a spectacular trout.

She was a woman 'way above him' and he never thought he had a chance, until she got a puncture.

'I pulled the best pair of legs with a puncture kit,' he used to say. Denise had heard it so many times she could recite the story. In fact, she had heard it so many times she could mend a bike puncture with her eyes closed.

Her dad could fix anything, catch more fish than anyone else and spin a yarn so spell-binding that no-one left the room.

He was that sort of chap.

Roddy woke up. He had the best taste in his mouth ever. It was delicious.

He stared into the brown stains of his mug and wondered if there was any more.

'Mavis,' he shouted, 'any more in that pot?'

'Just coming, Roddy,' yelled

a female voice. He was going to do nothing today, not even walk. He was going to lie all day, rest his back and his toe. He was buggered, as buggered as the trout he caught for his Mavis, so buggered he could hardly raise his hand to pat Mutley.

He stopped, looked around. Where was that dog anyway? Mavis, he told himself. She's out walking him, she always did in the morning.

He closed his eyes and fell into a snore.

'Roddy,' said a quiet woman's voice.

He jumped, his false teeth clattered, a tissue swiped across his mouth, he swore.

'Mutley, get out of it.' He looked up at a young soft face.

'Your tablets,' she said. He blinked. 'And some water.'

'Mavis?'

'She's not here.' The soft face smiled at him. He coughed.

The owner of the soft face slid a plate of sandwiches by his side. He stared at the wardrobe, the ceiling. He felt confused; it

was a strange ceiling, not what he was used to waking up to. He made to move and winced in pain.

'Here, let me help,' said the soft face.

He frowned, groaned in pain. Why was his back sore? And down below – his feet.

The soft face touched his arm; he yelped.

'Take these,' she said, gesturing with the pills. 'They're for the pain. Then we can make you comfortable.' She slid two tablets between his fingers. He tried to hold.

'Karen,' yelled the soft face, 'give us a hand to sit Roddy up for lunch.'

He fumbled with his pills. What am I to do? 'Karen!' yelled the soft face.

She headed out the door.

The tablets dropped from his fingers and he fumbled with the blanket on his knees. What am I looking for?

'Bugger,' he shouted as the blankets tumbled to the floor. He tried to move, bend, when the soft face entered



Kerrie Noor.

with a schoolgirl. The women shuffled him about, tugging the blanket tightly around his hips.

They talked a lot, cooed as he pulled a face and called his name so many times he lost count. He never even got a chance to ask why the schoolgirl wasn't at school.

'That OK, Roddy?' She smiled.

'Here,' said the soft face. She slid the tablets into his mouth, followed by water. 'It'll make you feel better.' She smiled. He blinked.

'You fell yesterday, remember?' said the schoolgirl. He

Continued on page 14.

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# Roddy, Mutley and the Bike Repair Kit - a story for Alzheimer's

Continued from page 13.

swallowed the tablet, shifted uncomfortably and wondered if some tea would help.

Denise walked into the garden. The outside light didn't flick on. She swore and stumbled to the back door, unlocked it and went into the kitchen. It was pretty bare, not much in it now. There was a time when the kitchen was full of cooking, people, dogs, even the odd hen perched on the window sill.

Denise flicked on the light, headed into the lounge, and fluffed a few cushions. Roddy's carer had asked her to bring in more clothes.

'He had a fall,' she said on the phone, 'ripped his trousers, dropped a paperweight on his foot, that funny egg-shaped one. It's a bit swollen, but we've given him something for the pain. You may find him groggy when you come in.'

Denise flopped on the couch.

He never wanted this, she thought, like she did every time she came to his house, held his hand or talked to him on the phone, especially when he looked for her mum.

She headed into the bedroom, folded some clothes, and stopped at a photograph, the one of the three of them when she was ten. She slid it into the bag along with a pair of trousers and headed back to the car.

She passed the empty hen-house with its roof flapping in the wind, the shed with the boat beside it. The wind

had blown it down months ago. Every time she passed, she thought of selling it, clearing out the shed and couldn't face it. The shed door flapped in the wind. Denise made to shut the door and stopped. She went inside and flicked on the light.

There, amongst the shelf, covered in dust and still regimentally organised, was Roddy's bike repair kit. She turned it in her hand.

'My dad taught me everything,' she used to say.

'How to fish, how to mend a puncture, how to skin a rabbit.' Not that she ever skinned a rabbit, but her dad was that sort of fella. Practical, down-to-earth, even asked her to look after Mutley when he had to move into a home.

She slid the repair kit into her bag and promised herself to sort out the garden next week.

Roddy woke. The TV was on in another room, his legs were hot under an itchy blanket and he could hear a trolley clattering down the corridor. He stared at the walls covered in photos, at the picture of his daughter with that Chinese fellow on the wardrobe door.

He turned to his side table and picked up the picture of Mavis and her fishing rod.

The soft face came in and smiled at him.

He looked at her name tag.

'Mary?'

'That's right.' She plonked a tea beside his sandwiches.

'Do you not want your sandwiches?' He didn't answer.

'They're your favourite.' She tucked the sides of the blankets into the chair even tighter.

'I'll cover them up and you



Puncture repair kit.

can have them later. Once your daughter's been, we'll put you back to bed.'

Roddy watched her leave and tried to wiggle...

He dozed and woke to find Mutley looking up at him like he hadn't eaten since the World Cup. Roddy smiled at his dog. 'And that wasn't yesterday.'

Mutley nudged his hand into a pat. 'You hungry?' said Roddy. He stared at the sandwiches. He fingered the cling film, poked a hole near the crust and sniffed then waved the plate under Mutley's nose.

The sandwiches tumbled to the floor, egg and cress everywhere; Roddy watched as Mutley sniffed without one poke, let alone a nibble.

Mutley was one of those dogs that always met the postie, found all the eggs, rooted in

bins. He was always looking for food. His nose was in the fridge before it was opened, but he didn't touch the sandwiches.

Roddy stared at the mess as Mary entered. She sighed.

'Denise was going to take him,' said Roddy. 'She said he was too much for me.'

'Who?' said Mary, picking up the sandwiches.

'Just because I forget her name, she seems to think I can't manage a tin opener.' Mary looked at him. 'Tin opener?'

'She means well, Mavis says, but then Mavis says that about everyone, even the postie, and he hated Mutley. Too smart for his own good, so he said.' He lifted his tea and, with a sip, fell back into the darkness...

Denise looked at her father. 'He looks so peaceful,' she said.

'It's the tablets,' said Mary. Roddy opened his eyes. He looked at his daughter, his eyes watery, his lips dry and his hands cold.

She hated seeing him like this. 'Dad?' she whispered. He didn't say anything.

She slid the repair kit into his hand.

He turned it about, fumbled with the lid. 'Where's your bike?' he said. 'I'll fix it for you.'

Roddy was soon up and roaming the corridors, clutching his repair kit with Mutley by his side.

The carers knew all about Mutley, how he was buried next to Mavis.

They knew all about Mavis and how she had died on a trip to France, how he'd never been the same since.

They knew that he liked hens and loved to fix things and yet staring at him in pull-up trousers tossing sandwiches at an imaginary dog, it was hard to imagine.

Until Denise ventured back to the shed.

She stared at the shelves, all covered in dust and wondered. Is his dementia that bad that he wouldn't remember something in here? The place he spent all his time?

She took her dad out for the day, led him into the garden; he stared blankly.

She led him to the shed. He said nothing.

She sat him on a chair, gave him a cup of tea and began to 'go through things'.

At first, he stared like he was somewhere else. Then he started to help and really got on her nerves.

'No, Dad, that's going out.' 'Dad, that's paint thinner.'

The carers had warned her...told her it was a stupid idea, that he'd hurt himself and when he pulled the drill out, she lost it. 'Just leave it, Dad,' she snapped.

He didn't hear; the bike on the wall had caught his eye. It was covered up and yet the shape was familiar: the smell of rubber. He fingered the cover, tugged at it. The tyre poked through.

He looked at Denise. 'Is that your bike?' She stopped.

He lifted the covers, peered at the tyre, pinched it like an expert. 'Looks flat to me.'

Roddy woke up with the taste of sugary tea in his mouth.

He stared into his empty mug and was just on the verge of shouting 'Mavis' when he caught sight of Denise's bike, leaning...waiting.

It had the flattest tyre ever.

He stumbled from his chair, righted himself and headed over to inspect. Mutley was soon at his side, and as he pulled out his repair kit, Mary looked in.

'You want a tea, Roddy?' She smiled. 'Aye, it's thirsty work, this bike-mending,' he said. Then he looked at Mary. 'She back at school yet? That schoolgirl?'

Mary laughed. 'Yes, but she's coming in later.'

Roddy nodded.

'And she's bringing in her bike,' said Mary.

■ If you would like to see more of Kerrie Noor's work, visit [www.kerrienoor.com](http://www.kerrienoor.com)



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# Fish and chip shop brings home the catch after DigitalBoost support

An award-winning fish and chip shop takeaway in Helensburgh has adapted to Covid-19 restrictions with the creation of a new website and introduction of online ordering following support from DigitalBoost, delivered by Business Gateway.

The Wee Kelpie is a world-renowned fish and chip shop established in 2011. Led by husband and wife team Nicola and Kerr Raeburn, the business closed at the start of lockdown to ensure the health and safety of their team.

Following this, Nicola and Kerr approached Business Gateway to identify how they could adapt their business model to re-open in the safest way possible and limit their exposure to the public to reduce the spread of the virus.

Through DigitalBoost, the couple accessed one-to-one support, including expert advice as they started building their first website. Nicola was supported as she went through appointing a web developer, with Business Gateway input to the plan and brief helping ensure the website met their business needs.

Business Gateway was also able to signpost funding opportunities and the Wee Kelpie secured funding through the Business Gateway Local Growth Accelerator Programme towards their new website and the equipment needed to adapt their operations. The programme is funded by Argyll and Bute Council and the European Regional Development Fund 2014-20 Structural Funds Programme.

Nicola said: 'Before the pandemic, we relied on footfall and word of mouth to drive sales. After deciding to close, we knew we had to explore other ways of operating and Business Gateway was there to help take us through this process.

'Through DigitalBoost, we were able to access expert, impartial help which was invaluable as we started the process of building a website. It was particularly helpful as we searched for a web-developer to support us, as I received several quotes and conflicting advice from design agencies. Our DigitalBoost consultant, however, was friendly, knowledgeable and explained things



Kerr and Nicola Raeburn, owners of The Wee Kelpie.

clearly to us, outlining what we needed to do to adapt and launch a new platform.'

Jen Smith, business adviser for Business Gateway Argyll and Bute, said: 'It is rewarding

to see how this package of support has come together for Nicola and her team and assisted their safe re-opening.

Having a strong online presence will continue to be vital

for businesses and for many this can be daunting, especially if this is something they haven't done before. However, the DigitalBoost programme can help, providing free,

expert, impartial advice to support businesses as they take their operations online, and our Local Growth Accelerator Programme remains open to those looking to grow.'

## Digital skills help businesses respond to Covid crisis

According to recent Business Gateway research, Covid-19 remains a worry for more than three-quarters of businesses.

If this includes your business, Business Gateway is here to help, providing help on everything from switching to online platforms, business strategy, redundancy, HR, flexible working and crisis planning.

Across the country, the Business Gateway service has adapted to virtual working and has been supporting businesses as they adapt, plan and change to new environments. One-to-one support from an experienced

local business adviser can provide a lifeline to help businesses rebuild and move forward and the team continues to provide free help to new and existing business owners. In Argyll and Bute since lockdown began, Business Gateway has received double the volume of enquiries compared to last year and has helped more than 150 business owners adapt to Covid-19.

The pandemic has also clearly shown the value businesses gain from using online platforms, which can provide a direct, low-cost way to keep in touch with clients and potentially facilitate online sales. Over the com-

ing months, digital upskilling and maximising the use of technology will continue to be a powerful tool in helping bring the country out of the financial crisis and, given this, it is vitally important businesses continue to get the most out of digital platforms.

Business Gateway has a range of webinars running in November that focus on relevant topics for business owners who want the most out of digital platforms. This includes sessions on Facebook for business; how to develop video for social media and producing engaging online content.

DigitalBoost, Scotland's national digital training programme, delivered by Business Gateway, is a critical tool for businesses during this period.

Now in its fifth year, DigitalBoost provides businesses with free support to help them improve productivity and increase resilience through webinars, guides, video tutorials, case studies and one-to-one advice.

By contacting Business Gateway Argyll and Bute, businesses may be able to secure one hour with a digital specialist to help across a range of issues such as digital strategy, building an e-commerce platform, improving

search engine optimization and much more. Following completion of the Digital Health Check available via the website, more intensive digital support may also be available from DigitalBoost to help established businesses implement their growth plans, on topics including building online booking and ticketing systems, social media, cyber resilience, data analytics, digital marketing strategy and e-commerce.

**For more information and to connect with Business Gateway please visit [www.bgateway.com](http://www.bgateway.com) or contact the local team on 01546 808363.**

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# Rethink

## RELOCATE OR RENOVATE?



When it comes to our homes and all things related to property, one thing is for sure: the Covid-19 crisis means it is time for a huge reassessment.

Who on earth would have thought that 2020 would have turned out the way it has? The uncertainty and uncharted territory we now find ourselves in has made us all rethink our day-to-day lives, especially how and where we live and work.

Never, in our lifetimes, have our homes played such an important role in our financial, physical and social well-being.

Families in flats or with small gardens want to move to more spacious properties, or make the most of what space they have; home-aloners want to live nearer to family or in towns and villages. Lots of us realise that we need to do some serious rethinking about what we need and how we will achieve this both practically and financially.

Or do we just need to 'reinvent the wheel?'

Think about it: the home and property model for the second half of the 20th century still dominates – but the mum and dad and their 2.4 kids in a 'nuclear family' unit is not a comfortable fit as the 21st century unfolds.

The 'blended' family of yours, mine and

“ We have faced major changes before and it has all worked out fine - so don't let uncertainty stop you from living your best possible life in the best possible home.”

ours, the soaring price of property and care of the elderly all hark back to earlier times.

Family homes were always multi-generational; Victorian and Edwardian epidemics, pandemics, the heavy loss of lives in wars meant households included a grandparent or two, widowed uncle, spinster aunt and the occasional orphaned sibling, along with chil-

dren living at home until they married or saved enough for a home. Take a look at the size of the Victorian villas in our major towns and the old farmhouses; they were built to be full of people.

And the majority of the West Highlands worked from home – only back then it was crofts or weaving. The idea of 'tele-crofting' popular 20 or so years ago suddenly makes sense. Only this time the byres will be offices, and workshops and studios will be alongside the remaining weaving sheds.

Looking at housing needs across society, and a couple of centuries, makes our own, new circumstances seem less daunting. We have faced major changes before and it has all worked out fine - so don't let uncertainty stop you from living your best possible life in the best possible home.



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## A good time to buy and sell: house sales are moving again

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# Relocate

**After coming to a screeching halt when the Covid crisis began, the property market is back in action**

This has been a tricky year for the number crunchers who analyse the property market.

The latest provisional statistics from the UK House Price Index, published at the start of October, show that the average price of a property in Scotland in July 2020 was £155,335, an increase of 0.4 per cent on July 2019.

The volume of residential sales in Scotland in May 2020 was 3,085, a decrease of 67.7 per cent on the original provisional estimate for May 2019.

This compares with a decrease of 56.1 per cent in England, 60.4 per cent in Wales, and 68.3 per cent in Northern Ireland.

Commenting on the volume of sales across Scotland, Janet Egdell, at Registers of Scotland, said: 'These figures clearly show the ongoing impact on housing market activity of the measures introduced to tackle the pandemic. The government guidance at the time was for housing transactions to be postponed and rescheduled wherever possible.'

'Throughout this period Registers of Scotland delivered a range of digital solutions to support those transactions that could go ahead safely while adhering to government guidance.'

'In subsequent months we have seen a significant amount of this delayed activity come through for registration.'

In Scotland, detached properties showed the largest increase, rising by 1.9 per cent in the year to July 2020 to £271,709. Flats showed a decrease, falling by 0.8 per cent in the year to July 2020 to £110,851.

Average price increases were recorded in the majority of local authorities, when comparing prices with the previous year.

Across the UK, residential property transactions rose 15.6 per cent in August following introduction of the stamp duty holiday.

Figures from the Building Societies Association show that there has been a marked uplift in the number of people, who say that now is a good time to buy a property: 37 per cent in September compared to 25 per cent in June.

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# Renovate

**Gardens, kitchens and bathrooms are our top priorities if we plan on staying put**

One in two people, 48 per cent, are planning home improvements - with a planned average spend of £2,362.

'With the world facing such change and uncertainty, many people have been able to find comfort in their homes. For some, it has been the simple pleasure of gardening or being able to enjoy more family meal times together,' said James Fairclough, director of AA Financial Services which undertook the new research.

He added that the findings suggest there has been a growing appreciation of the positive aspects of home life during lockdown, with 89 per cent of adults saying their home has been essential in supporting their mental health and wellbeing, more so among women - 91 per cent compared to 86 per cent of men.

The number one priority was the garden, with nearly a quarter of people, 24 per cent saying this was important.

Other priorities included:

- Kitchen - 15 per cent
- Bathroom - 12 per cent
- Study - 6 per cent
- Games room - 5 per cent
- Conservatory - 4 per cent

When it came to extending homes, four per cent both said that they wanted to make a downstairs room bigger or add a bedroom in each case.

The average planned spend was £2,362, rising to £3,019 in Edinburgh. Interestingly, the research found there was very little contrast between those who were being paid as usual and those who had taken a pay cut to stay in work - £2,259 vs £2,279.

When it came to how they were going to finance the changes, more than a quarter said they would use their savings, 27 per cent rising to 32 per cent of those in Edinburgh.

#### HOW TO PAY

- Disposable income - 22 per cent
- Credit card - 7 per cent
- Personal loan - 5 per cent
- Borrowing from friends and family - 5 per cent
- Adding to mortgage - 5 per cent
- Overdraft - 5 per cent

'The fact that many are putting aside significant sums of money to make home alterations after lockdown suggests they have been able to find positives to spending more time at home,' James said.

'Making changes to their homes is a sign they hope certain aspects of their new pace of life will remain as we edge our way out of lockdown.'

#### IS YOUR PLAN PERMITTED?

Small alterations and extensions can go ahead without applying under 'permitted development'.

Make sure you know which is which; remember, go ahead regardless without the necessary permission and you can expect to be served with an enforcement notice.

For peace of mind make sure you take the time to avoid this.

If you live in a Conservation Area or your home is a listed building, be very careful.

Building Warrants are unique to Scotland, the nearest that England and Wales have is building control approval. This is where people moving to Scotland can come unstuck; work cannot start on site until warrants are approved, thus showing compliance with regulations on new builds and alterations and any demolition work. Just as with permitted development there are exemptions.



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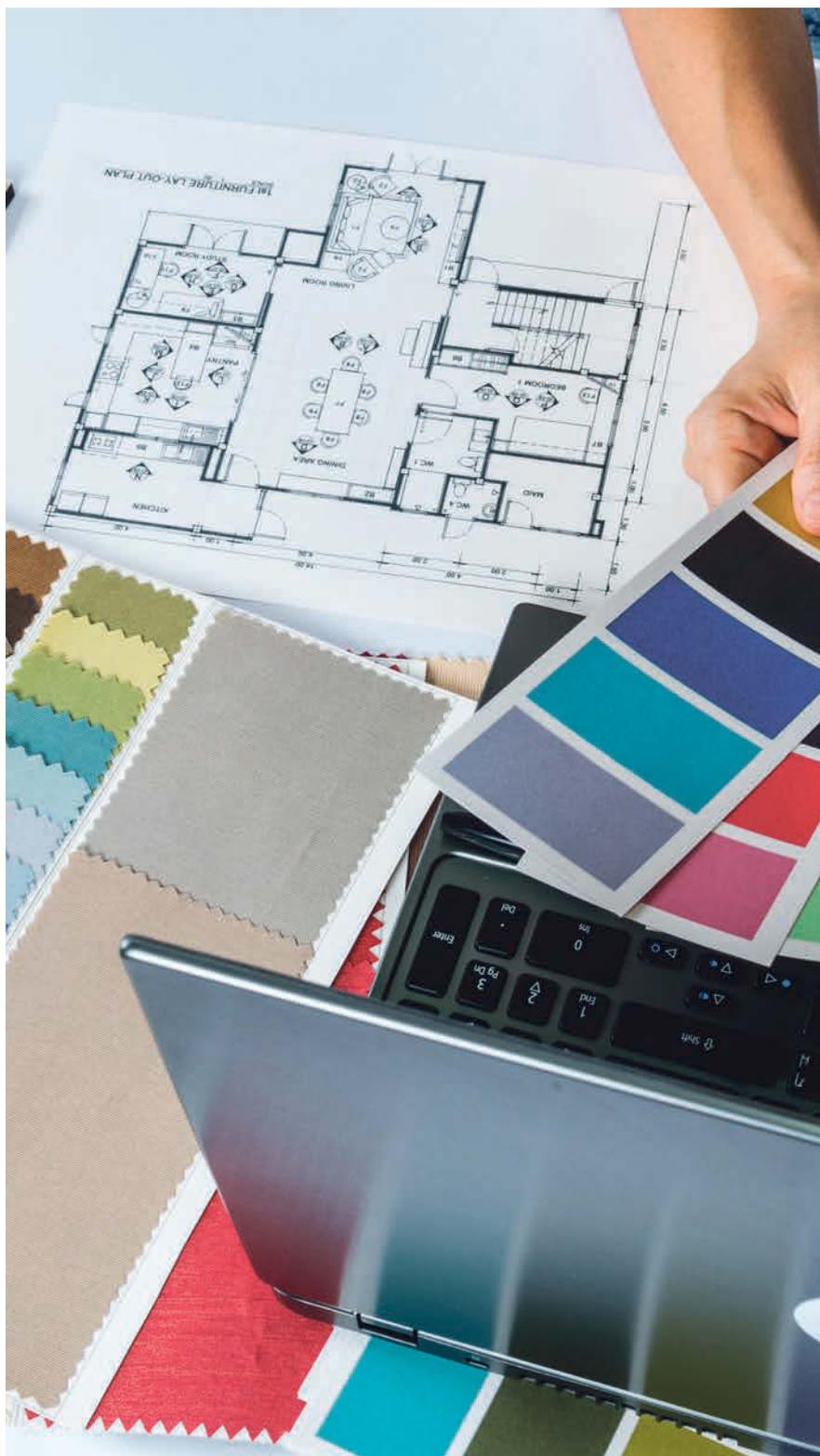
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## Online services to the rescue

The online [eDevelopment.scot](http://eDevelopment.scot) – homepage of the Scotland-wide system for making applications online has come into its own during the present Covid crisis. It links to your local council and has downloadable user guides plus a technical support desk.

New builds and larger projects need permission granted via local councils and they have risen to the challenge.

Argyll and Bute Council has said it recognises the importance for inspection of sites or works prior to the acceptance of Completion Certificates and Temporary Occupation/Use Certificates, and its systems have adapted to the challenges of Covid-19.

As well as physical site inspections all councils are offering Remote Virtual Inspections using Skype and other platforms where possible.

This can be done in cases where the Building Standard Surveyor is of the opinion that a virtual inspection can provide the equivalent of a site inspection. Provision of certification and other evidence can include photographs.

Remember that the final decision on how this is carried out rests with the council deciding what method is the most appropriate.

'These arrangements ensure that we can provide a quality of service which meets your needs, whilst protecting public health,' said Argyll and Bute Council, adding: 'Whilst as a service we are well equipped to work flexibly from home, it is anticipated that there may continue to be some disruption due to staff availability and delivery of processes which currently rely on hardcopy documentation.'

Back in March the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning, Kevin Stewart MSP, wrote to local councils at the start of the Covid outbreak, giving additional guidance on the duration of building warrants, extending the validity and determination of application – refusal and deemed refusals.

Local authorities are responsible for granting permission for work to be done with building warrants and for a completed building to be occupied by issuing a completion certificate.

His guidance was to ensure that where work was paused as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic that applicants would not be disadvantaged through the expiry of their building warrant.

'I appreciate that granting an extension to a building warrant requires further work and as a result a fee is normally charged,' he said.

'However, at this time it is important that the fee does not prevent contractors getting back to work in a safe and responsible manner in order to complete works for applicants.'

He called for councils to use their discretion, particularly for small works that were halted by the pandemic.

This guidance specifically addresses small works including those to existing homes and business premises and where delays to the completion of works have been caused by the pause in construction due to the pandemic.

This timescale allows for any work that was paused due to the pandemic to have restarted and any necessary extension warrant to have been applied for; the original extension was until the end of this month (October), but expect to see further extensions and always check with council departments before proceeding.

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# Midton smashes charity target after a fiery start



The MS Centre's smart new logo, designed by Midton Acrylics.

A Lochgilphead manufacturing firm has smashed a fundraising target for its chosen charity.

Each year staff at Midton Acrylics choose a local charity to support and for 2020 the chosen beneficiary has been the Multiple Sclerosis Centre Argyll.

In a 'normal' year - remember the ones we used to have prior to 2020? - Midton personnel would enthusiastically have got stuck into competitive bake-offs, sponsored runs and more.

## Red-hot start

A Just Giving page was set up and things got off to a red-hot start when Lee Maclean and Tristan Bowden of Midton took part in the MS Centre fire walk back in January.

The year was going so well

until coronavirus restrictions arrived in March.

While the MS Centre successfully moved to remote care and support for service users, Midton quickly adapted its manufacturing focus to help the battle against the pandemic by making face shields, transparent screens and more besides.

Amid the constantly-changing pandemic picture and pressures of maintaining output while socially distancing, the company never lost sight of its fundraising target and last week announced on Facebook that its £1,000 target for the MS Centre had not only been reached, but exceeded.

Midton posted: 'We cannot thank everyone enough who has donated - we are so

lucky to be a part of an amazing community and work with incredible clients.'

MS Centre manager Karen McCurry replied: 'Thank you all so much. The Midton team have been a huge support to MS Argyll and not only through fundraising but by offering design skills to produce our new logos and helping make the centre a safer place to be by making screens.'

'We appreciate all your support. Thanks also to all who have generously supported your fundraising.'

**Tristan Bowden of Midton braved the firewalk in January to support the Multiple Sclerosis Centre Argyll.** 06\_a05Firewalk10



## STARTERS

SOUP OF THE DAY £5.50  
Served with a warm bread roll and butter (vegetarian)

SEAFOOD SOUP £6.50  
with warm bread roll and butter

HADDOCK, LANGOUSTINE AND VINE TOMATOES BAKE £9  
with chilli herb and garlic oil served with a warm bread roll

MACARONI CHEESE £7  
with garlic bread - add smoked salmon £1.50

HAND DIVED TAYVALLICH LANDED KING SCALLOPS £12  
3 scallops pan fried in garlic butter served with dressed leaves

CLASSIC MOULES MARINIÈRE £8  
Scottish mussels steamed in white wine, cream, garlic and onions served with a warm bread roll

## A menu to match the views

SOUND OF JURA LANGOUSTINE £10  
Served hot in garlic butter with a bread roll or served cold with salad and garlic mayonnaise

### MAIN COURSES

FISH & CHIPS £13  
in our own beer batter served with tartare sauce

SOUND OF JURA LANGOUSTINE £21  
baked in garlic butter or served cold with garlic mayonnaise and salad - both served with rustic chips

HAND DIVED TAYVALLICH LANDED KING SCALLOPS £25  
6 king scallops pan fried in garlic butter served with salad and rustic chips

MACARONI CHEESE £10  
with ciabatta garlic bread - Add smoked salmon £3

CLASSIC MOULES MARINIÈRE £14.50  
Scottish mussels steamed in white wine, cream, garlic and onions served with a warm bread roll or swap to chips for £2

HOT SMOKED SALMON AND PRAWN LINGUINE £16.50  
in a white wine and cream sauce, served with garlic bread

HADDOCK, SMOKED SALMON AND PRAWN GRATIN £17  
oven baked with a cheese, cream and

leek sauce, topped with breadcrumbs and served with rustic chips

10Z RIBEYE STEAK £28  
served with roasted vine tomatoes, onion rings, rustic chips, salad and peppercorn sauce.

HOMEMADE BEEF BURGER £12  
2 x 4oz burgers served on a seeded bun with salad, onion rings and burger sauce served with rustic chips on the side - add cheese & bacon - £1 each

CURRY OF THE DAY £12  
served with wild rice, popadom, mango chutney & spiced onions

### SIDES

RUSTIC SKIN ON CHIPS £3.  
MIXED LEAF SALAD £3  
ONION RINGS £3  
2 WARM BREAD ROLLS AND BUTTER £2  
GARLIC BREAD £3

### SOMETHING SWEET

BANOFFEE PIE £6  
biscuit base with toffee sauce & bananas topped with fresh cream

WARM CHOCOLATE BROWNIE £6  
with chocolate sauce and vanilla ice cream

TODAYS CHEESECAKE £6  
with toasted oats and fresh raspberries

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1 SCOOP £2 // 2 SCOOPS £4 // 3 SCOOPS £6  
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LEMON SORBET £4

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FISH AND CHIPS £7  
fresh haddock fillet in our own batter served with chips

CURRY OF THE DAY £7  
served with wild rice and popadom (curry may be spicy, please ask)

CHICKEN GOUJONS £7  
fresh chicken fillet in our own batter served with chips and beans

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## Around the markets

**United Auctions, Dalmally, Friday October 23:** sold 2059 sheep of all classes. Lambs sold to £72.50 for Texel crosses from Ardbeg to average £53.10 (+£13.95). A good following of buyers in attendance ensured all classes of stock on offer was easily sold. Blackface lambs were in keen demand and sold beyond sellers' expectations.

### Leading Prices Per Head

Lambs - SuffX - £70.00, Achnacone. TexX - £72.50, Ardbeg; £69.00, Dunans; £67.00, Ormsary Farmers; £66.50, Maam Farm; £65.50, Ellary Farms; £65.50, Ardbeg; £62.00, Ederline Estate; £60.50, Maam Farm; £60.00, Bragleenmore. Chev - £71.00, £68.50, Bunlarie; £66.00, Tigh Airidh; £64.00, Ellary Estate; £64.00, Maam Farm; £61.00, Birchfield. Cross - £68.00, Brackley; £67.50, Kilvaree Farm; £65.00, Bunlarie;

£63.00, Brackley; £61.00, Laggan Barguilean; £60.00, Acharonich. BF - £70.50, High Balantyre; £68.00, Acharonich; £66.00, Raera; £66.00, Duncroisk; £65.00, Achnacone; £63.00, Castles Estate; £62.00, Auchreoch; £61.00, Laggan Barguilean; £60.50, Brackley; £60.00, Duncroisk; £59.00, Cuiluaire; £59.00, Acharonich; £57.00, Castles Estate; £57.00, Auchlyne; £57.00, High Balantyre; £56.00, Tigh Airidh; £56.00, Corrylorn.

Ewes - TexX - £75.00, Dunans. Chev - £60.00, £58.00, Castles Farms. Mule - £66.00, £65.00, Ormsary Farmers; £57.00, Duncroisk. BF - £60.00, £50.00, £51.00, Castles Estate; £50.00, Dunans.

### Correct Ewes

Cross - £57.00, Colquhalzie; £50.00, High Balantyre. BF - £66.00, Laggan Barguilean; £60.00, Eden Taggart; £59.00,

Cuiluaire; £58.00, Duncroisk. Ewe Lambs - BF - £63.00, Raera; £59.00, Castles Estate; £56.00, Saulmore; £56.00, Achnaba; £50.00, Bragleenmore.

### Leading Prices Per Kilo

Lambs - TexX - 218p, Ellary Estate; 216p, Maam Farm; 214p, Bragleenmore; 214p, Ederline Estate; 198p, Ardbeg; 195p, Ederline Estate; 191p, Ormsary Farmers; 190p, Maam Farm; 190p, Ederline Estate. Chev - 208p, High Balantyre; 207p, Birchfield; 206p, Ellary Farms; 204p, Tigh Airidh; 200p, Maam Farm; 199p, 194p, Tigh Airidh; 192p, Maam Farm. Cross - 214p, Acharonich; 205p, Laggan Barguilean; 204p, Brackley; 203p, Ellary Farms; 200p, Cluaran; 199p, Tigh Airidh; 191p, Brackley; 190p, Ardbeg. Mule - 200p, Maam Farm. BF - 230p, Dunans; 211p, Auchlyne; 210p, 209p, Raera; 203p, Achnacone; 200p,

Tigh Airidh; 200p, Cuiluaire; 200p, Duncroisk; 200p, 197p, Acharonich; 194p, Duncroisk; 193p, Birchfield; 193p, Bragleenmore; 192p, Raera; 191p, Auchreoch; 191p, Castles Estate.

### United Auctions, Stirling, Monday October 26:

sold 2174 suckled calves and also forward 4032 store lambs and feeding sheep.

Bullocks (1295) averaged 253.7p to 409.5p per kg for a 232kg CHX from Upper Samieston and £1105 for a 430kg CH from Cameron.

Heifers (865) averaged 241.2p to 390.6p per kg for a 256kg CHX from Upper Samieston and £1080 for a 392kg LimX from Upper Spittleton. Young Bulls (15) averaged 248.9p to 289.2p per kg for a 287kg CHX from Upper Samieston and £830 for a 287kg ChX from Upper Samieston.

### Leading prices per

**head/kg:** Bullocks: Upto 250kg- Upper Samieston £950.00, 409.50p; 251-300kgs- Polquhairn £900.00, 332.10p; 301-350kgs- Upper Samieston £930.00, 296.40p; 351-400kgs- Cameron £1060.00, Posso 268.80p; 401-450kgs- Cameron £1105, 257.10p; 451-500kgs- Cuttlehill £990, 215.70p.

Heifers: Upto 250kg- Kirkland £640.00, Laughtmuirside 277.80ppk; 251-300kgs - Upper Samieston £1000.00, 390.60p; 301-350kgs- Glenrath £920.00, 275.00p; 351-400kgs- Upper Spittleton £1080.00, 275.50p; 401-450kgs- Upper Spittleton £1010.00, 246.30p; 451-500kgs- Burnbank £950.00, Knowhead 194.70; 501-551kgs - Garrick £1030.00, 203.60ppk.

United Auctions sold 4032 Store Lambs and Feeding Sheep.

### Store Lamb Averages

TexX - £75.43 (+1.27) on the week - Mule - £73.28 (+£6.18) on the week. SuffX - £73.55 (+£0.80) on the week; Chev - £65.21 (+£2.98) on the week; BTexX - £81.60 (+£0.12) on the week; BF - £58.07 (+£0.16) on the week.

### Leading Prices

Store Lambs- Mount Pleasant (Tex) £88.00; Whitburn (Tex) £86.50; Easter Lumbennie (Tex) £83.50; Stobbs (Mule Ewe Lambs) £92.00; Auldmurroch (Mule Ewe Lambs) £75.50; Newbigging (Mule) £75.50; Glenherve (Mule) £74.50; Mount Pleasant (Suff) £87.50; Easter Lumbennie (Suff) £77.00; Glenherve (Suff) £76.50; Clockan (Chev) £70.00 & £67.50; Middleknowes (Chev) £65.50; Balafark (BTex) £90.00; Strathnafanaig (BTex) £89.00; Newbigging (BTex) £86.00; Eastmill (BF) £70.00; Outerwards (BF) £68.00; Gartincaber (BF) £67.50.

# SCOTTISH FIELD

November issue



Perthshire Area feature

## Perthshire...

Exclusive short story from Denzil Meyrick...  
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## ISUZU D-MAX SALES UP 50%

The award-winning Isuzu D-Max has recorded its strongest ever sales performance in July, up 50% on the same month last year. As the company prepares for launch of the All-New D-Max in 2021, Isuzu UK is recruiting new dealers to help it achieve its medium-term target of 10,000 sales per year by 2025.

Thanks to its 3.5t towing capacity, shift-on-the-fly 4WD system and one-tonne payload, the Isuzu D-Max has been highly decorated with a whole host of accolades including the What Van? Pick-Up of the Year 2020. As well as industry professionals, the D-Max is also held in high regard by its loyal - and growing - customer base.

Farmers, tradespeople and fleet customers are attracted by the D-Max's rugged reliability and broad range

of accessories and fleet solutions, while customers who use their truck for business and pleasure love the sophistication and the distinctive styling of the 'Adventure' range models like the Blade and XTR.

In addition to record sales, interest in the brand is also at an all-time high with the Isuzu website witnessing record traffic and brochure downloads last month as the country steadily opens back up for business.

William Brown, Managing Director of Isuzu UK, commented: "Our team has worked exceptionally hard to achieve this fantastic sales record and it's great to see that more people are recognising the capabilities and strengths of our award-winning truck. Moving forward, we're currently getting ready for



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the arrival of the All-New D-Max due next year. We're extremely excited about this as the new model raises the

bar in the pick-up segment for comfort and safety, while retaining Isuzu's traditional strengths of durability and

practicality". As a brand, Isuzu is firmly on track to achieving its business objective of reaching

10,000 sales per year by 2025. Contact S&S Services to start your Isuzu experience today! Tel: 01292 880080



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# TAKE A MOMENT TO CHECK YOUR CAR INSURANCE IS CURRENT, SAYS GEM

ROAD SAFETY organisation GEM Motoring Assist is encouraging drivers to take a moment before setting off and ensuring the vehicle they are using is properly insured. The call comes at the start of 'Op Drive Insured 2020', a week-long campaign by police across the country in partnership with the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB) to reduce the number of uninsured vehicles on the UK's roads.

According to MIB data, more than 130 people are killed and 26,000 injured by an uninsured or untraced driver. This equates to one casualty every 20 minutes. Efforts to remove uninsured vehicles from the road continue year-round, with approximately 130,000 uninsured vehicles seized by police every year. Driving without car insurance is illegal. You can have your vehicle seized and potentially

crushed, along with a £300 penalty ticket and six points on your licence.

GEM chief executive Neil Worth comments: "GEM is supporting this week of heightened enforcement, which we believe is an effective way of highlighting the risks posed by drivers of uninsured vehicles. "You may think of an uninsured vehicle as generally being driven by a criminal – or at least an individual with little care for road safety attempting to get away without paying – but the same rules apply to anyone whose insurance might



have lapsed because they forgot to renew the policy, or they changed cars, or they're in a car they wrongly thought they were covered to drive.

"That's why we're encouraging every driver to check their insurance, make a note of who's covered on the policy, when it's due to run out, and whether or not it's set to renew automatically. These checks are all the responsibility of the driver, and there are harsh fines for falling foul of the rules."

Check you're insured – before you set off: tips from GEM to stay on the right side of the law.

- > Take a look at your car insurance details. Check the registration number on the policy is correct, check who is insured to drive and when the policy expires.
- > Check whether the policy will auto-renew or whether you have to contact your insurer to renew.
- > If you can't locate your policy details, check your car is insured using the Motor Insurers' Database
- > If you are allowing someone else to drive your car, make sure your policy allows other drivers with their own comprehensive cover to drive it. If not, you will need to include them as named drivers on your policy.

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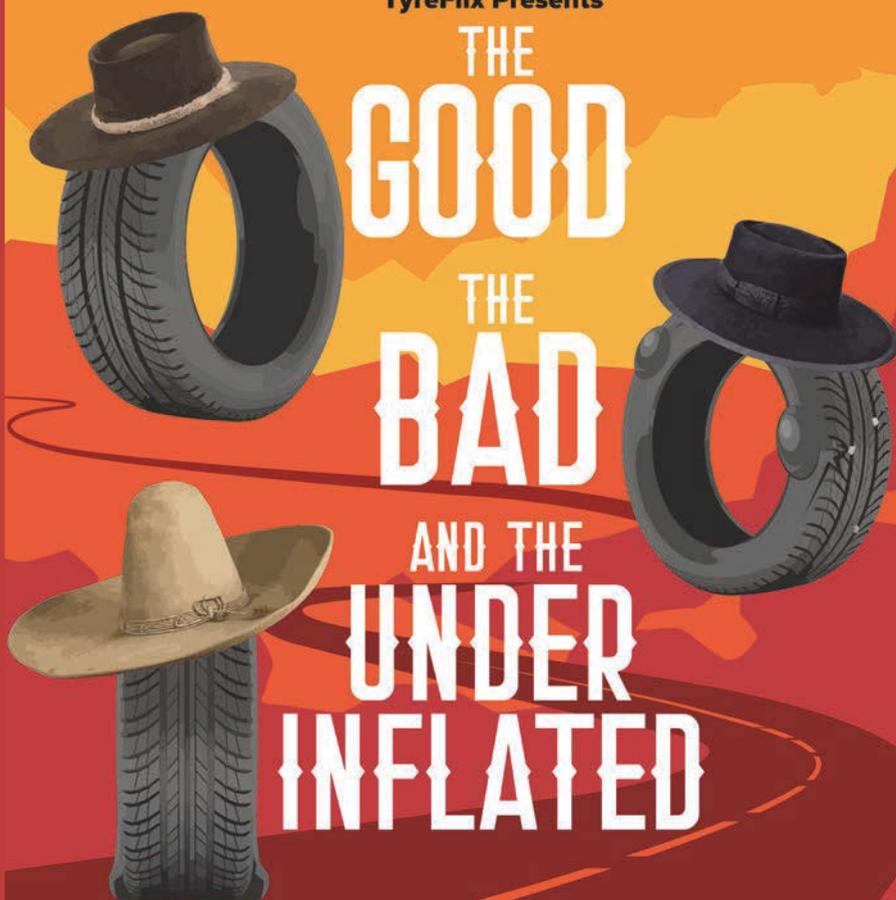
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# THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UNDER INFLATED



## THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UNDERINFLATED - WHICH TYPE OF TYRES ARE ON YOUR VEHICLE, ASKS TYRESAFE

With over 50% of tyres driven on Britain's roads being below the vehicle manufacturers' recommendation, TyreSafe is urging drivers to get into the habit of carrying out regular checks this Tyre Safety Month.

Correct air pressure is essential to ensure safety on the road. If the tyres are under- or over-inflated they have less contact than when they're properly inflated and can cause handling problems while driving. Incorrect air pressure will also add to the vehicle's running costs and reduce tyre life. In fact, TyreSafe research shows up to £1billion 1 could be being wasted by UK motorists in unnecessary fuel bills purely because of underinflated tyres.

TyreSafe is highlighting the message as part of October 2020's Tyre Safety Month with an animation called The Good, The Bad and The Underinflated, which

can be viewed at TyreSafe.org or on YouTube. The animation is part of this year's campaign which asks, Are your tyres ready for ACTION?

To correctly inflate a tyre, owners should first check their tyre size. This can be found on the sidewall of each tyre and will be a sequence of numbers and letters such as 195/55 R16. On modern cars, the front and rear size maybe different, and if that is the case both have to be taken into account. The appropriate pressure will be found in a chart in the handbook, fuel filler cap or one of the front door pillars.

An accurate pressure gauge should be used to check each tyre's pressure and inflated to the correct level. This will need adjusting should the vehicle be driven fully loaded rather than with just a light load.

To help owners, TyreSafe has a new app available

through Google Play and the Apple App Store which will help guide them through the process. The app also allows them to store the tyre size and pressure information, and if they allow notifications, they will receive a monthly reminder to check their tyres again.

Stuart Jackson, Chair of TyreSafe, said: "Underinflation is arguably the most common tyre defect. That's frustrating as it's in everybody's interest to ensure pressure is set to the right level.

Not only are the risks of an incident reduced, owners also reduce motoring costs. As we're all watching our spending at the moment, it makes sense to ensure tyre pressures are right for the vehicle and its load.

"A monthly check is all it takes. So, if you're heading back on the road, follow the TyreSafe advice and make sure you're ready for ACTION.



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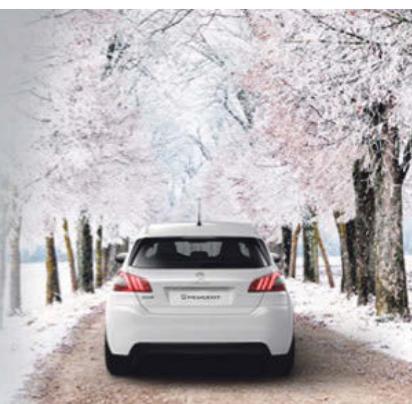
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# PUBLIC NOTICES

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**PLANNING**

The applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Having regard to Schedule 6, Part 3, s10 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020, documents are only available to inspect electronically at this time. Customers requiring assistance can contact us by e-mail: [planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or tel. 01546 605518.

**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
20/01690/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land East Of Refleuch, Tayinloan, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute, PA29 6XG
20/00169/PP	Replace grey and black uPVC gutters with white uPVC gutters, replace black wooden fascias with white uPVC fascias and replace white uPVC doors to rear and side elevations with black composite doors including use of land for the siting of caravan (retrospective)	Kilmory Guest House, 9 Paterson Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute, PA31 8JP
20/01256/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land North West Of Balure Croft, Tayinloan, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute, PA29 6XG

Written comments can be submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> or to Argyll and Bute Council, Development Management, Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT 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 on the Councils website. Customers are requested to use electronic communication where possible during the coronavirus pandemic as our ability to process postal mail is restricted.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



**AGM**  
for  
**Kintyre Way (SCIO)**  
Friends of the  
Kintyre Way  
Will be held over Zoom  
on Wednesday 25th  
November at 7pm  
If you would like to  
attend/join please send  
an email to  
[thekintyreway@gmail.com](mailto:thekintyreway@gmail.com)  
All welcome

**COURIER  
PUBLIC NOTICES  
ADVERTISER  
PUBLIC NOTICES  
COURIER  
PUBLIC NOTICES**

**GO DIGITAL** **YOU CHOOSE**  
**ENJOY** **LAPTOP**  
**OUR USER FRIENDLY**  
**PAGE TURNER EDITION**



**PLUS** **TABLET**  
**14 YEARS OF ARCHIVES**



**ACCESS** **MOBILE**  
**BREAKING NEWS**  
**AS IT HAPPENS ON OUR WEBSITE**



**NEVER MISS AN ISSUE** **AWESOME DEAL** **THREE MONTHS \*FROM £6.99**  
**WITH OUR NEW CONTINUOUS CREDIT CARD PAYMENT** **ONE YEAR \*FROM £24.96**

\*recurring payment option via credit card

**SUBSCRIBE AT [WWW.CAMPBELTOWNCOURIER.CO.UK/SUBSCRIPTIONS](http://WWW.CAMPBELTOWNCOURIER.CO.UK/SUBSCRIPTIONS)**

## PROPERTY

**FLAT FOR RENT**  
**Furnished One Bedroom Flat in centre of Lochgilphead**  
available for long let, one car parking space - £420.00/mth + C.Tax  
**Tel. 01546-870325 for viewing**  
Landlord Reg. 69297/130/02040

**When moving home, 62% of people relocate within a five-mile radius.**

Source: Consumers' Choice Y, The Newspaper Society

This illustrates a strong attachment to the local area. Regional press is the relevant choice for property advertising.



## PERSONAL NOTICES

**Happy 70th birthday Colin McDonald on 3rd November.**  
Proper birthday celebrations next year.



The winter nights were dark and dreary, Hector and Christine were very cheery. The end result was oh so easy, Our dear old friend good old "Cheesy"

**Happy 50th David**  
From all the Duncan Family.



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- The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.
- Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.
- The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.
- Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
- Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
- A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, Tel: (01631) 568000 [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk) and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. <http://termsandconditions.wyvexmedia.co.uk>

# RECRUITMENT

COURIER  
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RECRUITMENT

## Argyll HomeCare

Mid Argyll area  
**Home Care Workers –  
Care at Home**

Full, part time & bank  
(minimum hour contracts or flexi)  
£9.30 per hour plus mileage & pension

Care experience desirable but not essential  
as comprehensive training provided,  
including SVQ  
Driving licence essential  
For further information and an  
application pack please  
email: [info@argyllhomecare.co.uk](mailto:info@argyllhomecare.co.uk)  
telephone **01546 600333** or visit  
Facebook: [@argyllhomecare](https://www.facebook.com/argyllhomecare)  
All staff subject to PVG checks



## Assistant Finance Manager

Salary: £24-26,000 pro rata,  
30 hours/week  
Closing date: 5/11/20

To apply, visit [kilmartin.org/  
home/get-involved/vacancies/](http://kilmartin.org/home/get-involved/vacancies/)

## Career opportunities



### Site Foreman

We are hiring a Site Foreman that is experienced  
in brick and block work to join our team at our  
Dunbeg Development site near Oban.

This position is available for immediate start.

Hours of work 8am - 5.30pm.

Please send your C.V to  
[Jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:Jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk)  
or call us 01546 602989



DISTELL INTERNATIONAL LTD

VACANCY: DISTILLERY MAINTENANCE  
TECHNICIAN - MECHANICAL

A vacancy for the position of Distillery  
Maintenance Technician – Mechanical, has arisen  
at Distell International Ltd. The successful  
candidate will be reporting to the Engineering  
and Bottling Manager and will be based at one  
of our Distilleries (Bunnahabhain, Deanston  
or Tobermory) with travel to other distilleries  
required.

Qualifications

Recognised apprenticeship, HNC/HND  
Mechanical engineering or equivalent. Ideally,  
the successful applicant for the job will be able  
to demonstrate the necessary skills and experi-  
ence this position presents.

Application

To apply for this position, please email:  
[HRInternational@distellinternational.com](mailto:HRInternational@distellinternational.com)  
Closing Date: Wednesday 6th November 2020



# CLASSIFIEDS

**69%**

of the business community  
read the regional press

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society



**Regional Press**  
closer to home

## TIMBER KIT HOMES & CONSTRUCTION

### MACLEOD

CONSTRUCTION LIMITED



- TIMBER KITS
- WINDOWS & DOORS
- AGGREGATES
- PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL
- JOINERY & REFURBISHMENT
- CONSERVATORIES
- SCAFFOLDING



[www.macleodconstruction.co.uk](http://www.macleodconstruction.co.uk)  
Tel: (01546) 602989 • Email: [sales@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:sales@mkmacleod.co.uk)

## GARDEN SERVICES



COMPLETE LANDSCAPE DESIGN  
DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL  
GRASS CUTTING  
HEDGE CUTTING  
TREE AND SCRUB CLEARANCE  
PAVING TO PLANTING  
DRAINAGE AND FENCING

Wood chipper | Pressure washing  
Moss removal | Mini excavator

Tel: 01583 431362 Mob. 07432 158404

Working from concept to completion

CARRADALE  
GARDEN  
SERVICES

## METALS WANTED

### JW METALS

#### WANTED

Copper, Brass, Lead,  
Batteries and all types  
of Cable.

Competitive prices paid.

Tel: 07761 584443

## TV SERVICES

NO STRESS, NO MESS, NO PROBLEM

digital

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TV AERIALS - SATELLITE - TV SALES

TELEPHONE - WIFI NETWORKS

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Call Kenny or Clare today on

07940585830

[WWW.MILLENNIUMGROUPTV.CO.UK](http://WWW.MILLENNIUMGROUPTV.CO.UK)

## MUSIC & SOUND RECORDING

### Signalcell

Argyll-based music recording,  
mixing & mastering services

We are also equipped to help you get the  
best out of your lockdown recordings

Tel: 07786 778166 [james@signalcell.net](mailto:james@signalcell.net)

[www.signalcell.net](http://www.signalcell.net)

or visit the Signalcell page on Facebook

## Thought for the Week

with Marilyn Shedden

Tomorrow is Hallowe'en and once again the virus precludes the children from their usual activities and parties.

There will be no opportunity to go guising into the houses of neighbours and no fancy dress parties.

Yet this will not stop our young people having fun.

I have been so impressed by their resilience throughout these difficult months and their lack of complaining.

The folk in our local villages have also been inspiring and innovative in their thinking.

There will still be the opportunity to show off their costumes and enjoy treats. Gardens will be set up with fairy lights and turnips lit up to show a grizzly grin in the darkness as the children lift our spirits once again.

I have already come across several hand painted rocks with scary faces lurking in various places as our youngsters won't be thwarted.

I hope their laughter and sense of fun will cheer in these uncertain times and bring us hope. We have turned the clocks back once again and this is a stark reminder of dark days ahead.

Yet we are a people of hope and on Sunday we celebrate All Saints Day and reflect on the courage and the faith of those who have gone before us.

We don't just remember the famous saints like Andrew and Peter, Columba and Brigit, Augustine and Paul and so many others.

We also remember our own folk – the good folk we have loved and lost who made this earth a better place, and whose spirits stay with us while they rest in God's closer presence on that other side of time. And you don't need to go guising for God loves you just as you are.

## Sponsored by your local Citizens Advice team - They need you!

Volunteers now required in Mid Argyll. Call **01546 60 5550** or email [info@abcab.org.uk](mailto:info@abcab.org.uk) to find out more.



### LOCHGILPHEAD



Remembrance will be different this year.

### Paint a poppy on a pebble

Social distancing is forcing organisers of remembrance ceremonies to apply a great deal of thought to plans this year, but Lochgilphead resident Tanya Vos has suggested an alternative way of remembering.

Tanya explained: 'How about children and adults painting a poppy on a pebble and leaving it around their town or village.'

'Then, by remembrance Sunday, children could pick up a painted pebble and leave it at the war memorial - names of those we remember who gave the ultimate sacrifice could be painted on the pebbles too.'

'It is so important to support the Royal British Legion and to remember the fallen.'

### HELENSBURGH

### One-way plans for Helensburgh shelved

Helensburgh Community Council has claimed that the collapse of one-way plans for the town

shows the importance of engagement with the local authority.

Helensburgh Community Council convener Norman Muir also said that Argyll and Bute Council did not discuss the matter with the group to achieve a workable plan of action.

The council recently announced that planned one-way measures to help with social distancing in Helensburgh would not now be implemented.

Traffic on Sinclair Street, Princes Street and Clyde Street would have followed new one-way measures to allow pavement widths to be increased.

However, following feedback received during a consultation period, it was decided not to pursue any such scheme.

Mr Muir said: 'Helensburgh Community Council members were lukewarm supporters of the street scheme but offered up some suggestions for discussion as to how it might work.'

'Our plea was that discussions should take place to achieve a mutually acceptable solution. These never took place.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'We undertook the consultation in order to get the views of local people and thank Helensburgh and Lomond residents, the community council, and businesses for their views.'

### KYLES OF BUTE

### Kyles of Bute members play Machrihanish Dunes

Members of Kyles of Bute Golf Club headed for an adventure at Machrihanish Dunes on Sunday October 25.

No fewer than 19 golfers headed across Loch Fyne, Kintyre-bound, to play on a cracking course with the added difficulty of a strong southwesterly wind.

Stableford was the format, and everyone enjoyed the hospitality of the host club and the course.

First place went to Callum Millar on 36 points. Scott Macvicar, Jim Carruthers Jim Carruthers,

Dan Macrae and Ross Macrae were second equal on 32 points.

Back home in the Kyles, the club is hoping to have a Texas Scramble on Saturday October 31, weather permitting.

### MID ARGYLL



MATV co-ordinator Catherine Kennedy.

### Transport charity is still motoring along

With coronavirus restrictions changing in different parts of the country, transport charity Mid Argyll Transport Volunteers (MATV) has reassured service users that, as of Friday October 23, it was still able take clients to medical, dental or optical appointments within Mid Argyll and in Oban and Glasgow.

In a message to clients MATV co-ordinator Catherine Kennedy said: 'We can do any shopping you require and pick up prescriptions, but we cannot take you to do your own shopping.'

'We will keep you updated of any new restrictions as and when they happen.'

For more information, contact Catherine on 01546 603564.

## GETINTOUCH

email [usateditor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:usateditor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)  
telephone 01546 602345

### FUNERAL DIRECTORS



find us on  
facebook

[www.facebook.com/argyllshireadvertiser](http://www.facebook.com/argyllshireadvertiser)

### STAN LUPTON FUNERAL DIRECTORS LTD



Mid Argyll - Kintyre  
(24HRS)

Dignified personal supervision

Office & Enquiries: **01880 820 995**

Mobile: **07899 862 922**

E-mail: [mail@stanlupton.co.uk](mailto:mail@stanlupton.co.uk)

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### DONALD MacDONALD FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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Complete 24-hour confidential service

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[www.donaldmacdonald.org](http://www.donaldmacdonald.org)

Golden Charter  
Funeral Plans

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**BIRTHS**

**TURNBULL**



Andrew and Emma are delighted to announce the birth of their precious daughter Ayla Isabella Turnbull. A new granddaughter for Heather and Kevin Williams and Russell and Heather Anderson. First grandchild for Geoff and Shelley Turnbull. Welcome to the world little one!

**DEATHS**

**GRUMOLI**

Peacefully at home, 56 Hazelburn, Millknowe, Campbeltown on October 11, 2020, Annie McCormick Hamill, in her 93rd year, beloved wife of the late Oswald Grumoli, much loved mum of Michael, Ronnie, Paul and Nicholas, loving mother-in-law and a dearly loved nonna. Funeral Service Private in line with current government guidelines. Annie's funeral will take place on Wednesday, October 14. The cortege will leave Saint Kieran's RC Church at 12 noon. We will travel along Argyll Street turning in to Main Street down around the Cross on our way to Kilkerran Cemetery. Anyone wishing to pay their last respects to Annie may do so along our route. Please remember to observe social distancing.

**HUNTER** - Peacefully at the Campbeltown Hospital, on October 22, 2020, Marion Naylor

Hunter, in her 95th year, Shuna, 6 Summerhill Crescent, Campbeltown, dear friend of the late Kathleen Patrick, much loved and loving sister of the late Betty, sister-in-law to Gerard and aunt to Richard and Gavin. Funeral private.

**MCSPORRAN** - Peacefully at Inchmarlo House Care Home, Banchory on Friday, October 16, 2020, John Wallace McSporrnan aged 84 years, beloved husband of Dawn McSporrnan, much loved brother and uncle.

**ROBERTSON** - Suddenly on October 11, 2020, Stuart Robertson, in his 49th year, 3 Hillside Road, Campbeltown, beloved son of Jan and the late Jim Robertson, much loved brother of Jim, brother-in-law of Meg and loving uncle of Jamie. Funeral service private in line with current government guidelines. Stuart's funeral will take place on Friday, October 30, 2020. The funeral cortege will leave Stuart's mothers house, 42 Calton Avenue, Campbeltown at 12 noon, travelling along Davaar Avenue, Hillside Road, Millknowe, Aqualibrium Avenue and round the Cross on the way to Kilkerran Cemetery. Anyone wishing to pay their last respects may do so anywhere on our route. Please remember to observe social distancing.

**SINCLAIR** - Suddenly at home, 5 Argyll Court, Lochgilphead, on Saturday, October 10, 2020, Donald "Hassan" Sinclair in his 72nd year. Brother of Nell and Willie. Private funeral

service will be held at Achnabreac Cemetery on Monday, November 2.

**TURNBULL** - Suddenly, but peacefully at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee with her family by her side, Eilidh Turnbull, aged 38 years, formerly of 4 Baddens Park, Lochgilphead. Much loved and loving Mum of Arran; dearly loved daughter of Ian and Margaret Turnbull (née Milton) and cherished sister of Mark and Emma. A loving niece, auntie, sister-in-law and cousin to all the family. Eilidh fought her illness with serenity, optimism and courage. A private family funeral service will be held at Achnabreac Cemetery, on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. She will be missed by all who knew her.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**ARKELL** - In loving memory of a dear husband, dad, granda and great granda (Eck), died October 28, 2012. It broke our hearts to lose you, But you did not go alone, For part of us went with you, The day God called you home. Loved and missed so very much.

- From Maggie and family, home and abroad.

**SIMERS** - In loving memory of Willie. A year has gone past Since you left us You are forever in our hearts and thoughts. Sorely missed.

- Jean, Karen, Claire and all the family and your wee pal Isla. xxxx

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH**



Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8  
**Our building is open for Sunday services and you would be welcome on Sunday, 1st November at 11am**  
to join with us in our praise and worship service  
**MASKS** are now required in churches, in line with current Scottish Government Covid 19 guidelines.  
[www.springbankchurch.org.uk](http://www.springbankchurch.org.uk)  
<https://www.facebook.com/springbankchurch>  
Contact phone number 01586 551237 - Church Secretary

**ST KIERAN RC CHURCH**

St. John Street, Campbeltown 01586 552160  
Rev Tony Wood  
**Sunday Holy Mass at 10.00am, please book a place, 01586 552160, campbeltown@rcdai.org.uk**  
**Daily Mass streamed via Facebook and Zoom, see www.stkieransrc.org for details.** (SC002876)

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**



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

**SALVATION ARMY**



**Sunday 1st November**  
**Worship service 3pm**  
**Covid 19 measures in place**  
If we can be of any assistance to anyone during this time please call us on 01586 552046  
Major Ruth Russell  
Scottish Charity Number SC009359

**CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH**

George Street, Campbeltown



**Sunday 1st November**  
11.15am Worship Service  
Rev Rodger Crooks  
11.15am Sunday School  
**Wednesday 4th November**  
12 noon Prayer & Bible Study  
Covid-19 Government guidelines apply  
All welcome  
[www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk](http://www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk)  
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

**CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**Sunday Service, 11 am at SKDT Hall, Kirk Street**  
**Covid-19 Government guidelines apply**  
Pastor Mark Jasper  
01586 554 092  
pastor@campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk  
[www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk](http://www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk)  
SC043322

**ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES**

Sunday Services  
Ardrishaig at 11:00am (The Lord's Supper) and Achahoish at 12:30pm  
Jesus said, "I am the vine" (John 15 v5)  
Reflections will continue to be available at the gates of the churches.  
**Wednesdays**  
from 12:45pm to 1:15pm in Ardrishaig Church "A Time for Reflecting"

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**in Mid-Argyll & Arran**  
Christ Church, Lochgilphead  
Sunday 11am  
Holy Eucharist  
SCO 13787  
Fr Simon Mackenzie  
01546 602315

**ST MARGARET'S RC CHURCH Lochgilphead**

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

**NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH**

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

**GLASSARY, KILMARTIN AND FORD PARISH CHURCH**

Barr Mhor, Kilmartin  
**Sunday 1st November**  
Service at 10am  
Worship Group  
A very warm welcome awaits  
Please wear face covering

**LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH**

Scottish Charity Number SC 11686  
**Sunday 1st November**  
Worship Service 11.15am  
COVID 19 Guidelines apply  
Video message on Facebook  
each Wednesday  
Rev. W Crossan

COURIER ANNOUNCEMENTS  
ADVERTISER ANNOUNCEMENTS  
COURIER ANNOUNCEMENTS  
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# Reds lose out to five star Saints

Oban Saints	5
Lochgilphead Red Star	0
Pre-season friendly	

Lochgilphead Red Star and near neighbours Oban Saints kept their engines ticking over ahead of a return to competitive action with an entertaining friendly encounter on the all-weather pitch at Oban High School last Saturday afternoon. Attacking the Dalintart end in the first half, Saints gave Red Star keeper Ally Lewis an early test when James Ford jinked his way into the box and fired off a left foot shot which the Lochgilphead youngster did well to push over for a corner kick.

The visitors were content to sit deep and try to hit Saints on the break and Steven MacLeod

had to look lively to cut out a 12th minute, well-measured Lee MacLean through ball intended for Stuart MacLean.

James Ford drew another good save from Ally Lewis with a sweetly struck 15th minute 25-yard shot which the keeper did well to hold.

#### Stray pass

Saints opened the scoring in the 17th minute after David Beaton intercepted a stray pass. Beaton picked out James Ford on the left who found Lewis Cameron on the edge of visitor's box.

Cameron turned away from his marker and arced a low shot onto the inside of Ally Lewis' right hand post with the ball bouncing back across the goal line and into the net via the inside of the opposite goal post.

At the other end, Graham Douglas did well to collect a long 45th minute Ben Forbes free-kick from the half-way line under pressure from Angus Lewis.

Elder statesman of the young visitor's line-up at the age of just 28, Ben Forbes continued his defensive heroics into the second half but fell foul of referee Jimmy Litster's eagle eye when he was penalised for handball making a flying block to stop a Matty Kelly shot from 28-yards out.

Forbes' protestations of his innocence turned up another notch when Lewis Cameron arrowed the resulting 48th minute free-kick into the bottom corner past Ally Lewis' right hand to double the Saints advantage.

The visitors should have pulled one back two minutes after the re-start, but Angus Lewis fluffed his lines and missed an open goal after Chris Hart had capitalised on a moment of hesitation between Steven MacLeod and Graham Douglas.

Red Star hit Saints with another quick break in the 51st minute with Graham Douglas redeeming his previous error with an excellent save to deny Red Star debutant striker Chris Hart after a good run and low right wing cross from Stuart MacLean.

There was a moment to forget in an otherwise solid performance from Ally Lewis when the young keeper allowed a



Red Star keeper Ally Lewis saves from Oban Saints' front man James Ford.



Red Star captain Lee MacLean.

55th minute Lewis Cameron shot to squirm from his grasp and creep over the line for Cameron's hat-trick.

A devastating burst of pace and trickery on the right wing from James Ford in the 57th minute took him to the bye-line from where his low cutback picked out the near post run of David Beaton who gleefully steered the ball into the bottom corner for Saints fourth.

#### Good saves

Red Star keeper Ally Lewis made further good saves to deny David Beaton, Lewis Cameron and Craig MacEwan before Saints skipper Dene Cassells struck the outside of the post from a tight angle after taking down a deep Lewis Cameron corner kick from the left.

The hard pressed visitors' defence held out until the final minute when Lewis Cameron

completed his four-goal haul with a 20-yard free-kick up and over the Red Star wall to round off a comfortable victory.

Referee Litster, who handled the good-natured encounter well, brought proceedings to an end giving both sides 90 welcome minutes of action in these most uncertain times.

Red Star gaffer Colin Weir, despite the scoreline, can feel pleased that his young charges competed well for long periods against considerably more experienced opponents.



The Red Star defence are put under pressure by Saints captain Dene Cassells.

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