

**Big Energy Saving Month 2021**



See our feature on pages 14-17

# Climate change impact needs swift action – MP



Brendan O'Hara MP with Kevin Campbell of BEAR Scotland at the Rest and be Thankful, following a major landslide in August 2020. It was followed by a second landslide, left, just weeks later.

by Colin Cameron  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

The problems at the Rest and be Thankful are a symptom of a serious issue which will have a big impact on Argyll and swift action is needed, says the region's MP.

Writing for climate charity Hope for the Future, Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara said 'climate change is not someone else's problem, it's our problem'.

'The truth is, it is here in Scotland, it's here in Argyll, it's changing our landscape and it's affecting our everyday lives.'

With respect to the A83, he said: 'The huge increase in rainfall, a direct consequence of global warming, has weakened the hillside and caused more debris to fall on the Rest and be Thankful in the past couple of months than in the previous 13 years combined.'

'So many of our businesses

rely on the A83 and it keeps us connected to Glasgow and the central belt. It brings hundreds of thousands of tourists into Argyll every year and takes Argyll's produce, including time-critical seafood, on the first leg of what can be a world-wide journey.'

Welcoming the Scottish Government's 'commitment to providing a permanent fix to this worsening problem', he applauded the 'heroic' efforts of the workforce from BEAR Scotland, GeoRope and Jacobs to stabilise the hillside and rebuild damaged roads.

Mr O'Hara added that '... while we wait for the new road to arrive – incidentally, I still think it should be a tunnel – immediate action must be taken to find short-term solutions like the upgrading of the Glen Croe forestry road for haulage or upgrading to allow the Old Military Road and forestry road to operate a one road in/one road out system.'

He continued: 'We are facing a crisis in Argyll; an economic crisis brought on by a climate emergency. And that demands an emergency response.'

Looking at solutions, Mr O'Hara pointed to Scotland's climate change legislation, setting a target of 2045 for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, while Argyll and Bute Council has a decarbonisation plan to reach this target including waste, energy, offsetting emissions and more.

He ended on an optimistic note: 'National low carbon investments may provide an opportunity for more balanced regional development within Scotland, including rural areas such as Argyll and Bute, helping to diversify our local economy.'

'Argyll and Bute, with all its natural beauty, including valuable forests and peatlands, has an opportunity to take a lead in shaping what a net-zero Scotland could look like.'



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**DELIVERY THROUGHOUT ARGYLL**

# Overnight closures during A83 resurfacing

Seven weeks of overnight resurfacing work lie ahead on the A83, with road closures meaning delays are likely as vehicles are convoyed during 'amnesties', writes Colin Cameron.

Started on Tuesday January 12, almost five kilometres (3.1 miles) in four sections of the trunk road between Glenkinglas and Clachan in Kintyre are being upgraded in a £1.45 million project.

Work is scheduled to be completed by Friday February 25, subject to weather conditions.

Work started on January 12, scheduled to continue until February 11, between Butterbridge and the A815 Dunoon road junction. During 23 nights, excluding Friday and Saturday, work is taking place between 7pm and 7am with a 10mph convoy system in place.



Almost five kilometres (3.1 miles) of the trunk road will be upgraded across four sections in the £1.45 million project.

Work then moves to a section of the A83 at Corranbuie, Tarbert, scheduled to be resurfaced during four nights between Sunday February 14 and Wednesday February 17.

Due to the narrow carriage-way widths at this location, work will be undertaken using

a full road closure for safety between 8pm and 5am each night. As there is no suitable diversion route available, amnesties will be provided at 9pm, 10pm, midnight, 2am and 4am, during which vehicles will be escorted through the site under a 10mph convoy.

Motorists are encouraged to arrive in good time to ensure they are accommodated within the amnesty period.

Next it will be a section at Clachan between Thursday February 18 and Monday February 22 – three nights, excluding Friday and Saturday nights.

As at Corranbuie, work will be undertaken using a full road closure between 8pm and 5am each night with amnesties at 9pm, 10pm, midnight, 2am and 4am each night, when traffic will be escorted under a 10mph convoy. Drivers are encouraged to arrive in good time.

Over two nights from Tuesday February 23 to Thursday February 25 a section at Meall Mhor will be resurfaced, also using a full road closure between 8pm and 5am each night. Amnesties through the site will be provided at 9pm, 10pm, midnight, 2am and 4am each night when traffic will be escorted under a 10mph convoy. Again, drivers are advised to arrive in good time.

Access for emergency services through the works sites will be maintained at all times.

At all locations, traffic management will be removed

outwith working hours, but a temporary 30mph speed limit will remain in place as traffic will be travelling over a temporary surface.

Strict physical distancing protocols, in line with Scottish Government Covid-19 guidance, will be in force to protect teams and ensure they remain safe at all times.

Eddie Ross of BEAR Scotland said: 'This surfacing project across these four locations on the A83 will help address any defects and greatly improve the surface for motorists.'

'The overnight closures are essential for ensuring the safety of road workers and motorists due to the narrow widths of the road at these locations. We have taken steps to limit the overall impact of the project by carrying out the work overnight and avoiding working on Friday and Saturday nights.'

'Our teams will do all they can to complete the work as quickly and safely as they can. We thank the community and road users for their patience in advance while we complete these projects. We encourage motorists to plan ahead before setting out by checking the Traffic Scotland website for up to date travel information.'

## Scammers target Covid-19 vaccination

An alert has been issued by Neighbourhood Watch Scotland warning of scammers targeting the Covid-19 vaccination programme.

Reports have been received that a fake NHS text message is circulating, telling people that they are eligible to apply for the Covid-19 vaccine.

Anyone clicking on the link is taken to a convincing fake NHS website that asks for personal details including bank account information.

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland co-ordinator Willie Clark said: 'Any text message containing a link should be treated with caution.'

'The best way to find information from GOV.UK, or any other agency, is to visit that website via a trusted source such as through Google or Bing. Do not click on links in unsolicited texts or emails.'



'There have also been reports of criminals making telephone calls and asking for payment over the phone before you can attend your vaccine appointment. The vaccine is free. If you receive such a call, please hang up immediately.'

If anyone thinks they have been a victim of fraud, they should let their bank know immediately.

If receiving unwanted phone calls, please let service providers know.

People may wish to consider a landline phone with inbuilt call blocking functions, which are available via some supermarkets and online stores.

Contact Police Scotland on 101 or contact Advice Direct Scotland on 08081 646000.



## Breach of curfew bail conditions

At 8.50am on Monday January 4 in Ross Crescent, Lochgilphead, a man, aged 36, was charged with breaching court-imposed bail curfew conditions by failing to attend at his door as required when police attended. A report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

## Abusive behaviour and vandalism

On Thursday January 7 at around 2.15pm, a 24-year-old man was arrested for allegedly behaving in an abusive manner and smashing the side window of a vehicle on the A83 at Inveraray. Police charged the man and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

## Anti-social driving on Islay

On Beech Avenue, Bowmore, Islay, a vehicle was driven in an anti-social manner with excessive exhaust noise and skidding on ice at 1am on Monday January 4.

The driver, a 19-year-old man, was subsequently issued with an antisocial behaviour order (ASBO).

An ASBO is valid for 12 months and if the driver or the vehicle is involved in a similar anti-social driving incident again within that period, the vehicle will be seized by police.

The vehicle will only be returned to the owner on production of proof of ownership and payment of the recovery and storage fees.

Islay police officers are aware anti-social driving is a concern to residents. The public are asked to report any such incidents via 101 or to officers on the island, giving details of the vehicle registration and date/time of incident with brief circumstances.



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# 'Extortionate' charges add to Christmas costs

'Extortionate surcharges' for online deliveries to Argyll and the islands should be scrapped, according to an MSP.

Highlands and Islands region MSP John Finnie says customers are being hard hit during the pandemic and if nothing is done the government should step in and regulate.

The Scottish Greens member said the problem had been exacerbated by the pandemic with more and more customers shopping online.

He said Christmas would have been 'more expensive' than it needed to be for many in the Highlands.

'It is a clear injustice that companies are free to overcharge people in the Highlands simply because of where they live,' he said.

'In many cases these surcharges are enormous and can't be justified by the fact that an address is in the north of Scotland.'

'This unfairness is not just a mild inconvenience for people in the Highlands, but has the potential to do significant economic harm to the region if not prevented.'

'If the delivery firms won't do the right thing then it's time for government and regulators to step in.'

He shone the spotlight on a 50-page report by Citizens Advice Scotland dating as far back as 2012.

It is entitled 'Postcode Penalty - how some online retailers are disadvantaging Scottish consumers.'

Back then, it showed up to a million Scottish customers could be forced to pay significantly higher costs simply because of where they live.

The report estimated customers in the Highlands and Islands face paying an extra £13.19 - equivalent to a 243 per cent mark up for some items compared to the rest of the UK.

Those on Scottish islands faced a 508 per cent mark up - paying £18.60 - for some items compared to shoppers living elsewhere.

One consumer from Argyll quoted in the report said



Highlands and Islands MSP John Finnie.

many eBay traders specified 'not available for delivery to the Highlands', while others warned customers that there would be an 'extra charge' for delivery to postcodes such as PA - sometimes twice the normal delivery charge or more.

**What is your experience of extra delivery charges to where you live? Tell your story by emailing editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk**

## Council can help in tough times with new flexible food fund

Argyll and Bute Council has launched a new fund aimed at tackling financial insecurity for adults and families across Argyll and Bute.

The Argyll and Bute Flexible Food Fund offers financial support and wider confidential professional help to anyone suffering hardship. Working in partnership with the Community Food Forum, Bute Advice Centre and Allenergy, households with low incomes and no access to cash savings can apply for immediate financial support for daily living expenses.

If a claimant engages with these services, a second payment will be made to contribute to a further month's daily living expenses.

Working with the Community Food Forum,

# Argyll Covid alert as cases rise sharply

by Colin Cameron  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Health chiefs in Argyll and Bute have asked people to step up their efforts to stamp out Covid-19 after a significant increase in cases.

NHS Highland made the appeal after more than 700 cases across its catchment area, which includes Argyll and Bute, since Christmas Eve.

Residents have been encouraged to continue following guidance on social distancing as well as other areas of government guidance.

Scotland was placed into a second national lockdown by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon on Monday January 4 after a sharp rise in positive cases across the country.

Dr Ken Oates, NHS Highland public health consultant, said: 'Firstly, thank you so much for all your support so far. We recognise that 2020 was an extremely challenging year for everyone and that we all have made significant sacrifices to reduce the spread of Covid-19 cases as much as possible.'

Dr Oates reported a significant increase in case numbers in the NHS Highland area over recent weeks.

He added: 'We believe that this is due to pre-Christmas socialising, combined with people mixing indoors over



NHS Highland public health consultant, Dr Ken Oates.

the festive period. This has led to many extended family clusters and we would once again encourage people not to mix with others outside your household, as this is driving up infection rates.

'This has a detrimental effect on NHS services as well as the health and wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.'

'Covid-19 will spread rapidly if given the opportunity, especially with the new strain which spreads much more easily.'

The warning came as a Loch Fyne-side GP practice informed patients of a 'significant local outbreak of Covid' in the community.

Strachur Medical Practice posted on social media that

## 'Covid-19 will spread rapidly if given the opportunity'

local hospitals were 'under extreme pressure', adding that 'the current situation is extremely serious'.

Dr Oates advised: 'We appreciate how challenging this has been for many people, however, when the number of cases of Covid-19 rises in our communities, we inevitably also see an increase in positive cases in health care workers and care home staff.'

'We must all take action to protect each other and the NHS across Highland, Argyll and Bute. Please continue to follow the national guidance on Covid-19 including isolating at home if you feel unwell in any way, and seeking a Covid-19 test.'



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## Online hub to unite Argyll businesses

Shopping locally has become one of the key messages in the pandemic – but now two Argyll entrepreneurs have come up with a practical way of helping Argyll businesses in tough economic times.

Frustrated by the negative impacts of coronavirus on small Argyll businesses, Kirsten Henderson from Lochgilphead and Oliver Windham-Wright, originally from Oban, joined forces during lockdown to create a simple solution.

Together, Kirsten and Oliver created Market Argyll, launching it earlier this month.

The online marketplace lets business owners set up an online market stalls so customers can explore what's on offer, search for what they are after and be directed straight to an appropriate business.

Kirstin said: 'We are weathering a time when our high streets and small businesses are struggling, yet large corporations are thriving.'

'People are recalling the days when communities would

come together and collaborate.'

Rather than viewing the pandemic as the final nail in the coffin of small businesses, Kirsten, aged 31, and 37-year-old Oliver viewed it as an opportunity for innovation.

Market Argyll aims to make it simple for businesses to increase their visibility and reach a wider audience, and for people in Argyll to find what they are looking for and support local businesses.

Search results can be filtered by keywords, business categories and regions of Argyll.

With big plans for the future, Kirsten and Oliver hope to offer additional services and support to small businesses. Nearer the spring they will launch a new feature to allow customers to shop and spend directly on the marketplace platform.

Kirsten continued: 'We simply want to make it easier for people to support local first, by bringing everything Argyll has to offer all in one place.'

Find out more by visiting [www.marketargyll.co.uk](http://www.marketargyll.co.uk)

# Celtic Connections tunes up online

Across 19 days, Celtic Connections online festival will present more than 30 performances between Friday January 15 and Tuesday February 2, writes Fiona Scott.

World-class concerts will be available to view online with some of the biggest names on the Scottish music scene and beyond appearing on screens across the globe as part of the winter extravaganza.

Celtic Connections has created unique digital content from specially commissioned projects and performances filmed across many of Glasgow's much-loved venues. International artists have also contributed to the eclectic line-up by recording performances remotely.

Traditionally, the festival welcomes over 100,000 attendees to Glasgow, a UNESCO City of Music, and on announcing the digital-first festival organisers hoped it would appeal to the



Innes Watson, Hamish Napier, Donald Hay, Jarlath Henderson and Duncan Chisolm joined forces for the recordings. Photograph by Sean Purser.



Sally Simpson from Westward the Light.

Photographer: Gaelle Beri.

wide international audience usually attending. All shows will be available for a week after first streamed to alleviate any restrictions for different time zones.

Donald Shaw, creative producer for Celtic Connections, said: 'The concept for a digital-first Celtic Connections was borne out of a desire to promote wellbeing and optimism amongst fellow musicians as much as it was about still being able to offer entertainment to our loyal Celtic Connections audiences during the dark nights of January.'

'The resounding feeling that has come out of the recording days is that they created a space for musicians to come back, to play again and to feel

part of the community that they helped to create.'

'The last time a lot of the contributing artists performed was at Celtic Connections 2020 and now they are back playing as part of the festival one year on after what has undoubtedly been the hardest year of their careers. We feel incredibly proud that as a festival, along with our funding partners, we have allowed for this safe space for them to play again, embrace their creativity and ultimately give them hope that there is a future for them within this industry.'

Opening in unparalleled style, the first online concert from the festival will include sets from some of the very best musicians on both the Scottish

and international music scenes with over 12 performances packed into the 90-minute show. Each night's online concert will show an ambitious line-up of various performers.

Although the festival has gone online this year, the education element of the festival still holds as important a place as ever for Celtic Connections 2021 while the packed programme also offers Dementia Friendly concerts. Celtic Connections is delivered by the charity Glasgow Life and is funded by Glasgow City Council, Creative Scotland and The Scottish Government Festivals EXPO Fund. More information on ticketing and programming is available at [www.celticconnections.com](http://www.celticconnections.com)

## Carols and garage music bring cheer to Ardrishaig

After a year most would like to forget, Ardrishaig Church of Scotland minister David Carruthers urged people to brighten up Christmas on Sunday December 20 by singing carols on their doorsteps.

And people got involved – even if it meant playing music from a garage.

Reverend Carruthers said at the time: 'For most folk there hasn't been much to sing about this year and there will be very little community carol singing in churches or around Christmas trees. The rules and regulations put in place to control coronavirus have put paid to that tradition for this year.'

'But that does not mean that communities cannot sing

Christmas carols, even while everyone keeps their distance.'

Carol sheets were made available for such Christmas classics as O Come all ye Faithful, Still the Night, Once in Royal David's City, Away in a Manger and Hark the Herald Angels Sing.

There was an option to donate towards Ardrishaig Social Club's Pensioners' Christmas Dinner for 2021. From 5.50pm on the Sunday before Christmas the Ardrishaig church bell was rung, then at 6pm folk joined in around the village, including a few hardy souls at Glengilp.

One such resident, Joan Barclay, said: 'Some people in Glengilp have come together

from the start of lockdown last year to support each other and the carers. Mary Stirling is our neighbour, and she has participated and brought great joy to our group.'

Mary is also an organist in Ardrishaig church, and decided to provide music to accompany the carol singers. But with social distancing and weather in mind, she took shelter in Joan's garage.

Joan continued: 'We took part in the carol singing and were lucky enough to be accompanied by Mary, from a distance in our garage, on keyboard.'

She joked: 'Thankfully Mary was there to support us, as we are not the best singers.'

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# Get out, Take Five, feel the difference

People across Mid Argyll and Tarbert are invited to join a charity challenge and boost their mood and wellbeing in these strange times.

The benefits of fresh air and exercise have taken on new significance during the ongoing pandemic and mental health charity ACUMEN (Advancing Community Understanding of Mental and Emotional Needs) wants individuals and groups to take part in its new 'Take Five' campaign.

ACUMEN is a network of members with experience of mental ill health operating across Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Argyll and Bute.

Sarah McFadzean, development worker with ACUMEN covering Mid Argyll and Kintyre, said: 'Take Five is about setting a challenge that suits the individual's abilities, the goal being to spend some extra time outdoors from your



Kintyre Link Club manager Tracy Chambers, left, and Sarah McFadzean joined David Brown on a run in Campbeltown in November.

normal routine and to add some additional movement into your day.

'By taking five for ourselves - whether it is five minutes of walking, five deep breaths of fresh air or a five kilometre

walk or run each day - the aim is to boost our sense of wellbeing and to support each other to do so. Current restrictions mean we are limited in how we can get together, but a dedicated Facebook group and virtual

meeting room are being developed so we can encourage and share our challenges in a peer group setting and feel part of something positive.'

Sarah recently launched the Take Five challenge with Kintyre Link Club after being inspired by Campbeltown Tesco manager David Brown, who was doing a personal 5k-a-day challenge.

Kintyre Link Club decided to use the challenge, which ran during November, to fundraise for its club.

Sarah said: 'The support and positivity from the link club members was wonderful. I would love to hear from any individual or group in Mid Argyll who would be interested in taking part in March, either for their own benefit or to fundraise for a group or club.'

To get involved, email sarah.mcfadzean@acumennetwork.org



Craig came up with an alternative fundraising plan for 2021 - and building firms came up trumps.

## Craig aims high for charity despite latest lockdown

At the start of each year, Craig Samborek is usually busy planning and organising charity clay pigeon shoots at Barmore with the help of Tarbert Gun Club.

Realising this would not be possible in 2021 but knowing that charities are still reliant on donations, he set about a pre-Christmas collection for the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity.

A fantastic total of £470 was raised from the workforce of DA MacDonald, MacLeod

Construction and other firms at the site in Dunbeg, all demonstrating real Christmas generosity.

### Donations

An appeal through social media was shared and resulted in further donations which before the festive break had increased the sum raised to £630.

Craig thanks everyone who has contributed and staff at the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity for their generosity and help.

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# Team Tarbert still here for everyone

A community group set up by volunteers at the start of lockdown in March last year remains ready to offer support to people in and around Tarbert.

As restrictions eased last spring and summer and the need for its services diminished, Team Tarbert nonetheless remained as an informal voluntary group and has been active throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, offering support via the Team Tarbert Facebook page, keeping in touch with the community and working with other organisations.

Now that Scotland's second lockdown is here, Team Tarbert will be offering bags containing food and essentials.



Team Tarbert provided support for people during the 2020 lockdown.

Team Tarbert founder and co-ordinator Fiona McTaggart said: 'Thanks to the Tarbert Co-op for adding a donation trolley in store. It has also kindly added a collection bucket. All money raised is put back into our community to help others. Team Tarbert

will continue to offer support to those who need it. It is our aim to ensure residents are not isolated and are getting the support they need, whether it be a friendly face, a phone call or more practical help. We are aware people could begin to feel lonely, anxious and just

need that little bit of help.' Fiona added: 'If you, your family or anyone you know needs any help during these difficult times please reach out to us. We have developed a large group of volunteers with varying skills and knowledge that really make for a great team. And if we can't help, we can direct you to someone who can.'

Information on projects and support is available on the Team Tarbert Facebook page.

Fiona added: 'Team Tarbert is extremely thankful to our community, volunteers and members of Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust for their ongoing support.'

Team Tarbert contact details: Fiona McTaggart 07717 325628; Laura MacKay 07795 693506.

## Gaelic language survey goes live

A survey is being carried out by Argyll and Bute Council to establish the needs of the Gaelic language, Argyll's native tongue.

The survey was launched on Thursday January 14 and its findings will enable the council to make the best use of its resources while identifying which actions from the Argyll Gaelic Gathering are a priority for communities.

This information will then be fed into the council's Gaelic Language Plan.

Council leader Councillor Robin Currie said: 'Gaelic has played an important part in the history of Argyll and Bute for hundreds of years and it is vital we continue to raise awareness of it within our communities.'

Gaelic is considered to be the founding language of Scotland and we recognise the importance of the language in our communities where it continues to be used.

'Yet it is at risk of dying out if people do not continue to use it.'

### Heritage

'We need more people to learn Gaelic and help us to preserve the future of this special part of our heritage.'

'I would urge you to let us know what things you feel are important by completing this survey so that your views can be incorporated into our Gaelic Language Plan.'

To give your views, visit the Argyll and Bute Council website and click on 'consultations'.

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## LETTERS

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

A quick glance through this week's issue would tell you that there is plenty of bad news around.

Never mind Trumpland across the pond, goings-on at Westminster, Brexit fall-out and the rest.

Covid-19 cases are on the rise in Argyll and surrounding areas; the pandemic is putting families and businesses under severe pressure; climate change will affect the A83 until an alternative is built; while tackling global warming itself will take long-term, decisive action, if it isn't too late already.

But no matter how gloomy the outlook may be, there are always positive aspects.

Where would our communities be without the selfless efforts of our medical, nursing and care staff?

And what about the people quietly supporting their neighbours in towns and villages all over the region, and voluntary groups such as Team Tarbert?

Then there is the oft-maligned council, where people work hard every day to keep the wheels turning for council services.

We could add to the list the local shops and companies working through the pandemic in trying circumstances.

Then there are the folk up at the Rest keeping us connected.

All deserve a huge pat on the back.

**Fobbed off over A83**

Sir  
The Scottish Government spin machine's use of phrases last week like 'encouraging progress' about the work at the Rest and be Thankful cannot disguise its failure to make any real progress towards a solution.

At an online briefing last month, I questioned the Transport Minister Michael Matheson on why it says it could take at least five years before they even start work on a proper solution.

He waffled on about planning permission, environmental impact assessments and compensating landowners.

This is ridiculous. I have attended 14 years of meetings on the A83 and all we get is fobbed off with pathetic excuses. We need a government which will deliver results, not spend all its time plotting to get independence while ignoring the real issues like a closed A83 which blights people's lives.

**Councillor Alan Reid,  
Cowal ward.**

**Remember music can help to improve life in lockdown**

Sir,  
As we move into 2021 and parents, teachers and pupils once again find themselves facing additional challenges to deliver and attain a full and rounded education, it is worthwhile remembering the role music can and should play in improving our lives.

Music will help to support and sustain our

young people through the coming months. For children and adults, the creative arts play a vital role in promoting wellbeing and positive mental health, providing both with a means of expression during the isolation of 'lockdown' and a practical as well as enjoyable pastime.

And just as importantly, playing an instrument is complementary to academic subjects and has been shown to improve wider educational success.

As we consider the often daunting challenge of the return to home schooling, those parents whose children can mix domestic timetables with musical lessons will understand the release and stimulation playing an instrument can deliver.

Across society, music is integral to our identities and is made to be shared. We now have the means to do that successfully and safely with online tools whose use has been well-honed by recent experience. So whether you are at the start of a musical journey or are well advanced in music-making, let's keep singing, keep dancing and keep music lessons flowing, particularly while the restrictions necessitated by the pandemic keep us apart in our own homes.

**Dr Kenneth Taylor,  
head teacher,  
St Mary's Music School, Edinburgh.**

**Walking and health benefits**

Sir,  
As Scotland faces a second national lockdown, the country's national walking charity, Paths for All, is encouraging the public to explore local walking routes to help combat social

isolation, anxiety and loneliness while maintaining physical health. The call follows the launch of the charity's Walk Once a Day this Winter campaign to get people walking every day throughout January.

The campaign includes an online hub which outlines the importance of walking and regular physical activity during the winter.

A variety of activities and ideas, designed to motivate individuals of all ages, are available on the hub with podcast recommendations, creative walking advice and prize incentives.

In what is traditionally the time of year which sees a surge of gym memberships and fitness plans, we suggest taking up walking instead. With walking being one of the few essential reasons for leaving your home, it is the perfect exercise and now is the time to get into a walking exercise routine which is consistent with current government guidelines.

Walking can help with our social health as the guidelines allow us to meet with one person from one other household outside.

Last year we saw an increase in Scots taking up walking during the first lockdown and the outcome has highlighted just how many benefits are attributed to walking and how outdoor exercise as many times a day as we can has become an important way to look after physical and mental wellbeing.

Follow the campaign on Paths for All social media channels #WalkOnceADay.

For more information, visit the Paths for All website.

**Ian Findlay CBE, chief officer,  
Paths for All**

**Press policy**

At The Argyllshire Advertiser, we endeavour to ensure all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing [editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk](mailto:editor@campbeltowncourier.co.uk); telephoning the chief reporter on 01546 602345 or write to the Group Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will try to resolve your issue in a timely, 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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## Help children at risk during Covid-19 and beyond

Sir,  
The New Year is usually a time for a fresh start – making resolutions, getting fit, setting new challenges and goals. But with the continuing uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, it seems harder to commit to making a change.

With restrictions ongoing, it's becoming even more important for us to find new and innovative ways to raise vital funds for NSPCC Scotland to help children at risk of abuse and neglect. Children have been greatly affected by the pandemic. Since the first lockdown measures were introduced, the average monthly number of referrals from the NSPCC's helpline to agencies in Scotland, such as the police or children's services, have been more than 50 per cent higher than the first three months of 2020. And the effects are far from over.

Even with social distancing, there are still many ways you can fundraise for us.

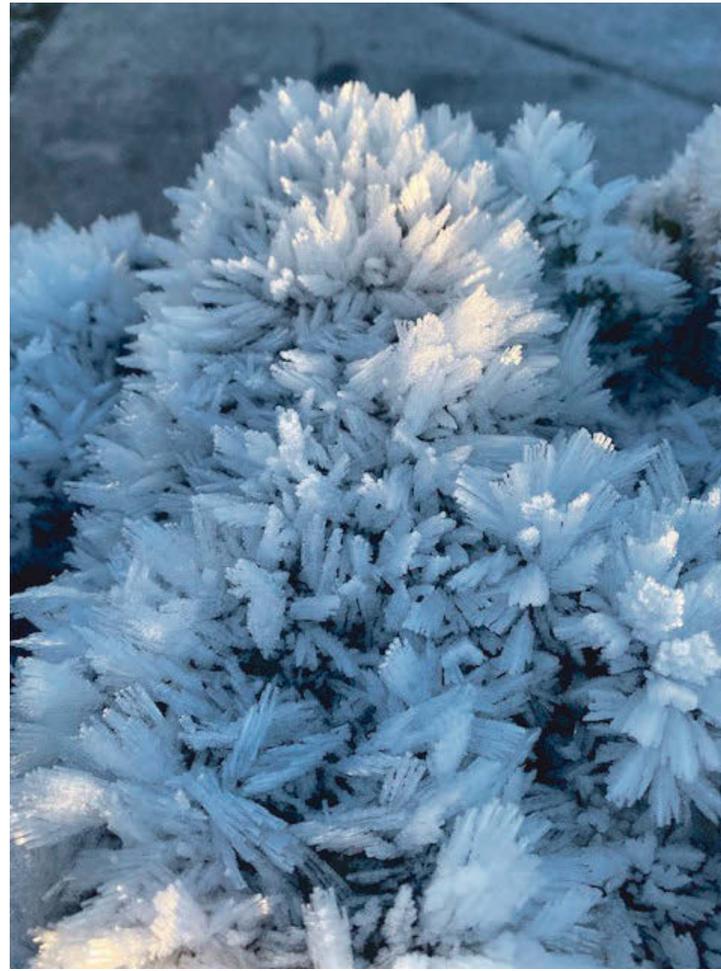
From hosting a virtual quiz or coffee morning to selling handmade crafts, cakes or old clothes, we've got lots of great virtual fundraising ideas you can try while following the Scottish Government's advice on social distancing.

By volunteering just a couple of hours each month to fundraise in your area, you can help make 2021 a better year for children.

So please think about using your new year passion and enthusiasm to come up with some ideas to fundraise and help us be there when children need us most. To find out more or to request a fundraising pack, visit [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk) or contact [jen.lindsay@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:jen.lindsay@nspcc.org.uk) by email.

Jen Lindsay, community fundraising manager,  
NSPCC Scotland

## YOUR PICTURES



This week's featured photograph was taken by reader Simon Macdonald on a chilly January morning in Kilmichael Glassary. Send your favourite photographs for publication to [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)

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# Stop Smoking Services in Argyll and Bute

Whether you find yourself smoking more during this pandemic, feel ready to stop, just beginning to think about it, or are looking for some information, contact our trained Stop Smoking Advisors for support.



Our dedicated service is free, non-judgmental and will help you through your 'quit' journey. **You are 4 times more likely to stop with specialist support.**



Contact Smoke Free Highland on 0845 7573077 if you'd like to stop smoking or please complete the online form, which can be found at [bit.ly/smoke-free-highland](https://bit.ly/smoke-free-highland) and your local advisor will get in touch with you.

**If you would like to talk to someone directly, contact your local advisor:**

**Bute**  
Mandy Allison on 01700 501521

**Cowal**  
Kate Paton on 01369 708349  
Kathy Graham on 07972 678923

**Helensburgh and Lomond**  
Kathy Graham on 07972 678923

**Kintyre**  
Caroline Glen on 07812 485058

**Mid Argyll, Carradale and Muasdale**  
Jill Denton on 07707 868351

**Oban and Lorn**  
Kathy Graham on 07972 678923



# All together >

# 'Inspiring' champions of

After the very worst of years, the very best among us – from frontline health staff to key community volunteers and charity workers – have been recognised in The Queen's 2021 New Year Honours. Here we spotlight some of the deserving stars that Prime Minister Boris Johnson applauds as "an inspiration to us all".

LAST YEAR brought to the fore a new breed of community champions... including those working in the NHS to treat coronavirus patients, scientists developing effective vaccines and key workers keeping essential services operating.

These "ordinary people" who continue to go above and beyond have been recognised for sterling work delivered in extraordinary circumstances.

The 2021 New Years Honours has recognised champions of sport as well as stars of stage and screen but this year, more than ever, it is ordinary people who have been recognised alongside them.

Among the deserving recipients are leading lights who have battled to save lives and keep the NHS afloat and those who have kept the country smiling by spreading kindness.

The list includes medical experts as well as volunteers working with youngsters, the elderly and those with disabilities. Those working in libraries, education and community arts also received recognition.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "In a year when so many have made sacrifices to protect our NHS and save people's lives, the outstanding efforts of those receiving honours are a welcome reminder of the strength of human spirit and of what can be achieved through courage and compassion."

"The 2021 New Year Honours offer us an opportunity to salute their dedication and recognise many who have gone above and beyond in their contribution to our country."

"As we begin a new year and continue to come together to fight this virus, may their service and stories be an inspiration to us all."

■ For more information on Honours recipients, go to [gov.uk/honours](http://gov.uk/honours)



## JACQUIE WINNING

JACQUIE WINNING'S award "recognises the achievements of everyone" at Forth Valley Sensory Centre following "an exceptionally challenging year".

The 55 year-old from Falkirk was recognised for going the extra mile to manage "wrap-around" services to people with sensory loss during the pandemic.

"COVID-19 has been challenging for everyone, but more so for people with sensory loss. Those with hearing loss face challenges due to face masks and social distancing interfering with their ability to lip read. "Those with sight loss face



significant challenges managing to maintain physical distancing while undertaking essential trips out," explained the MBE recipient. Jacquie's support included providing Braille copies of virus information, establishing telephone, text and email befriending lifelines to address isolation and producing podcasts providing vital updates. "The impact is that some of the most vulnerable people in society have been incredibly well supported during the most challenging of times. Thanks go to the dedication, enthusiasm and willingness to adapt by our team, volunteers and partners, and tremendous support of our board of directors."

## TAMAS SZAKMANY

CABINET OFFICE confirmation of Dr Tamas Szakmany's award made him "astonished, touched and humbled". The 44 year-old from Newport explained: "I thought I was doing my job like everybody else. I didn't think for one minute it would result in this. I'm really surprised. Once I was allowed to talk about it, the first thing I said was how fortunate I was to work with this team. "2020 was difficult professionally. Personally, I had many successes. It was a double-edged sword. The MBE is recognition for the enormous effort everyone has made to get us through the first wave. I hope

we have similar success again." The Royal Gwent Hospital critical care consultant, recognised for exceptional service to the NHS, spearheaded Welsh Critical Care Network response during the pandemic, rapidly disseminating information on lessons learnt via traditional and social media platforms. Filming his personal and professional life, he helped produce an emotional deeply personal documentary "Critical: Inside Intensive Care Coronavirus" episode, broadcasted by BBC Wales and included among American Society of Chest Physicians and Society of Critical Care Medicine teaching materials.



Play your part

# communities honoured



## GOLAM CHOWDHURY

A BRITISH Red Cross refugee support staff emergency responder initially thought his honour announcement email was spam!

Golam Chowdhury was then “humbled” when his British Empire Medal was confirmed. “I had no idea I had even been nominated,” said the 51-year-old from Portsmouth.

“It’s been challenging, both personally and professionally, but I am always amazed by human resilience and community spirit. Watching how people

come together to support each other has been incredible.”

Involved in active front-line response to COVID-19 in Hampshire as a Refugee Support staff member, Crisis Response South East tactical cell weekend coordinator and local Emergency Response, City of Sanctuary and Cycling UK volunteer, Golam received his accolade



for outstanding achievements in healthcare during the virus pandemic. “I don’t do my job – or my volunteering – for praise,” said the father-of-two. “I do it because, if the tables were turned and I was the one that needed help, then I would hope that there was someone out there to support me. “I’d like to dedicate my award to everyone in all communities who are helping others.”

## MICHAEL BRIGGS

A BELFAST community worker is celebrating “the surprise of his life” after being honoured. Michael Briggs’ MBE was rewarded for services beyond the call of duty in the voluntary sector and community.

“Even though we’ve hardly moved out of the office, it’s all been pretty busy,” explained the East Belfast Community Development Agency Executive Director.

“We’ve been managing our COVID programme, buying bulk food to get out to groups we support. We developed a network of groups delivering small packages to people who are



vulnerable, shielding or in financial need.” The 57 year-old continued: “There are so many stories from older people who say ‘it’s just good to know people are thinking about us.’”

Thinking the honour email was promotional, Michael initially “didn’t actually take it seriously”.

He revealed: “I nearly didn’t open it. Then I saw it was from the Cabinet Office. “For me, it’s about the efforts of other people as well.

“So many people have been very supportive over the years. I’m the one who ends up getting the award, but other people have been involved in the success of my work.”

# Play your part



Follow the rules. Find out more at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

All together >

# Big Farmland Bird Count takes off

Last year a record number of UK farmers took part in the Big Farmland Bird Count and more than 120 bird species were recorded.

In Scotland, 81 species were recorded across 81,362 acres. Of these species, 19 were red-listed, with the five most commonly seen species being blackbird, pheasant, robin, blue tit and carrion crow.

The 2021 count takes place from February 5 to 14 and, as in previous years, it provides a simple means of assessing the effect of conservation measures such as supplementary feeding or growing wild bird seed crops and game cover crops. Farmers and gamekeepers are vital in helping to ensure the survival of many farmland bird species such as skylark, yellowhammer and wild grey partridge.

From research at its Allerton Project farm in Leicestershire and also now at its Scottish



The blackbird – the most popular farmland bird in last year's Big Farmland Bird Count.

Photograph: Marlies Nicolai, GWCT.

Demonstration Farm at Auchnerran in Aberdeenshire, the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust is gaining a greater understanding of the needs of farmland game and wildlife and the importance of the combined benefit of, for example, habitat management, winter feeding and targeted legal predator control in the breeding season.

Between February 5 and 14, participants should spend about 30 minutes recording the species and number of birds seen on one particular area of the farm. Counting should take place at first light as this is when the birds are most active.

Visit the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust website for more information.



## Marjory solves school photograph mystery

This photograph of a group of scholars was published in last week's edition of the Argyllshire Advertiser in a bid to identify the pupils and teachers, the school they attended and the year in which the photo was taken.

It was submitted by Anne Duff, who found it among items belonging to her late father Ian MacDonald, a renowned historian and genealogist who died in 2013.

Anne did not think any of her own family members were in the image but

thought it could have been taken at Glenbarr Primary School.

Alex Gillies contacted the Advertiser's sister paper, the Campbeltown Courier, to say the image was actually taken at the primary school in Whitehouse, which is no longer in existence, probably around 1935. Alex's mother Marjory, now aged 92, is in the photograph and was able to name most of the other people: Back row, left to right: teacher Miss Ellis, un-

known, Tommy Bird, teacher Miss Livingston, and Margaret Thompson. Middle row: Betty Bird, Margaret Miller, Marjory Bird, Rachel McGregor, Jessie Bird, Joanne Bird, Jenny Henderson, Audrey Graham and Elda McPherson.

Front row: Archie Miller, Robert Miller, James McGurk and Jackie Bird.

If any other readers can identify the two unknown pupils, please email editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk.

## The Dochas Carer Centre Supporting Unpaid Carers

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/dochascarecentre](https://www.facebook.com/dochascarecentre) 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.



### Mid Argyll Youth Development Services

Providing Information and Accessible Youth Friendly Services

**Are you a young carer? We are here for you...**

**MAYDS are still providing support for children, young people and families where we can. Anyone needing advice or help can contact the above at anytime.**

We are providing our child and adolescent counselling services via skype, phone etc., and still open for referrals for any young person feeling isolated or in need of support. Our Young Carers are still being supported by our team across MAKI and again referrals are still being taken.

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)



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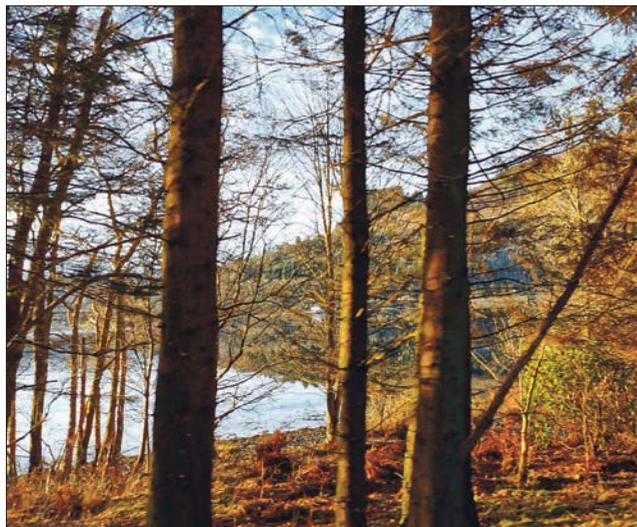


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Exclusive Newsletter





Photograph A.



Photograph B.

# Captivating Argyll

## But do you recognise these winter wonder locations?

Ardrishaig woman and keen amateur photographer Cheryl Ratcliffe-Nye has been out capturing some stunning scenes of winter landscapes.

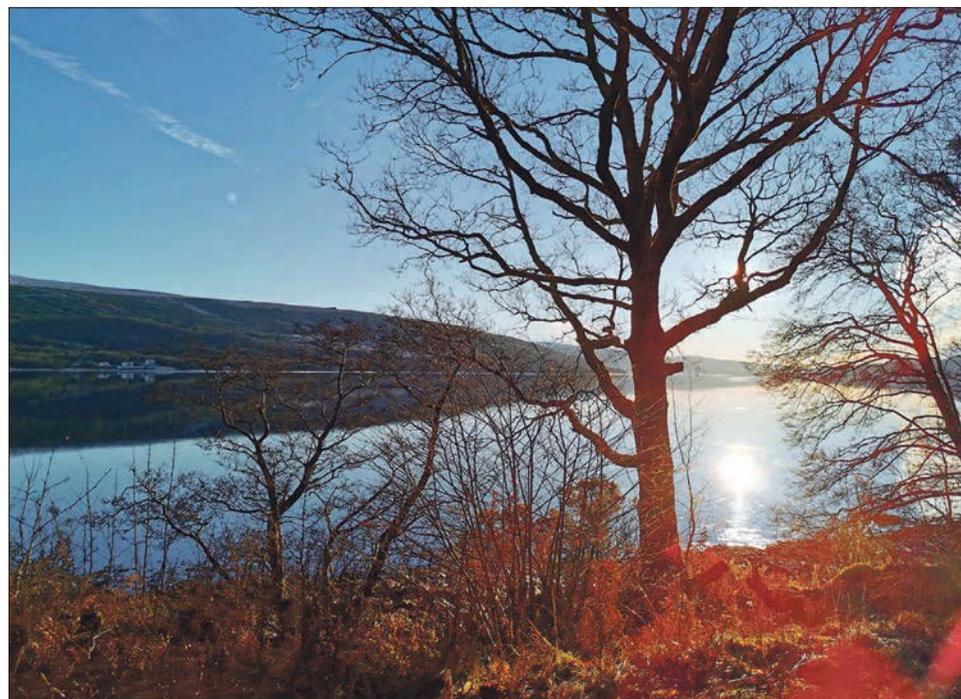
Thanks to Cheryl for sending a selection of her photos to the Argyllshire Advertiser.

Cheryl said: 'How beautiful is winter in Argyll? The low sun creates a wonderful light reflecting off the mirrored waters and the rich autumnal colours still swathed across the land.'

'My favourite thing about winter is that new vistas appear through the leafless trees and I'm constantly discovering hidden treasures between the captivating woody limbs.'

Rather than tell you where these photographs were taken, we thought we would ask our knowledgeable readers if they recognise the locations – just for a bit of lockdown fun.

We have labelled them, so if you think you know where they are, email [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk) with your name, where you are from and the answers from A to C.



Photograph C.

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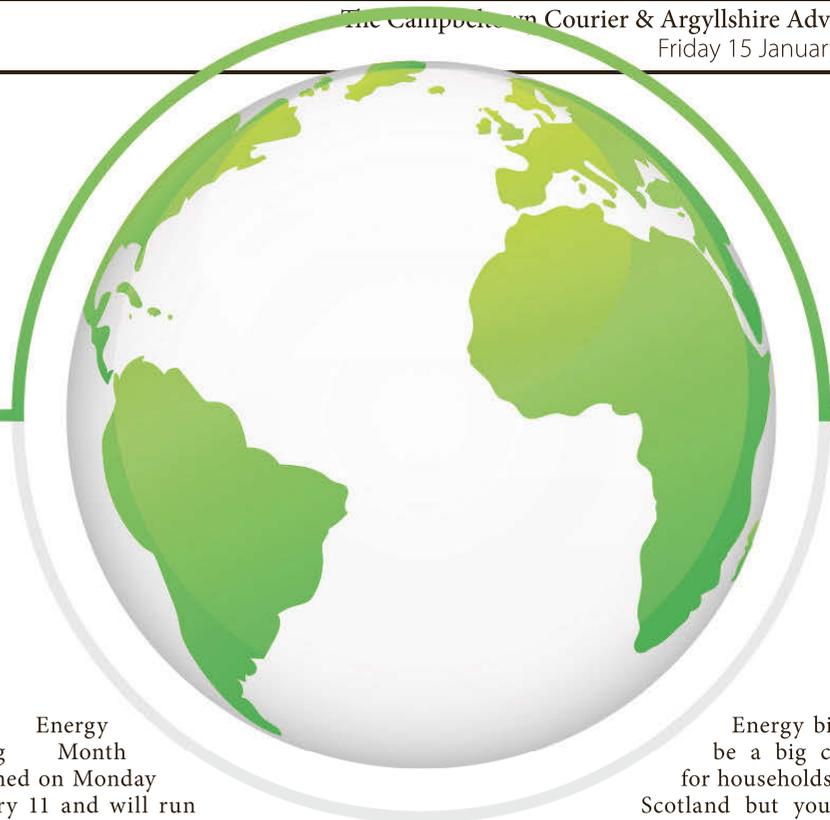
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# Big Energy Saving Month 2021

Big Energy Saving Month launched on Monday January 11 and will run for three weeks until Sunday January 31.

This national campaign, brought to you by Citizens Advice Scotland and Home Energy Scotland, aims to help people cut their energy bills and get the financial support they are entitled to.

We all have the power to save energy, money and the environment through everyday actions.

Simple changes such as switching energy supplier

or tariffs, accessing discounts or grants and making homes more cost-efficient can make a big difference.

#### Let's save your energy:

We can give you the power to save time, money and energy. You can get advice on your energy issues on our public advice site by accessing the links below.

#### Save time:

Energy bills can be a big concern for households across Scotland but you could save money on your fuel bill by checking you're not paying more than you need for your energy.

Check you're getting the best deal from your current supplier, switching isn't the only way to get a better deal.

Make sure you're getting all the benefits and help you're entitled to. If you're struggling to pay your energy bills, or simply want to make sure you're getting all the financial help you're entitled

## More than 20,000 people receive help through Warmer Homes Scotland

Warmer Homes Scotland provides free heating, insulation and more to households that are struggling to stay warm and keep up with energy bills.

More than 20,000 households in Scotland have benefited from the scheme's help since it was launched in 2015, each of them saving around £300 a year on their energy bills.

The £224 million scheme provides a step-by-step service to help make homes warmer and more comfortable.

Assistance can include installing new and efficient boilers, fitting new radiators, insulating lofts or working with partners to install gas mains to make heating homes in hard to reach areas more affordable.

All work is carried out by

registered and accredited local sub-contractors who work to rigorous quality standards across the country.

Warmworks is the managing agent of Warmer Homes Scotland and receives referrals to the scheme from Home Energy Scotland.

With the Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019 now enshrined in legislation, both the extent of the Scottish Government's ambitions and the scale of the task ahead are clear.

While the end goal for the eradication of fuel poverty may be some years away, there is no question that the help available under Warmer Homes Scotland will play a key role in helping

people become warmer, happier and healthier in their homes.

Ross Armstrong, Warmworks' Managing Director said: 'It has always been important to Warmworks that the delivery of Warmer Homes Scotland results in real and lasting benefits for vulnerable people and communities across Scotland. I am delighted to have helped more than 20,000 households in Scotland and we hope to build on our success as we continue our efforts to move towards greener, fairer and more affordable ways to heat our homes.'

To find out more about Warmer Homes Scotland, or to make an application, contact Home Energy Scotland free on 0808 808 2282.



LOOKING FOR FREE, IMPARTIAL ADVICE TO HELP YOU SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY, AND HAVE A WARMER HOME?

Call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 to speak to a friendly advisor.

HOME  
ENERGY  
SCOTLAND



Greener  
Scotland  
Scottish  
Government



to, your local Citizens Advice Bureau can help you check that you are not missing out on any benefits. You can also call the Money Talk Team helpline on 0800 085 7145.

**Save money:**

Many people stay on the same tariff or with the same energy supplier for a number of years, without realising they could be getting a better deal elsewhere. By switching supplier or tariff you could save hundreds of pounds.

Check whether you could save money with the Citizens Advice energy price com-

parison tool. It's free, uses a full market comparison and is totally independent. [www.energycompare.citizensadvice.org.uk/](http://www.energycompare.citizensadvice.org.uk/)

Get advice on switching energy supplier and understanding your energy tariff.

For some, switching isn't simple or it isn't possible due to your energy tariff. If you live in a home with electric-only heating and you're stuck with your existing tariff or supplier or you're looking for practical ways to lower your costs, you can get advice from your local Citizens Advice Bureau. You

can contact Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 for advice on getting the most out of your electric heating system.

**Save energy:**

The best way to pay less for your fuel is simply to save energy around your home. This doesn't mean going without - you can waste less by being energy efficient.

You can contact Home Energy Scotland for free and impartial advice on how you can make your home more energy efficient. Call 0808 808 2282.

**Research from Energy Saving Trust**

Based on a typical three-bedroom semi-detached gas heated house, with an 85 per cent efficient gas boiler and average gas tariff of 4.17p/kWh and electricity tariff of 16.36p/kWh. Correct as of April 2020 and valid for one year.

- Turning your central heating thermostat down by one degree could save you £60 a year - based on turning down a room thermostat from 22 degrees to 21 degrees in the main living areas.
- If everyone in the UK switched from higher temperature washes down to 30 degrees, together we could save more than £230 million on electricity bills a year.
- Electricity is almost four times more expensive than gas. The average electricity tariff is 16.4p/kWh, with gas at 4.2p/kWh. Electricity bills have also been rising faster than gas. Between 2017 and 2018, the average electricity bill across all payment types rose by £39 (7.1 per cent), while the average gas bill across all payment types rose by £3 (1 per cent). (Source: BEIS' Domestic Energy Price Statistics, December 2019)

Let's save on your energy bills today. Visit <https://www.cas.org.uk/BESM2021> to find out more.

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which certifies that it's an intelligent technology that produces heat from a renewable source.

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Whether installed in small flats or large detached properties, Ecodan can reduce running costs, lower CO2 emissions and offer reliable, sustainable heating and hot water all year around for the majority of homes and small commercial properties. Ecodan can be installed to replace an existing heating system or work alongside it in a hybrid set up.

To start your path to sustainable heating, call MacLeod Plumbing & Electrical division on 01546 602989.

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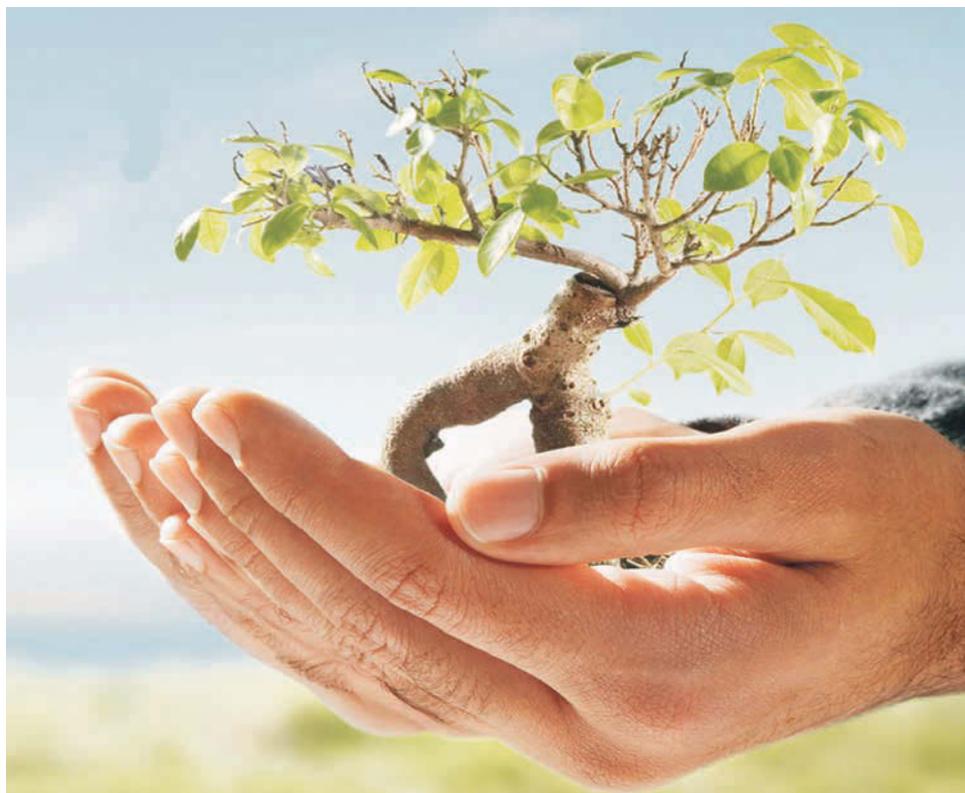
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**Cut your carbon footprint**

Solar electricity is green, renewable energy which doesn't release any harmful carbon dioxide or other pollutants. A typical home solar PV system could save around 1.3 to 1.6 tonnes of carbon per year, depending where you are within the UK.



**What are solar panels?**

Solar panel electricity systems, also known as photovoltaics (PV), capture the sun's energy using photovoltaic cells.

These cells don't need direct sunlight to work – they can still generate some electricity on a cloudy day.

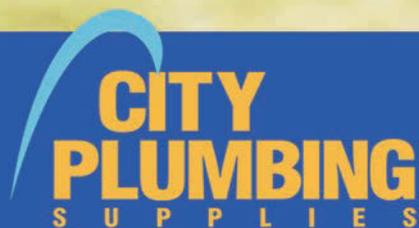
The cells convert the sunlight into electricity, which can be used to run household appliances and lighting.

**How do solar panels (PV) cells work?**

PV cells are made from layers of semi-conducting material, usually silicon. When light shines on the cell it creates an electric field across the layers. The stronger the sunshine, the more electricity is produced. Groups of cells are mounted together in panels or

modules that can either be mounted on your roof or on the ground. The power of a PV cell is measured in kilowatts peak. That's the rate at which it generates energy at peak performance in full direct sunlight during the summer.

PV cells come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Most PV systems are made up of panels that fit on top of an existing roof, but you can also fit solar tiles. For more information visit [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) or contact your local installer.



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# Storage heaters - expensive hot air

Storage heaters were great in the 1970s when energy costs were low and one solution to Britain's heating needs.

Now electricity costs are way higher and many people are finding them unaffordable and uncontrollable.

The most common storage heater tariff across the west of Scotland, from SSE, is Total Heating Total Control (THTC). This is generally considered to be one of the more expensive on the market. Other energy suppliers struggle to offer a suitable equivalent tariff and many people feel they have nowhere else to go. More info [www.alternativetostorage-heaters.co.uk](http://www.alternativetostorage-heaters.co.uk)

Modern electric heating, using the properties of radiant heat rather than warm air, with cutting edge temperature and timing controls is the solution, [www.economicelectricheating.co.uk](http://www.economicelectricheating.co.uk).

These can either be German clay core heaters, [www.germanelectricheating.com](http://www.germanelectricheating.com), which are now regularly seen advertised on television and in the papers, or far infrared

heaters of various types. [www.scottishinfraredheating.co.uk](http://www.scottishinfraredheating.co.uk)

When changing, disruption is minimal as your new heaters can usually use the existing wiring.

Some small changes are required to the connections in your meter box by your electrician, but it is a straightforward job.

Once you are on a single meter tariff you can then readily shop around for the best price for your electricity and save even more money. We recommend Martin Lewis' cheap energy club to check out your options. [www.moneysavingexpert.com/cheapenergyclub](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/cheapenergyclub)

In 2025, the government is banning the use of traditional oil fired or gas boilers in new homes. Instead new houses will be heated predominantly by state-of-the-art electric heating systems. Why not change now?

Elsco Heating has been supplying economic electric heating across Scotland for ten years from bases in Elgin and Glasgow.



## A Heater for a New Year?

**Its cold outside and could get colder!**

Replace those old storage heaters with our modern German electric heating

### Ten Years Of Happy Customers

Elsco Heating supply top quality German heaters, across Scotland from our bases in Glasgow and Elgin. These are a new energy efficient alternative to old fashioned storage heaters.



Most storage heater owners are unhappy with the quality of heat, the lack of control and the high running costs. Our German Chamotte Clay Core heaters give you complete control over your heating, a quality of heat second to none and a significant saving on your heating bills.

This heating is becoming increasingly popular not only in Scotland but across Britain.

You will no doubt have seen the adverts on TV from other UK wide suppliers of this great heating solution. You can **save** on costs and probably get a **better quality** heater with the same levels of efficiency, by buying your heaters locally from us.

Many storage heater owners in Scotland are on a tariff called Total heating Total Control (THTC), one of the more expensive on the market. Our heating enables you to easily change to a standard (single meter) supply, choose between all available energy suppliers and save even more money.

Costs are similar to what you might pay for a modern replacement storage heater.



We are happy to give you budget prices for your individual requirements over the phone. We can also usually visit you at home to work with you to establish the best



heating solution for your individual needs. This service may currently be restricted due to Covid, but please ask.

We have just built up our stock levels for the Winter and if you act quickly, you might not have to wait very long, but when they are gone, they are gone!

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E S Wamock, D Cluckie, C J Husthwaite & G R MacLean an appointed representative of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited (No. 111982).

**Around the markets**

United Auctions Stirling, Thursday January 7, sold 3,812 prime sheep comprising 3,000 prime hogs selling to an average of 261.35ppk and 812 ewes and rams.

Old season lambs (3,000) – Doune Farms (BTeX) £149.00 x2 & £148.00; Pitcairn (BTeX) £148.00; Doune Farms (BTeX) £147.00; West Quarter (BTeX) £146.00; Ballinloan (Tex) £148.00 x3; Cherryfield (Tex) £143.00 x2; Wester Cambushinie (Tex) £140.00; Grangehead (Suf) £127.50 x2; South Flanders (Suf) £127.00; Wardhead (Suf) £122.00 & £121.50; Ballinloan (Chev) £127.00; Wester Bleaton & Solzarie (Chev) £123.00; Penston (Chev) £121.50; Carse of Trowan (Cross) £123.50; East Bracklinn (Cross) £119.50; Dalchirla (BF) £123.00; Dunruchan (BF) £116.00; Glenfermate (BF) £115.00; Penston (BF) £113.50; Auchenrivoch (Mule) £118.00 x2; Wardhead (Mule) £115.50; Drimsynie & Plean Cott (Mule) £114.00. Old Season Lambs (3000) – West Quarter (BTeX) 356.00ppk; Doune Farms (BTeX) 352.00ppk; Dall (BTeX)

343.00ppk; Pitcairn (BTeX) 339.00ppk; Wester Cambushinie (Tex) 343.00ppk; Carse of Trowan (Tex) 341.00ppk; Wester Cambushinie (Tex) 339.00ppk; Ballinloan & Easter Greenhill (Tex) 335.00ppk; Ballinloan (Chev) 288.00ppk; Fridayhill & Wester Bleaton & Solzarie (Chev) 280.00ppk; Invermilton (Suf) 280.00ppk & 274.00ppk; Grangehead, Wardhead & Halkerston (Suf) 267.00ppk; East Bracklinn (Cross) 271.00ppk; Plean Cott (Cross) 269.00ppk; Easter Deans (Mule) 264.00ppk; Drimsynie (Mule) 262.00ppk; Coulshill & Meadowfield (Mule) 257.00ppk; Grange Farms (BF) 264.00ppk; Penston (BF) 263.00ppk; Pitcairn (BF) 258.00ppk; Fridayhill (BF) 257.00ppk.

Ewes (812) – Aikerness, Orkney (Tex) £185.00; Cairn (Tex) £177.00 & £150.00; Oatfield (Tex) £147.00; Cairn (Tex) £145.00; Southfield & South Flanders (TexX) £140.00; South Flanders (TexX) £138.00; Oatfield (TexX) £130.00 x2; West Lundie (BTeX) £135.00; Cairn (Suf) £129.00; Upper

Firth & Neuk (Suf) £124.00; North Balloch & Montalt (Cont) £127.00; Ballinloan & Cherryfield (Cont) £126.00; Strageath Mains (Cont) £124.00; Cherryfield (SufX) £119.00; Muckraw (SufX) £115.00; North Balloch (SufX) £114.00; South Flanders (Mule) £115.00; Blackcastle (Mule) £104.00; Strageath Mains (Mule) £100.00; Hatton Knowe (Mule) £97.00; Smithy Hillock (Mule) £96.00; Cairn (Cha) £114.00; Auchenrivoch (BFL) £113.00; Lilyburn (BFL) £100.00; Ballinloan (Chev) £112.00 & £94.00; Luckenburn & Coulshill (Chev) £87.00; Easter Cammock & North Balloch (Chev/Mule) £110.00; Coulshill (BF) £84.00; Glenhead (BF) £82.00; Pathcondie (BF) £80.00; Jaw, Drimsynie & Allanfauld (BF) £77.00.

Tups – Balnacree (Chev) £130.00; Fairview Hill (BTeX) £128.00; Jaw (Suf) £128.00; Wester Cameron (Suf) £127.00; Easter Deans (Tex) £125.00; Kinclaven £123.00; Easter Deans (Suf) £111.00; Milnbank (Blue Tex) £100.00; Dunruchan & Jaw (BF) £93.00.

**Virtual hustings for candidates**



Candidates standing for top office bearer roles with NFU Scotland will, for the first time, take place in virtual hustings, starting on Friday January 22.

A traditional part of NFU Scotland's election process, hustings would normally see candidates tour Scotland with all regions holding their own member event.

However, due to the exceptional circumstances as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the hustings will now take place online with members urged to register to hear from each of the candidates.

The four nominations for the two vice presidential posts are, in alphabetical order: Andrew Connon, North Quilquox, Ythanbank, Ellon, Aberdeenshire; Willie Harper, Gryffewraes, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire; George Milne, Kinaldy, St Andrews, Fife and

Robin Traquair, Wellington Farm, Millerhill, Dalkeith, Midlothian.

Current vice president Martin Kennedy, who will stand unchallenged for the position of president, will also take place in the following virtual events.

Friday January 22, noon till 1.30pm, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9auixHdbQw257tc4-UltTQ>

Tuesday January 26, 7pm till 8.30pm, [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/MKwj\\_i4ROKpu6rcX-6\\_3Vw](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/MKwj_i4ROKpu6rcX-6_3Vw)

Thursday January 28, 7pm till 8.30pm, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9auixHdbQw257tc4-UltTQ>

[www.nfus.org.uk/nfus-elections-2021.aspx](https://www.nfus.org.uk/nfus-elections-2021.aspx)

The elections will take place at the union's virtual council meeting on Friday February 12, with online voting arrangements for council members in place.

NFU Scotland Chief Executive Scott Walker said: 'It is hugely encouraging that we have so many excellent candidates standing for election. I wish each one of them the very best and, while missing out on the traditional tour of Scotland, I urge them to make the most of these online meetings. They all have the skills and experience to do a great job for NFUS.'



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**MOBILE SHEEP SYSTEM**  
**ON SALE FROM £1695 + VAT** (RRP from £3400 plus VAT)

The system is easy to move and erect where required and can be easily modified to suit your requirements

**MAIN FEATURES:**

- Made from high-tensile steel
- All hurdles are 8 railed x 970mm high
- All hot-dipped galvanised finish
- 3000mm (3m) long
- Includes all joining pins/stakes

**OPTION 1**  
10-foot race and 8-foot holding pen  
**£1695 + VAT**

Comes with an 80-foot holding pen and 10-foot race, 2x 2 feet swing gates and all joining pins/stakes included. Our system will safely hold fully grown sheep (approx. 45).

**OPTION 2**  
20-foot race, 100-foot holding pen  
**£1975 + VAT**

Comes with 100-foot holding pen and 20-foot race, 2x 2 feet swing gates and all joining pins/stakes included. Our system will safely hold fully grown sheep (approx. 90).

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The system is easy to move and erect where required and can be easily modified to suit your requirements. Also ideal for TB testing and the cattle sliding gate gives full control of the livestock from outside the race and stops the race from spreading out.

**MAIN FEATURES:**

- Made from high-tensile steel
- All hurdles are 6 railed x 1.75m high
- A funnel is incorporated into the race-way
- All hot-dipped galvanised finish
- 3000mm (3m) long
- 20-foot race
- 60-foot holding pen. Includes all joining pins/stakes
- Total 200-feet of penning

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For immediate cash payment and free collection. All types of 4x4 vehicles, double cab & single cabs pickups. Shogun landrover defenders, Isuzu, Landcruiser, Navara, L200 Toyota Hilux, Discovery, any vehicle considered old or new. Any condition running or not. High miles, rotten chassis, or over heating top. so any condition. Price paid without any hassle we also buy motorhomes touring caravans and commercial vans and trucks.

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ask for Robert

## WANTED

All types of motor homes and caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

**T: 07885 203020**  
Email: [gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk)

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All types of 4-wheel drive vehicles & pickups, Landrovers, Toyota, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford and MOT failures, non-runners, etc. Will travel and collect.

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## Argyll and Bute Council

### 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
20/02008/PP	Change of use of Class 1 Cold Food Takeaway to Hot Food takeaway (retrospective)	One Fyne Deli, Harbour Street, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute, PA29 6UA
20/02268/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 14/02314/PPP (Site for erection of two dwellinghouses, formation of new access and installation of two septic tanks)	Land South East Of Achnaclaud Cottage, Whitehouse, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute
20/02269/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 14/02315/PPP (Site for erection of two dwellinghouses)	Land 200M South West Of Kilchamaig Gate, Whitehouse, Argyll And Bute
20/02161/LIB	Replacement ventilation terminal/external housing (retrospective) to existing duct work through rear roof and replacement metal railings	42 Main Street, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute, PA28 6AD
20/01910/PP	Change of use of land to form residential curtilage	Ivy Cottage, Keills, Tayvallich, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute, PA31 8PQ
20/01901/PPP	Demolition of outbuilding and erection of dwellinghouse	Land North Of Swallowtale, Inveraray, Argyll And Bute

Written comments can be submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/submit-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.

#### THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 20

Planning Application Reference Number: 20/01345/MFF  
Proposed development at: North Kilbrannan Fish Farm, North Of Our Bay, Kilbrannan Sound, East Kintyre, Argyll And Bute

The proposed development at the address noted above is subject to environmental impact assessment under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

Notice is hereby given that additional information in relation to a EIA Report has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council by Mowi Scotland Ltd relating to the planning application in respect of Formation of fish farm (Atlantic Salmon) incorporating twelve 120m diameter circular cages and siting of feed barge.

Possible decisions relating to the application are: approval of the application without conditions; approval of the application with conditions; or refusal of the application.

A copy of the additional information together with the environmental report and the associated planning application(s) may be inspected 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 during the emergency period. 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. In the event of the emergency period ceasing, documents will be available for inspection by appointment during office hours in the register of planning applications kept by the Planning Authority, at 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD. Documents will be available for a minimum of 30 days beginning with the date of this notice.

Copies of the additional information may be purchased from Mowi Scotland Ltd at a cost of £50.

Any person who wishes to make representations to Argyll and Bute Council about the additional information should make them in writing within 30 days from the date of this notice. Written comments can be submitted by email to [planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or to Argyll and Bute Council, Development Management, Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT. Customers are requested to use electronic communication where possible during the coronavirus pandemic as our ability to process postal mail is restricted.

Signed: Mrs S. Davies, Major Application Team Leader on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council

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



## Argyll and Bute Council

### DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

#### ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (VARIOUS STREETS, LOCHGILPHEAD) (TEMPORARY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT) ORDER 2021

On Tuesday 15th December 2020, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 14(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be that for a temporary period, the following restrictions will apply:

#### SCHEDULE 1 – PROHIBITION OF WAITING AT ANY TIME

##### U12 Union Street, Lochgilphead

On the northern side of the road, from its junction with Argyll Street heading in a generally south-east direction to its junction with Manse Brae, a distance of 331 metres or thereby.

##### C67 Lorne Street, Lochgilphead

On the northern side of the road, from its junction with Manse Brae heading a generally western direction to its junction with U007 Lorne Street, a distance of 219 metres or thereby.

##### C67 Lorne Street, Lochgilphead

On the western side of the road, from its junction with Poltalloch Street (A83 Trunk Road) heading in a generally north-east direction for a distance of 132 metres.

#### SCHEDULE 2 – PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

Colchester Square From its junction with the Tarbet-Kennacraig Trunk Road (A83) extending northwards to its junction with (C62) Argyll Street a distance of 40 metres or thereby.

Argyll Street From its junction with the north side of Colchester Square northwards to its junction with Union Street a distance of 72 metres or thereby.

Exceptions will apply to a vehicle being used in an emergency for fire and rescue services, ambulance or police purposes, a vehicle being used for carrying out the works, or a vehicle requiring access/egress to and from affected properties when possible and as directed by traffic management operatives on site. The restrictions imposed by this Order which are required to allow essential works to be carried out on or near the road will be effective when indicated by signs from 0001 hours on Monday the 18th of January 2021 until 2359 hours on Monday the 5th April 2021 or until the works are complete, whichever is the earlier. Roads & Infrastructure Services, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD

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

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Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Kilmory/Dunadd Camanachd will take place on Thursday 21st January 2021 at 8pm.

Due to Covid restrictions this will be a virtual on-line meeting.

Anyone wishing to attend the meeting must submit their details to Club Chairperson ([angusjgilmour@outlook.com](mailto:angusjgilmour@outlook.com)) before 4pm on the 19th January 2021.

## RECRUITMENT

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### PERSONAL NOTICES

**Thank you**

Helen and Bill Hunter, Southend would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for the kindness shown to us with flowers, gifts, cards and phone calls on our diamond wedding anniversary.

The McDougall family would like to sincerely thank Team Tarbert & the people of Tarbert for their over whelming generosity after the tragic events of Christmas day. We would also like to thank Police Scotland, Ambulance & Fire Crews in attendance.

## Thought for the Week

## Are you glad to have a glass?

Question: 'Are you a glass half-full type of person, or is your glass half-empty?'

Answer: 'I am just glad to have a glass.'

That comment, which I heard shortly before Christmas, has stuck in my mind.

It is stating the obvious, I know, but as we live through another lockdown, it is tempting to focus on the liberties lost and freedoms curtailed when there are many good things still to celebrate.

Not least of these is hope, another word that is used a lot these days.

We hope the vaccines will make a difference; we hope things will get better; we hope our children will get back to school; we hope the planet can be brought back into balance. We hope.

But where is the ground for hope? Science and human skill?

A talk on the radio a few weeks ago, before Christmas, spoke about gifts and posed the question that the vaccines that have been developed might be God's gift to humanity this Christmas and the skills of the scientists ultimately come from God.

For people of faith, the ultimate hope is in God, who is the source of life and who Christians believe came to earth in Jesus to show us the way forward.

'For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son...' John 3:16

Where is our ground for hope? Surely the power of love is our only hope, the steadfast love of the Lord who 'never leaves us nor forsakes us' (1 Kings 8:57) and is with us every step of the way.

Just be glad you have a glass.

**Reverend Steve Fulcher,  
Church of Scotland, South Kintyre Team  
Ministry.**

## KNAPDALE

## Beaver reinforcement project completed successfully

Work to reinforce the population of beavers in Knapdale Forest is reported to have come to a successful conclusion, with the endangered species now breeding throughout the area.

Scottish Beavers, a partnership between the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) and the Scottish Wildlife Trust, released 21 beavers into Knapdale Forest between 2017 and 2019 to bolster the population, with monitoring continuing throughout 2020.

The project has increased the genetic diversity of Knapdale's beaver population, first introduced to the area in 2009. The new beavers brought to Knapdale were primarily sourced from Tayside and originate from Bavaria, while the original Scottish Beaver Trial population was sourced from Norway.

A successful pairing between beavers with Norwegian and Bavarian origins has not yet been detected but is likely to take place in the near future.

It is hoped it will connect with other populations in future, through either natural expansion or further releases in the area around Loch Awe.

Gill Dowse, Scottish Wildlife Trust knowledge and evidence manager, said: 'The Scottish Beaver Trial was a landmark conservation project that showed how beavers can create and restore important wetland and native woodland habitats. A limited number of beavers were introduced during the trial so it was important to go back and release more beavers, giving them a good chance to thrive.'

'After three years of field work we can be confident this reinforcement project has been a success and that we have done all we can to bolster the wild population in Knapdale.'

RZSS conservation programme manager, Dr Helen Taylor, said: 'It's been fantastic that the project provided an initial solution for moving beavers from high-conflict areas in Tayside into Knapdale, where their positive impacts on the environment and on native biodiversity are clear to see.'

The final report from the Scottish Beavers Reinforcement Project, published this week,



Beavers are thriving in Knapdale.

Photograph: Steve Gardner.

contains a number of recommendations, including developing a national conservation action plan for beavers, permitting reintroductions in other suitable areas of Scotland and introducing more animals from Europe.

The report also recommends the development of a genetic database of all beavers involved in translocations within Britain.

Dr Taylor added: 'After a 400-year absence from this country, beavers are back and we need to ensure they have a long-term future in Scotland and throughout Britain.'

## TARBERT

## Castle volunteer parties temporarily halted

Volunteer work parties have been suspended at Tarbert Castle to keep in line with current coronavirus restrictions.

Robert McPhail, secretary and treasurer of Tarbert Castle Trust, said: 'After discussion with some volunteers and trustees, despite having been ensuring social distancing outdoors, we have decided to suspend future Saturday work parties until Covid advice allows us to resume.'

## Activities

'We have individuals and 'bubbles' in place who feed and check sheep daily while others regularly carry out selected maintenance tasks, including the website and Facebook, at times when it suits them and there is no reason these essential activities should not continue.'

A blackboard in the castle orchard will be used to list any other task volunteers looking for outdoor exercise can tackle if and when they can.

Mr McPhail added: 'The only major project at present which requires team working is the new path around the pond which has no deadline to meet and can be delayed as long as required. Keep well everyone.'

## GETINTOUCH

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12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

## ENGAGEMENT

**MACSPORRAN - CURRIE**  
- Both families are delighted to announce the engagement, on Christmas Day, of Duncan Paul, eldest son of Paul and Donna, Machrihanish, to Alison Graham, only daughter of Robert and Ruby, Low Dunashery.

## DEATHS

**DETTMER** - On January 1, 2021, suddenly at home, Wilma Dettmer, née Wright, in her 87th year, beloved wife of the late Wallace Dettmer and much loved mother of James and Iain, dearly loved sister of Beth and the late Yona, Margaret, Joyce and Brian. A private funeral service, owing to current restrictions, will take place at Cardross Crematorium, for those wishing to pay their respects, the cortege will leave Pier House, Pier Road, Tarbert on Monday, January 18 at 9.45 a.m., through Harbour Street and Barmore Road, on route to Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Dochas Fund, [www.givey.com/dochasfund](http://www.givey.com/dochasfund), through Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/dochascentre](http://www.facebook.com/dochascentre) or cheque to Dochas Centre, 50 Campbell Street Lochgilphead PA31 8JU.

**HAMILTON** - Peacefully at her home, Woodend Cottage, Oakfield Cottage, Ardrishaig, on January 11, 2021, Ann Duff Hamilton, in her 100th year. Daughter of the late William Hamilton and Dolina Crawford. Much loved sister of the late Ian, William, Campbell and Stewart. Loving Aunt of Caroline, Ian, Jacqueline and Billy. A dear great aunt and cousin to all the family. A good friend, dear neighbour and former work colleague to many at the former Divisional Engineers Department. A private funeral service will be held at Cardross Crematorium on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Sadly missed.

**MACPHAIL** - Isobel Forbes, (Edinburgh/Campbeltown). Peacefully at Edinburgh Western General Hospital on January 3, 2021, Isobel, beloved wife of Ian and much loved mother of Heather, John and Donella. A proud grandmother and great grandmother. She will be greatly missed. Funeral private due to current restrictions. Donations in lieu of flowers to Macular Society (restrict to research only).

**MCFARLANE** - Peacefully at his home, with his family by his side, on January 12, 2021, John Gordon McFarlane, aged 76 years, of Gordon Cottage, Furnace. Beloved husband of Mhairi Bell. Much loved father of Elizabeth Ann and the late Gordon. Cherished Grampa of Scott, Mark, Adam and Dylan. A

good neighbour, dear friend and former work colleague to many. A dear brother-in-law, uncle and cousin to all the family. A private funeral service will be held today, Friday, January 15, 2021 at Kilevin Cemetery.

**MCPHEE** - Peacefully at Stobhill Care Home, Glasgow, on January 11, 2021, Thomas Malcolm McPhee (Tommy) in his 89th year, 59 Davaar Avenue, Campbeltown, dearly beloved husband of the late Catherine McPhee, loving dad of Anne and John, father-in-law of Andy and Mary, loving granda of Joanne (Andrew) and Morven (Mark) and great granda of Eilidh, Emily, Euan and Mia. Funeral service private in line with current government guidelines. Tommy's funeral will take place on Saturday, January 16. The cortege will leave the family home at 11.00 a.m. after a short prayer. We will head round Davaar Avenue onto Albyn Avenue, Millknowe and Aqualibrium Avenue passing the Cross on our way to Kilkerran Cemetery. Anyone wishing to pay their last respects to Tommy may do so along our route. Please remember to observe social distancing.

**NAPIER** - Peacefully at the Campbeltown Hospital, on January 8, 2021, Annie Nelson Hanlon Miller, (Anne) in her 80th year, The Old School House, Clachan, dearly beloved wife of the late Willie Napier, much loved mum of Lorna and Martin and a loving granny of Lauren, Scott and Aiden.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**BAPTY** - Helen and family would like to sincerely thank friends, family and neighbours for all their sympathy and support following the sudden loss of Neil. The heartfelt words of condolence, both written and spoken, have been a great source of comfort. Sincere thanks to the ambulance and A&E staff at Campbeltown Hospital for their professionalism; to Reverend Philip Wallace for the beautiful service; and to Kenneth Blair and his staff for conducting our wishes with dignity. Our deep appreciation and thanks to everyone who has helped us at this sad time. A donation will be made to the British Heart Foundation in memory of Neil.

**CAMPBELL** - The family of the late Alex Campbell (Furnace), would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for the many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards, messages and phone calls received following their recent sad loss. Grateful thanks to all involved in Dad's care, especially to the nursing staff and home carer's who provided such

excellent care, which allowed him to stay at home. Our thanks are also extended to Rev. David Carruthers for a lovely service and tribute both at church and graveside; to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their professional services; and to Morna for beautiful floral tributes. Finally, a special thank you to all who paid their respects by lining the cortege route from Furnace Quarry to Kilevin Cemetery and also to Kilmory Shinty Club members, past and present, for their personal tribute. He would have been very humbled, but proud of the gesture.

**THOMPSON** - The family of the late Annie Logan Muir would like to thank paramedics, doctors and nursing staff who attended to our mother in her last few days and to family, friends and neighbours, and made her passing peaceful. Also appreciation to Carer's Direct, Carr Gomm and latterly Kintyre Care Home for mum's care and attention. To family, friends, neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, flowers and phone calls and to Kenny Blair and his team at T A Blair Undertakers for their words of comfort, help and compassion during our sad loss. To the Rev Steve Fulcher, thank you for the comforting words and prayers at Annie's graveside service. To all who stood at the roadside to say a final farewell. Lastly thank you to Val and staff at the Argyll Arms Hotel for the purvey.

## IN MEMORIAM

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of our dear brother Kenneth who we lost on January 14, 2006. My brother, my friend, thinking of you every day Missing you.  
- David and Anne xx

**GILCHRIST** - In memory of Flora (Florrie) Law Gilchrist, who sadly passed away on January 13, 2019. Much loved aunt of Peter and George and family friend of Bettina. Sadly missed

**MACDOUGALL** - Duncan T MacDougall. In loving memory of our precious and loving son Duncan, taken from us January 18, 2018. We cannot bring the old days back, When we were all together, But memories keep you close to us, And memories last forever.  
- Your loving Mum and Dad.

**MACDOUGALL** - In loving memory of my dear husband Duncan, who was tragically taken from me on January 18, 2018. I think about you always and talk about you too I have such lovely memories but I wish I still had you.  
- Love you, always and forever Dawn.

**MACDOUGALL** - In loving memory of our Dad Duncan who was tragically taken from us on January 18, 2018. We never ask for miracles, But today just one would do, To see the front door open And see our Dad walk through  
- Lots of love your boys, John and Campbell.

**MACDOUGALL** - Precious memories of Duncan, a much loved brother, brother-in-law and uncle who lost his life

aboard the Nancy Glen on January 18, 2018. They say time, but with time you just get better at hiding the incredible sadness of living a life without you in it. Love and miss you always Duncs.  
- Alison, Stephen, Ella and Jack.

**MACDOUGALL** - Treasured memories of our son-in-law Duncan, taken from us as the result of a tragic accident on January 18, 2018.

A silent thought, a secret tear, Keeps your memory ever dear, God took you home, it was his will, But in our hearts, you live still Loved and remembered always.  
- Lachie and Moira.

**MARTIN** - Treasured memories of Ronnie, a much loved dad, granda and great-granda, who passed away on January 19, 2019.

Will love and miss you always.

- Nichola, John, Kyra, Mathew and Blake xxxxx

**MCPHEE** - In loving memory of our dear mum and granny Cathie, died January 14, 2020. Never more than a thought away. In our hearts you will always stay.  
- John, Pat, Marie and Bill. Miss you granny.  
- John and Callum.

## CHURCH NOTICES

### SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



...God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.' Hebrews 13 V 5

Our building is currently closed but you are welcome to join our

online Praise and Worship Zoom Service on

**Sunday, 17th January** 2021 at 11am when Kelvin Moller from Clachan will preach the message To join us online send your email address to [officespringbankchurch@gmail.com](mailto:officespringbankchurch@gmail.com) for an invitation to Sunday's Zoom meeting [www.springbankchurch.org.uk](http://www.springbankchurch.org.uk)

<https://www.facebook.com/springbankchurch>  
Contact phone number 01586 551237 - Church Secretary

### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



#### South Kintyre Team Ministry

Due to the new regulations there will be no services held in the churches but an online service can be viewed on the South Kintyre Team Ministry page on YouTube.

Ministers  
Revd Steve Fulcher  
Revd Chris Fulcher  
01586830504  
[www.kintyreparishes.org.uk](http://www.kintyreparishes.org.uk)

### SALVATION ARMY



**Our meetings in the hall are currently cancelled Gospel message will be available via our FB page every Sunday**

If we can be of any assistance to anyone during this time please call us on 01586 552046  
Major Ruth Russell  
Scottish Charity Number SCO09359

### CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH

George Street, Campbeltown



#### Sunday 17th January

In line with the current Covid restrictions, there will be no services held in the church building for the rest of January.

Rev Rodger Crooks will record the service for this Sunday and it will be available on our website (see below) and on YouTube.

4.00pm Sunday School (by Zoom)

#### Wednesday 20th January

12 noon Prayer & Bible Study (by Zoom)  
[www.campbeltownfree-church.co.uk](http://www.campbeltownfree-church.co.uk)  
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

### CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH



**Church services and activities suspended until further notice Please feel free to contact us**

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### SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Eucharist will be streamed live each Sunday at 11am on Facebook at [ChristChurchLochgilphead](http://ChristChurchLochgilphead) and on [www.midargyllepiscopalchurches.co.uk](http://www.midargyllepiscopalchurches.co.uk)

ANNOUNCEMENTS  
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### ST MARGARET'S RC CHURCH Lochgilphead

#### Suspension of Public Worship

Masses will continue to be Live Streamed via our

YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5MuOWIKEBFHQBQD37ui6yA>

Please check our Facebook page and parish website for weekly Mass times and latest information.

Fr. Ronald Campbell  
01546 602380  
[lochgilphead@rcdai.org.uk](mailto:lochgilphead@rcdai.org.uk)  
(SCO002876)

### NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

charity number SC001002

Although our buildings are closed

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

### GLASSARY, KILMARTIN AND FORD PARISH CHURCH

Barr Mhor, Kilmartin

**Please note due to lockdown restrictions our church is closed until further notice. We will be back in action as soon as it is safe to do so. Until then stay safe.**

### LORNE & LOWLAND PARISH CHURCH

Scottish Charity Number SC 11686

Due to Covid 19 restrictions there will be no services in the church during January.

There will be a message on our Facebook page each Wednesday and Sunday  
Rev W Crossan

### SKIPNESS LINKED WITH TARBERT LOCHFYNE AND KILBERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

The churches are currently closed - a reflection from the Rev Lyn Peden will be available on the Church of Scotland in Tarbert, Kilberry and Skipness Facebook page  
01880820158

Charity numbers Tarbert SC002622 and Skipness SC004280

### ST KIERAN'S RC CHURCH

Current restriction announced by the Scottish Government mean it is necessary to close places of worship.

Therefore, Holy Mass will be broadcast on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/campbeltownrcchurch>) and Zoom (Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6593787274>), at 10am Friday-Wednesday.

Anyone requiring pastoral care should contact Fr. Wood: 01586 552160 or [campbeltown@rcdai.org.uk](mailto:campbeltown@rcdai.org.uk).

### ARDRISHAIG AND SOUTH KNAPDALE PARISHES

There will be No Services in

Ardrishaig or Achahoish Churches until further notice.

Weekly Reflections will continue to be available at the gates of the churches.

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Derek Keir.

## Shinty chiefs delay start of season

The start of the 2021 shinty season has been delayed after the latest Scottish Government coronavirus lockdown, set to be in place at least until the end of January.

The sport has been played over a summer league season, beginning in March, for the past 18 years – although this was interrupted by the pandemic in 2020.

Derek Keir, chief executive officer of shinty's governing body the Camanachd Association, said: 'It is clear with the government's 'stay at home' guidance that shinty cannot currently take place and this will delay any club's pre-season plans. Considering this and the safety of everyone involved, I want to advise we will delay the start of the 2021 shinty season to allow for an appropriate degree of pre-season preparation following lockdown.'

'Our competitions committee and board will meet at the end of January to consider the latest information and we will be in touch [with member clubs] when we are clear on the length of lockdown restrictions to relay plans for local and regional competition that will begin our return to shinty competition, when it is safe to do so.'

# Can people still travel to the hills to exercise?

by Colin Cameron  
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Now that the country is in a new period of lockdown, can people still travel to the hills for exercise?

Scottish Mountain Rescue, which represents 24 of the country's volunteer mountain rescue teams, has published a few pointers based on Scottish Government guidance.

The answer to the question really is – it depends how close walkers live to the hills.

Scottish Mountain Rescue distils the latest government guidance to a number of key points as follows:

To minimise the risk of spreading the virus, people must stay at home as much as possible.

By law, in a level four area people can only leave their home or garden for an essential purpose.

Examples of reasonable

excuses to go out include local outdoor recreation, sport or exercise, walking, cycling, golf or running that starts and finishes at the same place which can be up to five miles from the boundary of home local authority areas.

Though homes can be left for these purposes, people should stay as close to home as possible.

Travel no further than is needed to reach a safe, non-crowded place to exercise in a socially-distanced way.

Up to two people from two separate households can meet outdoors for sport, exercise or social interaction.

Scottish Mountain Rescue has stressed that while mountain rescue teams are still responding in lockdown, Covid-19 has had an impact. In particular, rescues will take longer normal.

It also advises:  
■ PPE is designed for indoor

environments. It does not work effectively in the mountains in winter.

■ Winter callouts are manpower intensive and hard work – lots of heavy breathing.

■ It is unlikely the rescue team or the casualty can effectively be protected if either a team member or the casualty is already infected.

■ Rescue teams work hard to manage risk but Covid-19 is not a risk that can effectively be managed on winter rescues and it will be luck whether rescuers and rescued get infected or not.

If allowed and able to visit the hills, people should not push their limits or the conditions. Take extra emergency clothing and food and follow the Thinkwinter guidance. ([www.mountaineering.scot/safety-and.../thinkwinter](http://www.mountaineering.scot/safety-and.../thinkwinter))

If anyone needs help on the hills, call 999, ask for police, then ask for mountain rescue.



Arrochar Mountain Rescue Team on a recent exercise on Beinn Ime. Photograph: Arrochar Mountain Rescue Team.

## Run to Barcelona for Scotland's mental health

Shinty fans are being urged to run for mental health - all the way to Barcelona.

But rather than an incitement to mass Covid rule-breaking, the call from the sport's governing body is for people to raise funds individually for the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH).

Derek Keir, chief executive officer of the Camanachd Association, explained: 'We



are inviting anyone that wants to engage in a new year challenge to join us to raise awareness of the work of SAMH. We are attempting '5K a day' but your challenge

can be unique to your own interests and capacity, be that a five-minute walk, couch to 5K, 15 minutes on a bike or five miles a day. Our objective is to enhance our mental wellbeing – following government guidance – during lockdown by getting ourselves more active and encouraging those around us to get involved.

'We have set a target of reaching the equivalent of Barcelona

from Inverness (2,381 km), which is completely dependent on others joining up so we need your help and your mileage but even if we only reach Carlisle, we will have collectively been more active as a result. We will also be raising funds for SAMH and sharing information on the organisation throughout lockdown.'

To support the association's fundraising for SAMH, visit the

JustGiving website and search 'Camanachd Association'. A Strava group will track total mileage – [www.strava.com/clubs/camanachdassociation](http://www.strava.com/clubs/camanachdassociation).



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