

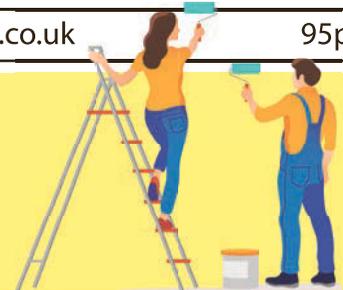
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Pages 18-21



# MACPool project celebrates latest splash of sports cash

by Kathie Griffiths  
 kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Mighty plans to turn Mid Argyll Community Pool into a health and wellbeing hub are another step nearer to hitting the jackpot.

This week sportscotland's Sport Facilities Fund awarded the project £100,000 towards a new changing village making the facility more user friendly to people of all abilities.

Kim Ritchie, chairperson of MACEL board, said the latest grant now means MACPool has got the funding it needs to cover the project's main build, including improved pool access, a new café, kitchen, soft play area and other spaces for community and business use.

With £1.6million now raised, it is enough to sign a contract with a builder, although about £100,000 is still needed to fund fit-out costs.

Once Covid restrictions allow, community fundraising will start, says Mrs Ritchie.

Tenders for the construction

have been received and MACEL hopes to appoint a contractor 'very soon' to start work by spring.

Mrs Ritchie told us this week: 'We are so grateful to sportscotland for its generosity and vision in helping us make MACPool a more accessible and welcoming place for people of all ages and abilities.'

'The improved changing village will make a huge difference to all our customers and the inclusion of a changing place installation will mean that more people can enjoy the new facilities and the lovely area of Mid Argyll.'

Minister for Public Health and Sport Mairi Gougeon MSP has also welcomed the £100,000 funding, made possible by National Lottery players, saying it is a 'positive' investment encouraging sport for all.

Sportscotland chief executive Stewart Harris has praised the MACPool project for demonstrating 'real ambition and commitment to improving the lives of their communities



through sport and physical activity'.

Last summer there was news that the National Lottery Community Fund had awarded MACPool £700,000 for capital build costs boosting a £400,000 Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund in February 2020 and £95,000 from the Robertson Trust.

In December Ventient

A' Chruach Community Fund awarded £40,000 via Foundation Scotland to fund the new kitchen and fit out a fully accessible café. Highlands and Islands Enterprise will provide £120,000 towards the main build works, while the EB Scotland landfill fund has granted £20,000 towards a soft play area.

Funding bids are still being submitted for fit-out and

revenue costs. As part of the massive makeover, the pool has also just taken delivery of an essential dehumidifier machine, thanks to £68,000 of funding.

A new Calorex Heat Recovery Dehumidifier keeping the pool safe and comfortable for users will replace an older machine that has served MACPool well over the years but was 'long past its best', said Mrs Ritchie,

**Kim Ritchie, chairperson of MACEL and Kirsty Young, who is MACPool's deputy manager, celebrating the latest grant towards the massive redevelopment project.**

despite it receiving 'professional and prompt maintenance by manufacturers KVC Ayr and the tender ministrations of pool staff'.

Staff and MACPool board members were delighted to receive a £40,000 grant towards the new machine from FCC Communities Foundation, a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community projects through the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund, and an extra £28,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund.

FCC Communities Foundation grant manager Cheryl Raynor said: 'We are delighted to be able to support the replacement of essential equipment at MACPool, enabling it to continue serving the community for many years to come.'

'Local community facilities have never been more important and we are so pleased to see that MACPool is able to provide a quality facility for everyone.'

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# Fund to help green-fingered spaces grow

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A village hall is growing its own community space with help of new funding.

Cairndow Hall and Recreation Committee has been awarded £4,750.60 to buy a big greenhouse as well as materials to build raised beds and buy water butts as part of an eco-friendly project to start up a new gardening club where people of all ages can share skills as well as seeds and cuttings grown on the site.

The money has come from the Scottish Government's Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform pot and is managed by Beautiful Scotland.

Interest has already been shown in the 8ft by 16ft greenhouse which, once built, will be a shared space with a central potting table.

The greenhouse will go on land at the back of the hall with kind permission of a landowner.

Produce grown will not be sold, instead it will be used in the community, says Sharon Hepburn, who is chairperson of Cairndow Hall and Recreation Committee.

The plan is to make all the outside areas around the hall a well-used space.

Fruit trees are going to be planted at the side and it is hoped the new garden at the front will become an area to hire out for garden parties in

the future, helping to bring funds back into the hall that has undergone a major revamp and is 'good to go' once Covid restrictions allow, says Sharon.

Some of the latest funding will also go towards buying sewing machines for the hall's craft clubs when they start up again.

To support the spirit of the recent Community Climate Asset Fund (CCAF) award, the hall committee has made a commitment to be eco-friendly whenever possible.

A total of 279 organisations across Scotland are being funded through the CCAF including Lochgilphead Joint Campus with £1,055.73 for food growing equipment. For the same purpose, Inveraray



The front garden at Cairndow Village Hall is the first phase of a project creating an outdoor space for all.

Primary School has been awarded £2,362.88 is going to Dalmally Primary School and Pre-five Primary School £9,131.35 and unit.

## Universal credit claimants top 6,000 in Argyll

More than 6,000 people in Argyll and Bute were claiming Universal Credit as of mid-November 2020, a report has revealed.

The document by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) also details the help which is at hand for people seeking employment in the area. According to the report, a total of 2,059 people were claiming Universal Credit via the Oban Job Centre as of November 12.

The report was due to be discussed at a pre-agenda meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's Helensburgh and Lomond Community Planning Group on Thursday, January 28.

It is also expected to be on the agenda for the three other community planning groups in the area, which are due to meet in February.

A Job Finding Support service has recently been started across the area, designed to help people who have recently become unemployed, while a 'Job Entry: Targeted Support' scheme was due to start from Monday January 25.

A Kickstart scheme is also providing funding to create new job placements for 16 to 24-year-olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment.

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Completed reinforcement work on the forestry road affected by last January's landslide on the A83.

## Landslide forest road safe again

Work has completed on stabilising a forest road part washed away in last year's landslide that blocked the A83.

It has been a seven-days-a-week job to make the area safe, including having to underpin a 50-metre stretch of the forest road to strengthen it and stop any further major collapse, says Forestry Land Scotland (FLS) planning manager John Hair.

The road, parallel to the A83 but higher up the slope, gives FLS access to forests and land that it manages at Glen Croe. The January 2020 landslide was the result of exceptionally heavy rain,

that had first caused a mini-slip that blocked an uphill drainage culvert. That saw water dam up, overflow the forest road and wash away more than 1,000 tonnes of debris onto the road.

Mr Hair said the blockage itself took a lot of clearing up and a catch pit was also constructed to prevent any more debris from reaching the road before work began on strengthening it.

'Once that had been completed, we were able to look at the longer term effort to carry out all the work required to make the forest road safe. After drilling 300 steel bars 10 metres into the

hillside, putting a concrete wall and beam in place, adding a guard rail and securing the downhill slope with 600 m2 of steel mesh, our forest road is open again,' he said.

FLS engineers will now reinstate the forest road by building an additional retaining wall above the road, widening the running surface and relocating the roadside drain.

Led by Forestry and Land Scotland, the team included the geotechnical engineers and consultants involved in resilience works elsewhere on the Rest and Be Thankful, and partners Transport Scotland and BEAR.W

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# Spare vaccines claim 'inaccurate'

## Police say it is not policy to refuse leftover vaccines

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A claim that Covid vaccines leftover from a GP surgery were declined by Lochgilhead police officers, has been branded 'completely inaccurate'.

Police Scotland's Deputy Chief Constable Malcolm Graham says the safety and wellbeing of its officers and staff has been given the highest priority throughout the pandemic but any suggestion that opportunities for front-line people to be vaccinated having been declined 'as a matter of policy are completely inaccurate'.

He said Police Scotland was 'hugely supportive' if health boards offered excess vaccines to frontline officers that would otherwise be wasted, and encouraged its people to take up the offer, but it would ensure all those people in the community who were clinically vulnerable had already been vaccinated and that it had confirmation from the health board that a second

dose would also be available to officers.

'We understand and are acutely aware of the legitimate concerns within the service regarding the position of policing in the national vaccination programme and have daily discussions with the Scottish Government so that should vaccination become available on a sectoral basis, policing is well placed to enable our people to receive vaccines,' he said.

### Safety and wellbeing of officers and staff has been given the highest priority

According to a source who contacted the Advertiser, a GP practice administering Covid vaccines on Thursday January 21 emailed the Lochgilhead police station and Police Scotland after exhausting contacting priority patients to offer 15 doses that otherwise would spoil.

The source claimed that after consultation with senior Police Scotland management it was 'decreed' that the officers were not allowed to use the vaccines.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute HSCP said: 'We are looking to keep any wastage at the end of clinics to an absolute minimum and follow the advice of Scottish Government and Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation on priority groups.'

Also this week, according to a report to the HSCP, the majority of Covid-19 cases in the region have occurred since the start of September. But the area's number of cases per 100,000 people has remained lower than neighbouring council areas, with the exception of December when there was a contained outbreak at Faslane among personnel at HM Naval Base Clyde.

The report stated that, as of Monday January 18, there had been 1,078 positive cases in Argyll and Bute. A total of

899 of those cases – 83.4 per cent – have happened since September 1.

Dr Nicola Schinaia, the HSCP's associate director of public health, said: 'During the second wave, rates of cases in Argyll and Bute have been lower than in neighbouring areas, with the exception of a peak in cases at the start of December relating to a contained workplace outbreak.'

An additional report showed that Helensburgh and Lomond has had more positive cases – 97 cases per 100,000 – than any other area of Argyll and Bute, followed by Bute and Cowal – 89.

This compared to 60 in Oban, Lorn and the Isles, and fewer than 20 in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands. The total number of cases recorded in Argyll and Bute during that week was 58, the same as for the previous seven days.

According to figures from the National Records of Scotland (NRS), 87 Covid-related deaths had occurred in Argyll and Bute up to January 10.

## Snowday Crinan Canal fun for Valerie



'Snowexcuse needed for teaching assistant Valerie Cleave, who was making the most of the wintry weather along the Crinan Canal at Cairnbaan. Downhill ski resorts may be closed but cross country skiing along the canal was very much open for Valerie last weekend. Valerie, who used both types of skiing in Switzerland and Canada in her youth, could not wait to get out her cross-country skis from the shed to get in her daily exercise-with-a-difference.'

## Council budget group spares pupil assistants and school crossing patrollers

Pupil support assistants are set to be spared the axe as part of Argyll and Bute Council's budget-setting process in February.

Councillors have also decided that school crossing patrollers will be safe – although those posts were not explicitly mentioned in the most recent

list of savings options. A report before the council's policy and resources committee in December showed that pupil support assistants were one of many savings options being proposed.

It was estimated that scrapping them would see 38 jobs lost, but councillors oversee-

ing the budget process have confirmed that it will not be recommended.

The report did not mention in detail school crossing patrollers, whose posts have been under scrutiny as part of the last two budgets. The savings option was not taken by the council on either occasion.

The authority will set its 2021/22 budget at a Skype meeting on Thursday, February 25.

The authority's deputy leader, Helensburgh Central Conservative councillor Gary Mulvaney, who chairs the council's budget working group, said: 'The working

group that we put in place to look at this year's budget, and which includes cross party members, unanimously agreed that potential savings around pupil support assistants and school crossing patrollers should not be taken. That is our recommendation to members.'

'While the council will not finally consider its budget until the end of February, and there are undoubtedly still difficult long term decisions to be made to safeguard services within tight public finances, it made sense meantime to provide some reassurance to those particular staff affected.'

## 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.



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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)

## Consultation starts on future cemetery needs

Members of the public are being invited to have their say on the best way to manage Argyll and Bute's cemeteries.

The council is developing new policies for the future and wants to hear people's views.

Argyll and Bute has 131 cemeteries throughout its communities, but 67 cemeteries are now closed to the sale of spaces. Community volunteers, in a small number of areas, support council services by maintaining burial grounds and similar initiatives would be welcomed elsewhere.

According to statute, local authorities are only required to provide one cemetery per area. Councillor Rory Colville, policy lead for Roads and Infrastructure Services, said: 'What we want to do is understand priorities and expectations so we can plan for the future.'

The consultation is at: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-future-cemeteries>

# Holiday parks get rebrand ready for staycation season

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A holiday parks owner has invested £1m in a re-branding roll-out, ready for a staycation boom bringing jobs to Argyll.

Boss of Argyll Holidays Keith Campbell says a recruitment drive is expected when the parks re-open this year and has pledged to keep helping nearby businesses and attractions that depend on the footfall of visitors its eight parks attract.

Jobs, including housekeeping and various front of house roles, will create seasonal work opportunities at the parks that run a Friends of Argyll scheme promoting other local businesses, said Mr Campbell.

The company's £1m new look includes new uniforms for its 260 staff across its eight parks from Drimsynie to Dunoon and Lochawe to Loch Lomond,



Argyll Holidays' Drimsynie estate ready for the £1m re-brand.

a new website, a new navy and white logo as well as signs to show visitors the way.

Despite current Covid restrictions, the family-run company that started from farming roots more than 50 years ago, is making sure it will

be in the best position with its new look to make the most of a predicted rise in staycation demand.

Visitor numbers rose by 50 per cent when lockdown restrictions eased in July last year and although the business had to cancel all its bookings for January and February, reservations for March onwards are up by more than 100 per cent compared to those same months in 2019.

Mr Campbell said the company had also seen a 40 per cent increase in sales of caravan and luxury lodges since last March. The new website and its social media presence has already reached more than

700,000 users this year.

'After the first spring lockdown, we were almost completely fully booked with the highest demand we have ever experienced,' said Mr Campbell.

'We saw many families visit for the first time, keen to get out and explore the beautiful countryside around our parks and make new memories together. Many of these families have already re-booked for 2021, showing that the staycation trend shows no signs of slowing down.'

'Our new brand comes at an exciting time for Argyll Holidays. Not only are we seeing light at the end of the tunnel around the pandemic but we are also seeing a renewed passion and excitement for holidaying in Scotland and we're gearing up for a strong, busy 2021,' he added.

'We expect to see more holidaymakers seeking outdoor breaks where they can embrace nature and open spaces. Scottish holiday makers also want to support Scottish business and we are extremely grateful to our loyal customers who return year after year.'

'Sustainability is at the heart of everything we do - from the day-to-day running of our holiday parks to purchasing local goods and services.'



The drained Crinan Canal at Cairnbaan.

## Dredging at Crinan Canal continues

**Dredging as part of a multi-million pound upgrade of the Crinan Canal is expected to start at Ardrishaig Harbour in March.**

**Work is already clearing the canal on a drained section of the canal.**

**Known as the most beautiful shortcut in Scotland and opened in the early 1800s, the nine-mile-long Crinan Canal is undergoing a facelift that includes replacing lock gates.**

**The £4.2 million project is part of wider plans across Scotland to replace lock gates that have deteriorated over the years or present a risk to safety.**

**In November the Scottish Government awarded £1 million of extra funding to Scottish Canals to undertake dredging works on the Crinan and Caledonian canals.**

**A Scottish Canals spokesman said: 'Dredging along the Crinan Canal is underway at the moment - currently the team are clearing the canal on the drained section.'**

# Window of opportunity for shopfront improvements

A window of opportunity is being offered to businesses across Argyll wanting to boost trade.

An art gallery, delicatessen, museum and fabric shop are among businesses to have already benefited from Argyll and Bute Council's latest round of shopfront improvement grants.

And there is still time for more to apply for the next lot of funding coming via the Scottish Government Town Centre funding pot.

The council is already processing 22 more applications from businesses across the region and the closing date in time for the next round is February 12.

Lochgilthead, Ardrishaig



Businesses in Lochgilthead can an apply for shopfront improvement funding.

and Tarbert are among the areas that can apply as well as Bowmore on Islay and Tobermory on Mull.

Councillor Alastair Redman, policy lead for Business, Regenerations and

Commercial Development said: 'We know that businesses across Argyll and Bute are having an incredibly challenging time just now as the impact of the pandemic continues.'

'Although many of our shops are unable to open just now, we have to look at how we support the local economy in the present and as part of our longer recovery.'

He added: 'Shopfront Improvement Grants provide additional help to improving business exteriors to make them more inviting for residents and visitors.'

Complementary schemes running in Rothesay, Dunoon, Campbeltown and Oban, each have their own individual application processes.

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# Ardrishaig says fond farewell to 99-year-old

Ardrishaig has said farewell to one of its oldest villagers, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Ann Duff Hamilton of Woodend Cottage died on January 11 just a couple of months short of her 100th birthday.

The Hamiltons, who came from Ayrshire, were fishermen originally settling near Ardrishaig about 1826.

Anne's father Willie and his brothers later trained as shipbuilders at Denny's on Clydeside and after the First World War jointly established a successful shipbuilding business in Buckie in 1920 to service the fishing industry there.

Ann was born in Buckie but in 1938 Willie and his family returned to Clydeside where he worked at John Brown's shipyard.

After the blitz of 1941 Ann,

**'She was a strong and engaging personality with a wonderful sense of humour'**

her mother Dalina and her younger brother Campbell moved back to Ardrishaig.

At first the family lived at Seabank Cottage, behind Fisherman's Row, on what was known as The Holy Land because it was previously owned by a church – that property is now gone and has been replaced by the more modern buildings facing the loch at the bottom of Brae Road.

The family later moved to Woodend cottage where Ann lived for the rest of her life.

One of Ann's roles in her working life was as a 'clerkess', her own description, at the

National Registration office in Lochgilphead.

Ann's relative Bob Hamilton, who lives in Southport, said she was a 'colourful' character.

Sharing a common interest in family and social history, he said: 'Ann was a huge wealth of information.'

'She had the most remarkable and reliable memory for names, dates and events generally, for which I am indebted to her. She was a strong and engaging personality with a wonderful sense of humour but she was also an intellectually bright woman with strong principles.'

'She was not parochial in her outlook and could see the bigger picture.'

He added: 'A couple of years ago I asked her if she would like to live to be 100 and she said not especially but 'I'd like to live a wee bit longer'.



Family photo of Ann Duff Hamilton in 1989

Ann got her wish and died at home on January 11 just over two months short of her

100th birthday. She is a huge loss to all family and the local community.'

## New advice on masks for hospital settings

Updated advice from NHS Highland says all staff, patients and visitors coming into hospital settings should now wear surgical masks – also known as Fluid Resistant Surgical Masks (FRSM) – instead of face coverings to help beat Covid.

FRSMs will be provided. With Covid-19 more prevalent in the health authority board area than previously, and the new more transmissible variant present, NHS Highland says it also applies to all non-clinical/patient-facing staff when it is not possible for them to physically distance from colleagues within offices or moving between departments.

Staff who work in non-clinical shared office spaces should also make sure they are using surgical masks. Hand hygiene continues to be encouraged. This is particularly important when handling face coverings and masks.

# Top stalwart award for farmer Dugie

An Inveraray farmer, who has helped rear a future generation of agricultural workers, has been honoured for his dedication.

Dougie Ford is this year's recipient of the Stalwart award, presented annually by NFU Scotland's Argyll and the Islands region. His win was announced at the branch's virtual regional AGM by chairman Duncan Macalister of Glenbarr Farms, Tarbert.

Mr Ford has spent a lifetime in farming, initially in Ayrshire, and for more than 40 years in Argyll.

During that time, he has been an active and participating member of NFU Scotland's Mid Argyll branch. His early career saw him working at the Hannah Dairy Research Foundation near Ayr focusing on the rearing of dairy calves.

He secured the tenancy of High Balantyre Farm at Inveraray and he arrived driving his little grey Fergie, complete with his hen house on the back containing all his possessions. With dogged determination and remarkable

entrepreneurial attitude, he set about building up a successful business that started off with hens, turkeys, pigs and rearing calves providing the foundation to establish a beef herd that peaked at 80 cows.

Mr Macalister said: 'Dougie Ford is a very worthy recipient of this award because he has spent a lifetime encouraging and mentoring young people in north Argyll to achieve a career in agriculture.'

And Sybil MacPherson, who proposed Mr Ford, said: 'Dougie's amazing knowledge of people and his ability to connect with young folk has, over the years, provided both education for youngsters, and importantly, given a home and moral guidance to numerous young people who had an interest in agriculture but also required a friend and mentor.'

'He provided facilities, support and encouragement for around 20 years to young people involved in Modern Apprenticeships Schemes to help them achieve a formal education in agriculture along with a practical understanding



Dougie Ford is a stalwart of farming life in Argyll.

of life in general.

'His patience at times would be sorely tested, but he persevered always looking for the best in folk and providing the stability of a home if necessary.'

Mr Ford said: 'I am totally surprised by the award but very delighted. I have always been keen to help young people with an interest in agriculture to get on and to provide them with the opportunities.'



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# World's biggest school pipe band event goes online

Schools in Argyll and Bute are being challenged to take part in an online music competition with prizes of more than £2,500 on offer.

The Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships are going online to beat Covid, and young musicians from across Scotland are being urged to take part.

The event is being organised by the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust.

Convener David Johnston said: 'We had cancelled the event for 2021 - but then a number of school tutors contacted us asking for the event to go online to help keep young players focused and give them some fun in lockdown.'

'So we have slimmed the event down to just one class - the innovative Freestyle class where pipes and drums combine with other instruments



The Lochgilphead Joint Campus pipe band foursome of Donal Bremner, tutor Stuart Liddell, Harry Adair and Abbie Williams scooped the quartet trophy in 2018.



School bands are invited to take part in the innovating 2021 Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships.

and Drums Trust offers help and cash grants to councils, schools and parent groups for piping and drumming tuition in Scottish state schools.

It also has the world's biggest free bagpipe loan scheme, lending instruments to hundreds of young players across the country.

The trust is currently supporting the delivery of in-school pipe and drum tuition to more than 3,000 pupils in Scottish schools.

More details can be found on the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust website.

and singers to give a modern twist to traditional music.'

Schools are being asked to express interest in taking part by February 7 and a number have already signed up.

The competition will be broadcast online across the

weekend starting Friday March 26, and the public will have the chance to cast their vote in a live people's choice event on Sunday March 28.

Some of Scotland's top musicians will judge the event, including Gary Innes, box player

for Manran and presenter of BBC Scotland's Take the Floor and Craig Munro of the Red Hot Chilli Pipers.

Craig said: 'Amazing music can be created and orchestrated online now using apps, and this competition opens up a

world-wide audience for the youngsters.

'All bands have to do is film their entries using music apps and submit them for judging by March 14. Registrations close on February 7.'

The Scottish Schools Pipes

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Promotion for Mid Argyll Nurse Garrick McCann

## Promotion for Mid Argyll nurse

Mid Argyll nurse Garrick McCann has been promoted to senior staff nurse.

Nurse McCann, who is on the Glenaray Ward of Mid Argyll Community Hospital, started his career as a health care assistant. In his new position he will take on a significant clinical leadership role, including delivering high-quality services and patient-centred care.

Garrick said: 'I am really pleased at my new senior nursing role, and cannot be more grateful to have the support from a wide range of colleagues around me that include nursing, medical, and allied health professionals.'

Garrick has been caring for patients at Mid Argyll Hospital since 2007. He qualified as a registered nurse in 2012 after completing the pre-registration nursing programme with the Open University.

Catriona Watt, area manager of Mid Argyll Community Hospital, said: 'He is a highly-valued and skilled member of our nursing team in Mid Argyll and has a broad range of excellent clinical competencies and nursing care skills.'

Garrick provides clinical care, support and services for patients on the ward on a daily basis. He also supports the senior charge nurse with management of the Glenaray ward and works closely with a wide range of health and social care staff. And he provides training and support for junior members of staff and trainee nurses on placement.

He said: 'Being in hospital is not something anyone wants to go through. However, as a team we all aim to make the experience as positive as we can. Caring is my passion and as a member of the nursing team my role is to ensure delivery of exceptional patient care. The most rewarding part of my job is seeing patients recover and knowing that they have received the best multi-disciplinary team care possible.'

# Covid impact project for youth

## ABYouthVoice on Lockdown invites young people to be heard

Young people aged 12 to 25 years are being invited to make themselves heard across Argyll and Bute.

Covid has had a massive impact on young lives and a new have-your-say project from the Argyll and Bute Youth Participation scheme wants to hear all about it.

ABYouthVoice on Lockdown is hosting an online meeting next month and wants as many people as possible from far and wide across the region to join in so it can have an open and frank discussion on how Covid-related issues are affecting them – those issues could be anything from access to rights, education or mental wellbeing and the future.

The plan after the first meeting is to recruit a group of people passionate about championing their peers' voices and making sure those voices are heard and listened to by decision makers both during and after lockdown for the long term, says Rosie Sumsion, one of Argyll and Bute's representatives in the

Scottish Youth Parliament.

Anyone interested in getting involved on Thursday February 11 at 7pm can sign up at [tinyurl.com/ABYouthVoice](http://tinyurl.com/ABYouthVoice)

The meeting is for anyone interested to hear more about the project and wanting to share their opinions.

Rosie added: 'You don't have to be an expert in consultation or participation. You don't need to sign your soul away at the meeting or commit to joining the group, but we would



Rosie Sumsion, one of Argyll and Bute's representatives in the Scottish Youth Parliament.

love to get as many people as possible to come along and hear what they have to say.

'It's a chance to share opinions and meet others. It's a

really exciting opportunity to be part of a project that is being driven by young people.

'I'd like to think of this group as being a megaphone to make

sure we are heard and listened to. We are keen to work with children's champions and with councillors to make positive change.'



## Council objects to pay phones removal

A council committee has officially objected to plans by BT to remove dozens of telephone boxes.

Sixty-eight public pay phones across Argyll and Bute faced disconnection because of a massive fall off in use, with BT holding a 90-day consultation.

It included phones in Lochgilphead, Dunoon, Helensburgh, Campbeltown, Taynuilt and Dalmally, and across Mull, the Isle of Coll, Isla and Jura.

Figures show the vast majority of pay phones have an average of zero calls a month.

The most used box in Argyll and Bute was in Burnbank Street, Campbeltown, having seven a month.

Councillors on the planning, protective services and licensing committee (PPSL) objected to the removal of 55 payphones and agreed with the proposed removal of 10.

There are community plans to adopt three, with

those wishing to adopt having to pay £1 and provide a contact email address.

Some are used to hold defibrillators, small libraries, cake shops and as general public information hubs.

BT said payphone use had declined by more than 90 per cent in the last decade and the need to provide them for emergency use had greatly diminished.

It said at 'least 98 per cent of the UK' now had either 3G or 4G mobile phone network coverage.

It said: 'This is important because as long as there is network coverage, it's now possible to call the emergency services, even when there is no credit or no coverage from your own mobile provider.'

### CONTACTUS

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If you need help to pay for a loved one's funeral and receive certain benefits, you can apply for Funeral Support Payment. It's a one-off payment towards burial or cremation costs and more. People typically receive around £1700 in financial support and you can apply after a person has died until 6 months after the date of their funeral.

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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

## Funding joy at MACPool

Fortune is smiling on the MACPool project.

In challenging times of Covid, it is a joy to splash our front page with the latest news of sportscotland granting the ambitious redevelopment project £100,000.

The gratefully received money will go towards an inclusive changing village so people of all abilities will be able to enjoy the pool and share the benefits of being active.

This sportscotland award is the latest in a string of grants recognising the project's commitment to improving the lives of its community through sport and physical activity by transforming the current facility into a health and wellbeing hub.

Kim Ritchie, chairperson of MACEL board, says the latest grant means that MACPool now has the funding it needs to cover the project's main build and sign a contract with a builder.

But that is not the end – about £100,000 is needed to fit-out the new hub and with work on the build pencilled in to start by spring, the community will be encouraged to dip into their pockets once Covid restrictions allow to help feed the coffers.

More bids and applications from funders are in progress to help reach the goal, and let us hope the community that is set to benefit from this admirable project will be lining the length of this marathon effort when that time comes, cheering it on to good health and the finishing line.

## Delivery charges 'rip-off'

Sir,

I write with reference to a story in the January 15 edition of the Argyllshire Advertiser under the headline 'Extortionate charges add to Christmas cost'.

Charges by various carriers are now becoming nothing short of a rip-off for those of us living in rural areas of Scotland.

Our postcode of PA is for Paisley area, and as such affects house and motor insurance, yet according to the carriers we are 'remote'. Just this morning I ordered online a couple of items that were featherweight and would fit into a small box four inches by two inches by two inches. The cost of the items was £21.40, but postage was £14.20!

How this can be justified is beyond my reckoning. I have purchased items online where the postage exceeds the cost of the item. There is little point in complaining, since no one listens, certainly not the carriers.

It is my opinion that many retailers who are depending on online shopping are losing trade because of this ongoing problem, one that needs urgent attention.

Bryan Passey, Lochgilphead

## Here to help those living with sight loss during lockdown

Sir,

For everyone, 2020 was a difficult year. The situation is particularly challenging for those living with sight loss. Many have faced anxiety, sadness and even fear about the unique chal-

lenges they have experienced - problems such as social distancing, difficulty shopping without guidance and isolation from losing tactile contact with friends and family during lockdown.

That's why RNIB has launched emergency mental health sessions for blind and partially sighted people.

The sessions are completely free and offer people with sight loss the opportunity to speak to a counsellor for an hour over the phone, about however they are feeling and any problems that are on their mind. It doesn't have to be about their sight at all.

If you, or someone you know, could benefit from speaking to someone, please call our Helpline on 0303 123 9999. We can set up a chat within 36 hours and the service can be used as many times as needed.

James Adams, director, Royal National Institute of Blind People Scotland, Edinburgh

An open letter, dated January 15, from Argyll and Bute Council leader Councillor Robin Currie to Alister Jack MP, Secretary of State for Scotland:

## Argyll and Bute's Seafood Sector Sustainability

Dear Alister,

In the weeks since the UK left the European Union, I have been contacted by numerous Argyll and Bute residents and businesses who share my very deep concerns about the future sustainability and, indeed, the survival of our vital shellfish and fishing sector.

The seafood sector is a vital component of our already-fragile regional economy and is now hit by the inability, virtually overnight, for producers and processors to get their time-sensitive products to market or to customers.

If allowed to go unresolved, this sector is likely to disappear, badly affecting Argyll and Bute's overall recovery and future growth.

Fish and shellfish from Argyll and Bute are high quality products of international renown.

The industry has been a mainstay and a major employer in the area for many decades, sustaining not only the local economy but making a significant contribution to the Scottish and UK economies.

I am now hearing from long-standing fishing families, newer start-up businesses and companies employing hundreds of people that, if urgent action is not taken, they will have to close their doors for good. This would be devastating for Argyll and Bute, where the sector comprises many single-family operated vessels, smaller fleets and artisan producers as well as some medium to larger enterprises.

As a council we are doing all that we can to support these businesses and prevent this imminent disaster.

Our officers are working behind the scenes to assist and are in constant discussions with the Scottish Government to reiterate the critical need for the commercial hubs to operate smoothly, ensuring that the right processes are in place to help businesses get their goods to their customers.

We are also speaking to Argyll and Bute producers to help them navigate these new processes and to issue all the necessary paper-

## Press policy

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

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work where appropriate, so that these valuable products reach buyers.

Delays on both sides of the border have already seen valuable products being lost, together with valued customers who are seeking their produce elsewhere.

Very urgent action and assistance is needed now from your government in order to prevent this traditional Scottish industry sector from disappearing altogether.

Most urgently of all, getting products to market must be streamlined, simplified and speeded up.

These products need to be prioritised over products with longer shelf lives – if the situation is allowed to persist then very many companies will have no choice but to give up, costing jobs and much-needed revenue to the treasury.

In addition to improving processes and the speed of delivery here in the UK, these businesses, so vital to Argyll and Bute and Scotland's economic recovery and future success, need your government to negotiate urgently with its counterparts in Europe to identify and resolve the delays in allowing fresh goods to arrive in and then to progress on to customers.

I cannot state strongly enough that these actions are needed now. More is required, though, in the medium and longer terms, to help this beleaguered industry to get afloat again and regain some buoyancy.

Producers and customers need reassurance that future supplies will be prioritised and to regain confidence in the industry through dedicated marketing and investment where possible through the £100m fisheries fund your government announced following the publication of the agreement. Our seafood sector desperately needs Government to take action to secure its survival.

**Robin Currie,**  
Argyll and Bute Council leader

## YOUR PICTURES



Siobhán Canavan from Cairnbaan sent the Advertiser this unusual photo taken at the beginning of January of a Land Rover gently merging with nature, but still used for a practical purpose. 'It's something a bit different from all those pretty frost-laden trees and hedges,' said Siobhán. 'I have called it Mobile Wood Store, though I couldn't see this vehicle going anywhere fast.' Send your favourite photographs for publication to [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)

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Mandy Allison on 01700 501521

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

**Helensburgh and Lomond**  
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Jill Denton on 07707 868351

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





Under the latest Scottish lockdown arrangements, announced at the beginning of January, weddings can take place - but limited to the bare minimum requirement of five people. But, as Tarbert artist Ann Thomas muses, perhaps it's not altogether bad news...for some.

## Crossword challenge crosses Covid miles

Ardrishaig brother and sister Malky McNab and Colina Cameron are pens at the ready to complete their 500th crossword since lockdown started last March.

The 79 and 86-year-olds, who stay just a few doors away from each other, go online weekdays at 10am to workout crosswords with Colina's daughter Roma Philand, who is hundreds of miles away in Kent.

The crossword-busting trio have not missed any of their regular Monday to Friday sessions since the first day of lockdown last year, says Roma, whose idea it was to set up a Whatsapp group to cheer them all up during the pandemic.

'We really look forward to seeing each other, having a family catch up and, above all, getting our heads together to solve the daily puzzles,' said Roma. On Monday February 8 they will celebrate solving what will be their 500th crossword with a glass of fizz.

'It really is some feat considering that my mum is 87 this year and my uncle is 79. They

have always loved doing crosswords together. Mum used to go round to Malky's house a few times a week until Covid stopped that. We've found doing them together online is a great way of helping each other through this time of Covid and keeping cheerful. We'll be having a bottle of bubbles to mark our 500th one. I don't know if we'll finish it - the crossword that is!' added Roma.



From Ardrishaig to Kent.

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**Around the markets**

**United Auctions, – Lochboisdale, South Uist, Tuesday January 19:** sold 179 store cattle, 24 cows and 147 sheep of all classes. Bulls sold to £1,100 for a 435kg, CharX from Mr C Morrison, 136 Stilligarry to average £815.11 (+£85.45) and to 288p/kg for a 295kg, LimX from Miss M Morrison, 18 West Gerinish to average 246.49p/kg (+23.61p). Heifers sold to £955 for a 355kg, AAX from Mr A Campbell, 8 Milton to average £718.63 (+£42.44) and to 274p/kg for a 250kg, SimX from Mr D A MacIsaac, 4 Borge, Berneray to average 236.8p/kg (+31.8p/kg). OTM cows sold to £1,160 for an AAX from Mr A Campbell, 8 Milton and 141p/kg for a LimX from Mr E MacDonald, Old Inn, Tigharry.  
Lambs sold to £85 for SuffX from Kate MacDonald, Croismorag, Clachan to average £60.88 (+£14.86).  
An increased entry in all sections sold exceptionally

well. United Auctions thanked both mainland and local personnel attending the sale for their conscientious approach to adhering to Covid-19 restrictions set in place.  
Leading lots and prices per head:  
BLKS – AAX - £970, 310 Kilpheder; £955(4), £950, 8 Milton; £875, 261 Daliburgh. BSHx - £760, 15 Hougharry. BAX - £800, 6 Dunganichy. CHARx - £1,100, £1,090, £1,070(2), £980, £925, £820, 136 Stilligarry. LIMx - £1,050, 1 Knockaline; £1,030, 7 Frobost; £1,025, Old Inn; £1,020, 1 Knockaline; £995, £985, 7 Nunton; £985, 100 Carnan; £970, 325 North Boisdale; £955, 1/2 Frobost; £950, 220 Stoneybridge; £950, 7 Nunton; £940(2), 220 Stoneybridge; £900(3), 18 West Gerinish.  
HFRS – AAX - £955, 8 Milton; £880, 301 Kilpheder; £820, 319 Kilpheder. CHARx - £940, £930, £880(2), 136 Stilligarry. LIMx -

£920, Old Inn; £880, 7 Frobost; £880, 342 North Boisdale. SALx - £770, 5 Dunganachy.  
OTM cows £1,160, 8 Milton; £1020, 8 Kildonan; £1,000, Old Inn; £950, 8 Milton; £940, 290 Kilpheder; £940, Old Inn.  
Cow and calf £900, 5 Frobost.  
Prices per kilo:  
BLKS – AAX - 269p(4), 8 Milton; 267p, 3 Bunavullin; 267p(3), 8 Milton; 264p, Hillview; 264p, 6 Askernish; 259p(3), 8 Milton; 258p, 6 Askernish; 257p, 205 Stoneybridge; 252p, Hillview; 251p(2), 2 Drimisdale. BSHx – 253p, 15 Hougharry. BAX – 287p, 325 North Boisdale; 276p, 6 Dunganichy. CHARx – 256p, 253p(2), 249p, 136 Stilligarry. LIMx – 288p, 18 West Gerinish; 278p, 4 Frobost; 275p, 1 Drimisdale; 273p, 325 North Boisdale; 273p, 17 Torlum; 271p, 4 Borge; 271p, 1 Milton; 266p, 100 Carnan; 262p, 9 Milton; 259p, 1/2 Frobost; 259p, 7 Nunton; 258p, 1/2 Frobost; 257p, 7 Nunton; 257p, 1/2 Frobost; 255p, 1 Knockaline; 255p, 17 Torlum.  
HFRS – AAX – 269p, 8 Milton;

255p, 252p, 3 Bunavullin; 251p, 205 Stoneybridge; 247p(2), 261 Daliburgh. CHARx – 242p, 241p(3), 136 Stilligarry. LIMx – 271p, 1/2 Frobost; 269p, 9 Malaglate; 268p, 17 Hougharry; 260p, 344 North Boisdale; 254p, 7 Middlequarter; 253p, 9 Malaglate; 252p, 18 West Gerinish; 252p, 9 Malaglate; 251p, 1 Milton; 250p, 19 Carinish. SALx – 243p(3), 5 Dunganichy. SIMx – 274p, 4 Borge, Berneray.  
OTM cows – 141p, Old Inn; 127p, 136 Stilligarry; 124p, 3 Hosta, Old Inn; 121p, 290 Kilpheder; 120p, 8 Milton(2), 8 Kildonan.  
Lambs– SuffX - £85.00, £81.00, Croismorag. TexX - £76.00, £66.00, Croismorag. Chev - £73.00, 8 Peninerine. Cross - £57.00, Croismorag. BF - 71.00, Croismorag; £60.00, 29 Clachan.  
Rams – Suff - £84.00, 7 Sollas. Tex - £95.00, 29 Claddach; £85.00, 6 Milton. Chev - £90.00, 10 Malaclate; £88.00, 469 North Lochboisdale. Cross - £91.00, 6 Milton. BF - £70.00, 15 Aird.  
Wedders - £109, 1 Malaglate;

£100, Dunsellar. EWES - £92.00, 254 Daliburgh.  
**Caledonian Marts Ltd, Monday January 25:** Caledonian Marts Ltd had forward 229 Store Cattle at its fortnightly sale with a strong ringside of buyers forward for all types of cattle resulting in 116 bullocks averaging £1007 and 113 heifers averaging £906.  
Bullocks averaged 230ppkg selling to 313ppkg for a pen of Limousins from J MacNicol & Sons, Turnault, Argyll and to £1400 for a pen of Limousins from A Kennedy, Seggarsdean, Haddington.  
Heifers averaged 226ppkg selling to 306ppkg on two occasions for pens of Limousins from J MacNicol & Sons, Turnault, Argyll and again a pen of Limousins from W H & M Sloan, Mull of Galloway, Wigtownshire, and to £1380 for a Limousin from A Kennedy, Seggarsdean, Haddington.  
Dairy bullocks sold to 205ppkg from J & D Mitchell, Offers, Stirling and to £850 from the same home.

**Other Leading Prices:**  
Bullocks per Head:  
£1,370 Seggarsdean  
£1,360 Howkerse & Seggarsdean  
£1,310 & £1,300 (Twice) Seggarsdean  
£1,290 Skeoch & Seggarsdean  
£1,280 & £1,270 Seggarsdean  
£1,240 Skeoch  
Heifers per head:  
£1,330 Seggarsdean  
£1,240, £1,230 & £1,200 Seggarsdean  
£1,190 Hill O' Harthill & Seggarsdean  
£1,180 Seggarsdean  
£1,170 Inchgall  
£1,160 Howkerse  
£1,140 Shortrigg & Hill O' Harthill  
Bullocks per kg:  
292p Turnault  
284p Aird (Campbell)  
278p & 268p Offers  
266p Turnault  
260p Offers  
Heifers per kg  
283p & 274p Turnault  
270p Mull of Galloway  
267p Seggarsdean & Mull of Galloway.



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**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  
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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. 100).





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**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
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# John McPhee

*Tracking the journey of Scotland's top motorcycle racer*



# John McPhee - From the beginning

With a mad keen amateur motocross rider for a father and a former Scottish Road Racing Championship 'Rookie of the Year' and BSB Superstock race winner in the family, John McPhee's interest in motorcycles was hardly surprising.

Dad, Alasdair, raced a Honda CR250 in local motocross events and the annual beach event at Weston-super-Mare, while Uncle Mark, campaigned a Yamaha R1 and Suzuki GSXR 1000 in the Scottish and British national championships.

'Racing bikes is something I have wanted to do for as long as I can remember,' said John, 'I dreamed of making a career from it but never really thought back then that I would.'

With bikes well and truly in his blood, John was bought an electric bicycle at the age of three and acquired a Yamaha PW50 at five. By the age of eight he was competing with the Oban Youth Motocross Club, rising through the ranks from 50cc to 85cc machines over the course of the next six years before signing off with a class championship in each year.

'This was when I really got a passion for racing,' he added.

'We used to travel around a lot with my dad and uncle and that was when the love of road racing really came to the fore.'

When John turned 12 the family bought an Aprilia 125 for a season-long Formula 125 campaign in the Scottish Championship, but after just two races the plans had to be put on hold for a year when he caught meningitis.

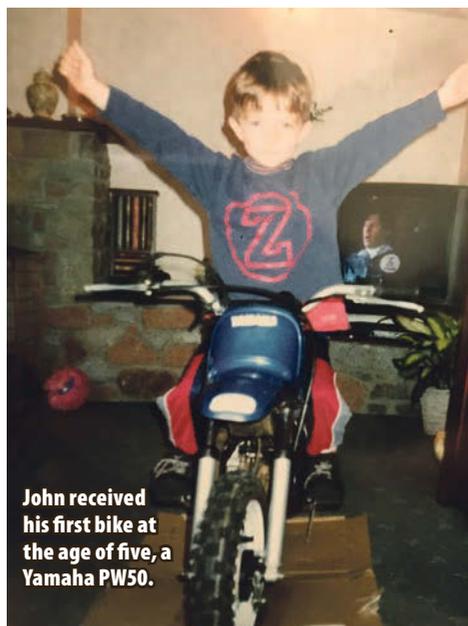
John resumed racing in 2007 and contested 15 races in the Scottish, North East of England and Melville Championships, claiming his first win and a total of seven podium finishes. A return to the championships in 2008 brought more success. He ended the year as triple Formula 125 champion courtesy of 29 wins



**Multiple Moto GP World Champion Valentino Rossi stops by to congratulate John on his first ever World Champion race win in Brno, Czech Republic, in 2016.**

and 37 podium finishes. His rise through the ranks signalled it was time to move on to tougher challenges and in 2009 he moved up a gear from Formula 125 to GP125 in the British Championship.

An uncompetitive bike impeded progress initially until KRP team boss Mark Keen spotted the privateer's potential and lent a hand with



**John received his first bike at the age of five, a Yamaha PW50.**

tuning and preparation. Results improved but a broken ankle eventually cut short his season.

He finished 36th in the championship overall and 11th in the integral U17s ACU Academy Cup but Keen had seen enough to recognise a race winner. As a result, in 2010 he joined the KRP squad for a full season in the British 125GP squad.

His first win came in the third round at Oulton Park after a race-long battle with the then-reigning champion James Lodge only for it to be disallowed due to a discrepancy between two sets of weighing scales used by the organisers.

But by the year-end the young rider from Oban had notched up a win that was allowed and four podiums to finish fifth in the championship and runner-up in the ACU Academy Cup.

In 2011, with backing from the Racing Steps Foundation (RSF), he continued with the KRP squad racing to 10th place in his rookie year in the CEV Buckler 125GP Championship in Spain and winning wildcard entries to three World Championship Grand Prix. His best placing was 15th in the British GP at Silverstone.

'When the RSF took me on and took me to Spain it was a real turning point for me,' said John.

'Up until then we had still been a small family run unit and were having to more or less fund ourselves. Spain is the central hub for Moto GP for two wheel racing. I realised then that if I wanted to make a career out of it then now was the time to knuckle down and prove myself.'

And that he did.

In 2012 John returned to the CEV Buckler Championship in the new 250cc four-stroke Moto3 category. John came seventh in the Championship, taking two podiums across the season. He also raced in the Moto3 World Championship in eight out of its 18 rounds, placing 36th.

2013 saw John riding with Jack Miller for SAXOPRINT RTG in his first Moto3 World Championships. He remained with the team for the 2014 season alongside new teammate Efen Vazquez, and 2015 with Alexis Masbou.

The following year he switched to the Peugeot Motorcycles Saxoprint squad, continuing to make his mark on the Moto3 category. Despite ongoing technical issues and injury he took

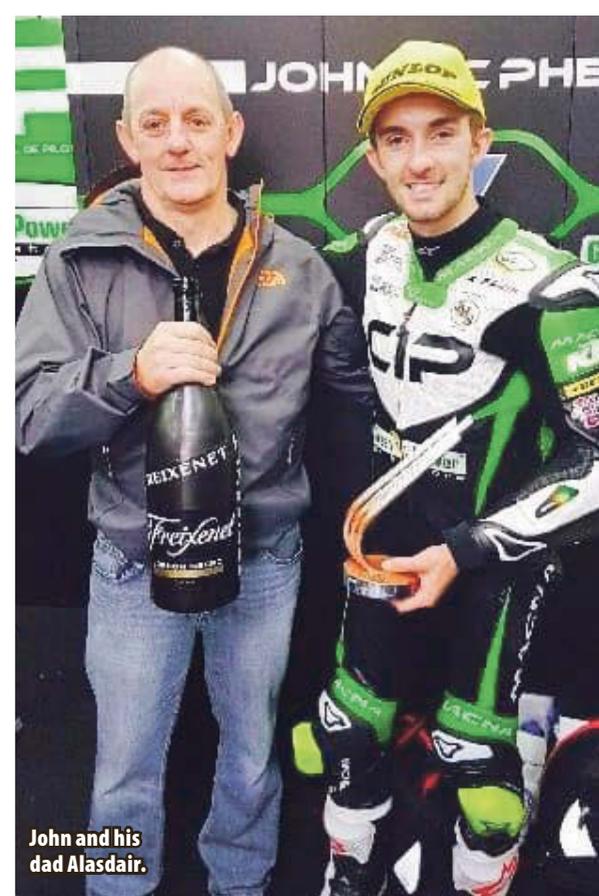
a stunning maiden victory in the rain at Brno.

Having raced with the newly created British Talent Team in 2017, John joined the KTM powered CIP Green Power Team in 2018, while 2019 saw him competing in the Moto3 World Championship with the Petronas Sprinta Moto3 Team, with whom he had a successful 2020 season.

**12-year-old John competed as a novice at East Fortune in 2007 on his first ever road race bike.**



**John and his mum Maggie.**



**John and his dad Alasdair.**

# The Petronas years and looking ahead

Having made the decision to continue his career in Moto3 rather than making the step up to Moto2, Connel race ace John McPhee signed with the Petronas Sprinta race team in the summer of 2018.

And he has never looked back since.

'Petronas came to me in June 2018 which was pretty early as most things don't happen in our season until around August,' he told us.

'They were the biggest team in the paddock at that point and I was struck by their professionalism, so I jumped at the chance.'

'It was at that point I made the decision to stay in Moto3 because I knew that with them I had a great chance at fighting to become World Champion.'

While John makes all the important career decisions himself, he is not averse to taking advice.

'I always discuss everything I do with my family,' he added, 'They have always been there, watch every race and I will never stop being grateful for their support.'

'Peter Ball from the RSF has also been a great help to me, as well as my good friend and ex-racer Michael Laverty.'

'I'm pretty happy with the choices I have made so far. It's pretty difficult to get into the World Championships, so to have been there for nine years now has been fantastic and something I would never have dreamed of when I first started racing.'

'Obviously I would like to step up at some point. I have a target of Moto2 and then maybe onto GP, but right now the main focus is to fight hard this year, win this Moto3 Championship and earn the chance to move up.'

In 2019 John raced his way to fifth in the championship, while last year he notched a seventh despite not finishing five of his 15 races.

Having notched two seconds and a third in a disrupted 2020 season, John took his first win since Le Mans in May 2019 in San Marino in September, coming from 17th on the grid for the dramatic victory. His participation in the event had been in doubt after an inconclusive Covid-19 test. A third test carried out just days before the race confirmed he did not have the virus.

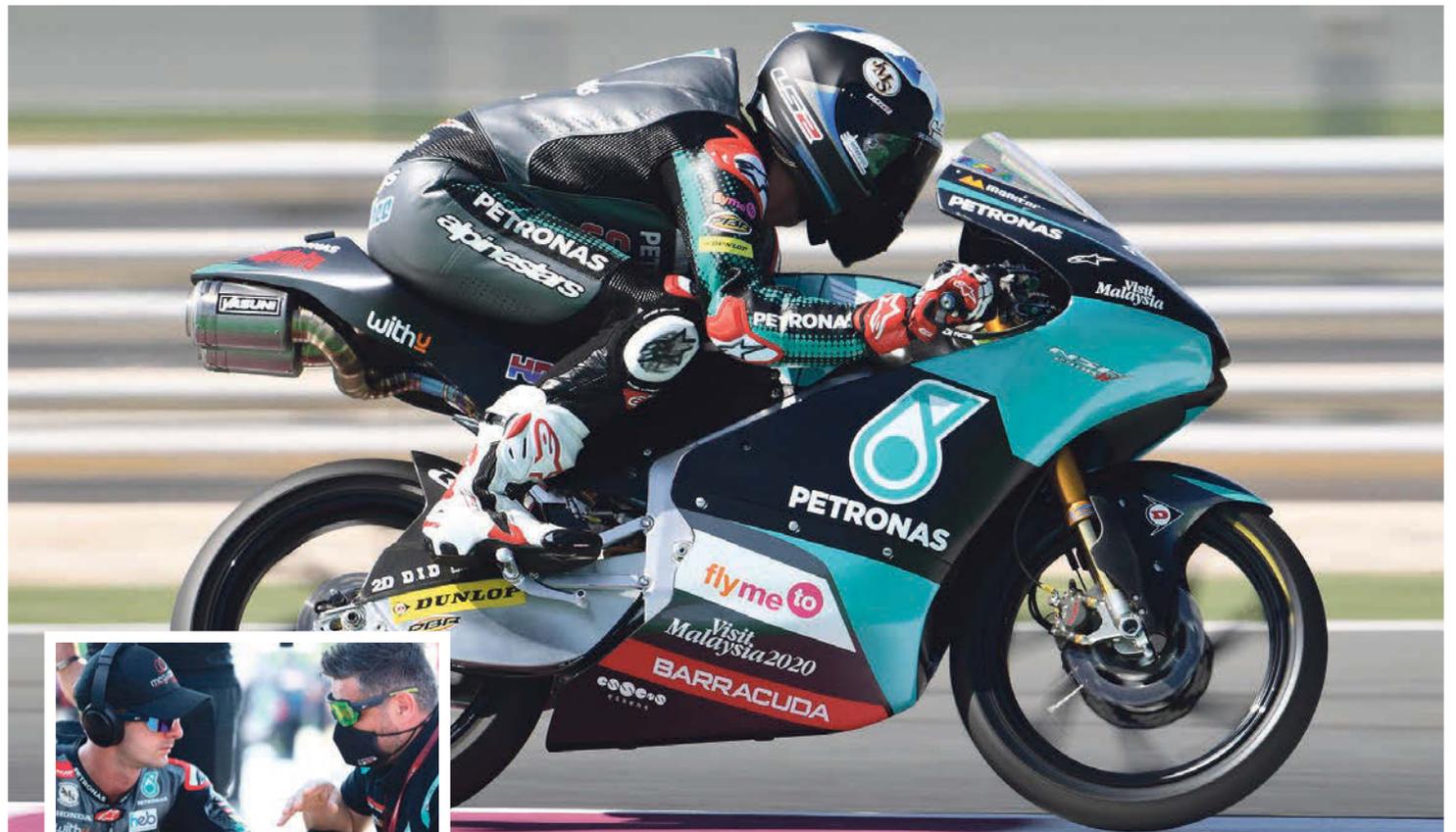
'In 2019 I had the consistency and wasn't making any mistakes and finished every race in the season, but there was the odd race where I was just missing that little bit of speed,' he explained.

'In 2020 I had the speed to win potentially every race but there was just a couple of errors being made. That and being taken out by other riders on a couple of occasions hindered me a bit.'

'There are definitely areas that can be improved on. The good thing is that the speed is there and the racecraft seems to be there, and if we can bring the whole package together I think we can be in for a strong 2021.'

Sentiments shared by his team boss.

Johan Stigefelt, PETRONAS team director told us: 'We really believed in John from the



beginning to step up our level in the category. He's a strong rider and we're delighted to continue our relationship for another third season together. The PETRONAS Sprinta Racing is the first team where John has stayed for more than one year, so that means our relationship is really good.

'In the first season together, we were able to see him mature and he was getting better and better at every race, achieving the first win for the team in France. That's was an historical moment for the whole team.'

'Last year the season was too much up and down when the potential was there to perform at the top level all the way through. There were external factors that perhaps didn't allowed us to focus fully on racing at some moments of the season. Anyway, we achieved another win and three further podiums and we were constantly fighting in the top positions.'

'John has the potential to be in the top three all the time so in 2021 we will work on ensuring this target.'

John will begin his 2021 campaign on March 29 at the Losail International Circuit in Qatar.

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**Congratulations to John on his continued success and best of luck for the 2021 Moto3 Grand Prix season.**

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### John McPhee's Racing to the top!

**2019: John finished fifth overall at the end of the 2019 Grand Prix season, with a momentous win in France in May.**

The 2020 Moto3 Grand Prix season was badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic this season, with 15 races able to go ahead from a total of 20 planned.

John finished the 2020 season in seventh place overall – a great result! On October 20 PETRONAS Sprinta Racing Team announced another year with John McPhee.

#### John's racing calendar – The Moto3 Grand Prix, 2020

Date	Event	Finishing position
8th March	Qatar	2nd
19th July	Spain	DNF (taken out)
26th July	Andalucia	2nd
9th August	Czech Republic	5th
16th August	Austria	3rd
23rd August	Styrian, Austria	DNF (crashed out)
13th September	San Marino and Rimini Riviera (Italy)	1st
20th September	Emilia Romagna and Rimini Riviera (Italy)	10th
27th September	Catalan (Barcelona)	DNF (crashed out)
11th October	France	DNF (taken out)
18th October	Aragon (Spain)	5th
25th October	Teruel (Spain)	6th
8th November	European (Valencia, Spain)	DNF (crashed out) <i>DNF = did not finish</i>
15th November	Valencian Community, Spain	11th
22nd November	Portugal	9th



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Established in 2005, Ecosse has become the premier Honda and Royal Enfield Motorcycles dealer in Scotland. In addition to their Aberdeen store, their Dundee store opened in March 2016 with a Honda 'full franchise' and a Yamaha 'lightweight franchise'.

Incorporating the latest Honda Corporate Identity, this showroom also stocks and sells LS2 and AGV helmets, plus Oxford and RST clothing and boots. A three-bench workshop, an MOT station and Honda and Royal Enfield trained and licensed technicians completes Dundee's newest and most up to date motorcycle showroom.

To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic prize, answer this simple question:

**Name one of the two locations in Scotland that Ecosse Motorcycles is located.**

To enter submit your answer along with your name, address, email address and telephone number, either by email to [nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk) or by post to John McPhee/ Ecosse competition, The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. Closing Date is Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. The winner will be notified on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February. The Editor's decision is final. The Motorcycle helmet size is offered in either medium or large. No cash alternative. Entries will be handled in line with GDPR regulations and will not be shared with any third party.

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## Thought for the Week

### Inauguration shines light on faith and hope

I was glued to the live coverage of an inspiring and memorable event that took place last week — the inauguration of Joe Biden as the 46th president of the United States.

I found it inspiring because it expressed values that, whatever their politics, I know many Americans share, values like optimism, hope, decency and truthfulness.

For me, it was inspiring also for something that was articulated without words, because the first act of the 46th president as he took office was to call for silence and for that silence to be filled with private prayer.

I cannot help but think that it bodes well for the future of that great nation to have a man of faith leading it.

Returning to the words, some of the finest and most moving that day came from a young woman called Amanda Gorman.

She spoke of lifting the gaze of the nation not to what stands between its people, but to what stands before them, of closing divides because they know that, to put their future first, they must first put differences aside.

'The new dawn,' she said, 'blooms as we free it. For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it; if only we're brave enough to BE it.'

In the first chapter of his Gospel, John says: 'The light continues to shine in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out.'

We are called, all of us, to be part of that light and to be bearers of it into a dark and troubled world. May we rise to that call, as the new president rises to his.

**Reverend William Crossan, Lorne and Lowland Church, Campbeltown.**

## ISLAY

### Organisers announce Fèis Ìle 2021 cancellation

Fèis Ìle, a week-long celebration of Scotland's most distillery-packed island with whisky, music, dancing and more, has had to be cancelled for the second year running due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Organisers had their fingers crossed that it would be possible to hold the 2021 event between May 28 and June 5, but that has proved impossible.

In a statement, they said: 'With deep regret we announce that this year's festival is cancelled.'

'Keeping everyone safe is our top priority. Even if travel to Islay is allowed, the ceilidhs, tastings and large events that make the fèis what it is, will not be able to take place.'

'We also need to allow for the fact that people need to be able to make their plans to travel and stay.'

The dates for the 2022 festival are from Friday May 27 to Saturday June 4, and regarding those who already hold tickets, fèis organisers confirmed they will 'be in touch soon about refunds, or transferring to 2022'.

The statement concluded: 'Islay and its businesses would love to welcome you back when restrictions allow. Slàinte mhath.'

## LOCH LOMOND

### Paths revamp funding across national park area

Paths in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park are being revamped thanks to almost £111,000 of funding from government agency NatureScot – formerly Scottish Natural Heritage.

With a big increase in the number of people accessing the outdoors, much of the work is designed to improve the accessibility of the network.

The funding includes £26,000 for a community project led by the Helensburgh and District Access Trust to build a new bridge on the Three Lochs Way.

Working with the national park, almost



Senior Charge Nurse Kirsteen Campbell and John McGee with a generous gifts from the community.

£19,000 is being invested in improvements to the popular West Highland Way at Keilator and between Ewich and Tyndrum.

Also benefiting from funding will be the Clyde Walkway in Lanarkshire, the John Muir Way at Falkirk and a new path linking the old railway line between St Fillans and Lochearnhead which will form part of the Cross Scotland Pilgrim Way.

Bridget Jones, NatureScot recreation and paths manager, said: 'This funding will improve surfaces, remove barriers and increase access on some of our most popular and scenic paths and trails, making it easier for more people to connect with nature and realise all of the many benefits that can bring.'

## OBAN

### Donations gratefully received by hospital during pandemic

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) has received an unprecedented number of generous donations from people since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban recently received a generous donation of eight televisions including Wifi boosters, a tablet, electrical

kitchen equipment, £500 worth of toiletries and board games.

The fundraiser, set up by Isle of Mull resident John McGee, was supported by people across Oban, Mull and Iona.

Caroline Henderson, the hospital's rural general hospital manager, said: 'During this challenging time the hospital has continued to receive welcome support from our communities, businesses, volunteers and organisations to support staff members, patients and their families.'

'Every donation is invaluable to boosting morale, particularly when visiting in person has been restricted.'

'I want to send a heartfelt "thank you" to John McGee for setting up the fundraiser and every community member and businesses that have made donations to the hospital. The kindness and generosity demonstrated by our communities and businesses has been felt and appreciated in wards, units, departments, and teams in every part of our hospital.'

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# What you can do in your ho

Life goes on regardless of lockdowns so use this time wisely to get yourself into the best possible position so you are ready for action when the time comes.

What can we do right now?

**'Essential work' only**

Amidst all the uncertainty of this pandemic one thing is for sure – we all need somewhere to live and our homes need to be kept in the best possible condition for our well-being.

And that includes not only our personal health and well-being but also our financial well-being; for the vast majority of people our homes are the biggest single expenditure – and asset – in our lives.

This is a time when we do need to keep spending on maintaining our homes because failing to do so would be false economy but in these financially uncertain times the money we spend has to be spent wisely. That means thoughtful and considered purchases of goods and services, materials and manpower.

And most importantly all this has to be done within the pandemic safety guidelines.

Scottish Government rules covering the containment of the Covid pandemic say that work carried out in someone's home can be only for 'the maintenance, upkeep or functioning of the home'.

The work must only be carried out where it is essential or where the house in question is unoccupied.

It is not just pandemic safety that is important, but building safety and that includes utilities.

Today our utilities are not just considered to be electricity, gas and water, be it mains supply or sewerage.

Communications are considered just as essential and include telecommunications and broadband.

The work on all these utilities should be safety checks and repairs, maintenance and installations only where these cannot be delayed.

The all-important definition is: 'repairs and maintenance that would otherwise threaten the household's health and safety'.

It is a fact of life that things break down and wear out and the work which can be done includes delivery, installation or repairing of key household furniture and appliances such as washing machines, fridges and cookers.

Non-essential work, as defined in the guidelines, includes cosmetic painting and decorating, or replacing kitchens and bathrooms; glazing, carpeting and electrical replacements where these are not required to maintain the health and safety of the household.

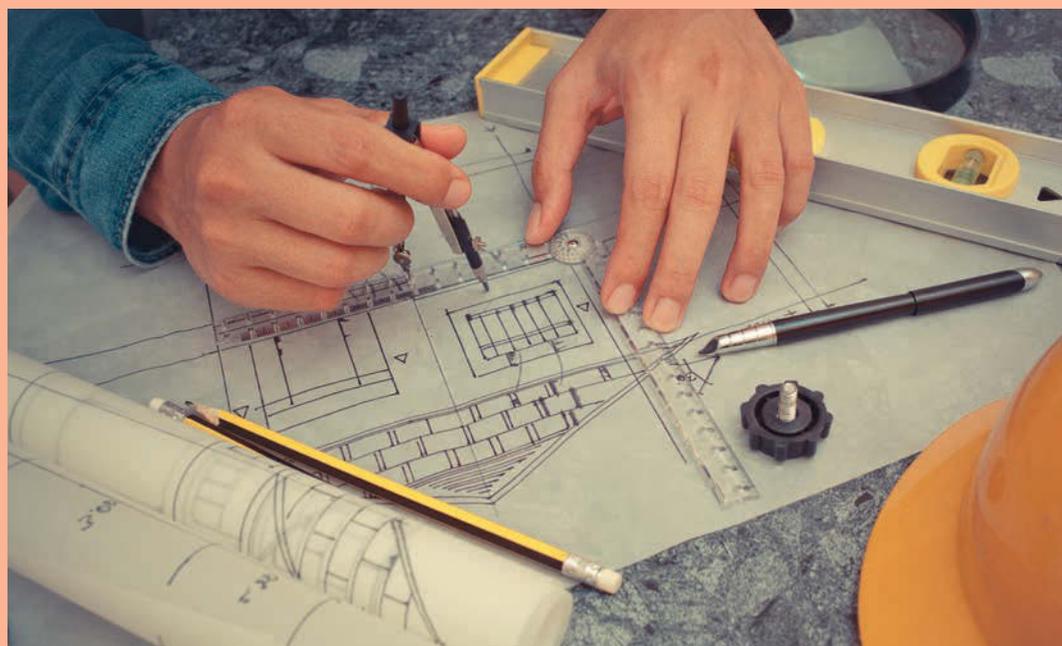
Travelling for the purposes of undertaking essential work on a property which is not your main residence should not be used as a pretext for a holiday, the government stresses.

You should not stay longer than for the length of time required to undertake the necessary work at any second or holiday homes.

The Scottish Building Federation has advised its members: 'Following the First Minister's statement in the Scottish Parliament on the afternoon of Wednesday January 13 the construction industry can continue to operate at this difficult time.

'However, legislation in relation to trades people undertaking essential work in homes has been strengthened as have laws on the requirement for employers to facilitate working from home.' The federation sends daily Coronavirus briefing emails to its members.

Just as we are all learning how to work from home, so too are architects and planners; the Scottish e-planning system had already taken up most of the work online way before the pandemic hit.



**What are you planning to do?**

If you are not moving house or embarking on a big self-build project, what are you planning to do?

Maybe you want to turn your garden into a paradise, perhaps adding some doors from the living room leading out onto a paved area or decking.

Perhaps the lockdown has made you realise you need to make some interior alterations, like an extra loo, shower room, or the conversion of loft or basement into office or school space; or maybe an extension or a garden room addition is what you need.

Has your old kitchen taken a battering with everyone at home and constant snacks and brewing up as well as breakfast, lunch and dinner for all while doubling as a school room? If your kitchen now resembles a war zone remember that famous military saying: 'Time spent in recognisance is seldom wasted'.

If there is one thing you have got now it is extra time on your hands and the internet is just the place to reconnoitre.

It is just bursting with home ideas to inspire you – from a simple change of cushions to freshen up the sofa to a remodelling of your entire property.

Be inspired by homes around the world as you dream your way through web pages and decide on the exact materials you want by visiting stores' websites – you can even price-up your projects. You have time to shop around and find the best value for money.

If you plan on doing the work yourself YouTube is full of helpful and instructive videos. Often you will find that leading manufacturers of materials and DIY stores have their own expert videos, to show you how to make the most of their products.



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Plus many skilled trades people make their own videos – and they leave many of the daytime TV shows standing.

Pinterest is crammed full of ideas and so too are podcasts.

When it comes to gardens you can tour some of the most famous in the land online in search of inspiration and once again You Tube is packed full of experts and ideas.

And if you have a project planned – why not share it online by creating a podcast or You Tube videos of your own.

The internet is also packed with opportunities to realise your own plans – manufacturers have their own online planners for you to use to play around with ideas plus virtual makeovers for rooms.

As well as helping you to firm up your ideas, and cost-out your projects, you can also have a helpful collection of images to show your builder, gardener or decorator to explain your ideas to them.

As well as all this inspiration and planning, how about a little fun; ever wondered what your average movie star's home looks like on the inside?

Go to [www.dirt.com](http://www.dirt.com) and have a guided tour of the \$7.5 million 'equestrian estate' that Dwayne 'the Rock' Johnson has for sale in Georgia, or Sylvester Stalone's mansion in California.

If you prefer something with a little more history, visit [www.castlelist.com](http://www.castlelist.com) which has a selection of castles for sale around the world.

A mere €880k will buy you a listed 15th century moated castle for sale near Toulouse; a historic Moroccan Kasbah (requires renovation) for €6m, or nearer home Seton Castle, East Lothian, for £8m.



## Installing the heart of your home



When designing a new house it makes good sense to consider the heating system as early on as possible since the SAP calculations can impact significantly on the overall design and cost of the building. Specifying a wood burning stove as part of your heating plan can help you achieve a very worthwhile reduction of emissions for the SAP calculations – in practise this offers useful carbon 'credit' which can be traded off against other design aspects of the house.

A stove is an extremely efficient space heater that can be run very economically in the super-insulated modern houses of today. It also provides a valuable and comforting source of heat during a prolonged power cut in an otherwise electric reliant system. And, of course, it goes without saying that a stove is a great looking visual asset which gives a

'heart' to the home and provides the perfect focal point to gather family and friends around! If you are building or renovating and are interested to know what benefits a stove could add as part of your heating mix then get in touch. With over 40 years' experience we can talk you through all the options available and work out what fits your needs best. Call us on 01631 720539.

*Just a short note to say thank you for all the help choosing and installing our new Woodwarm stove. Your very professional and extremely helpful family service was second to none. We only wish we had fitted the stove years ago as it has made such a difference to our family home.* Mr & Mrs Scott, Oban

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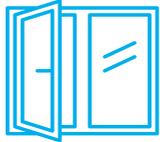
Business Manager Greig MacLeod tells us 'We are a family run business and passionate about what we do. We offer a lot of services, but house building is our speciality. Our homes are stylish, spacious and affordable and can be customised to your exact requirements. Building a kit home is faster, easier and less wasteful than a traditional build. Our kits are highly insulated and come with double glazing



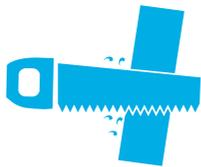
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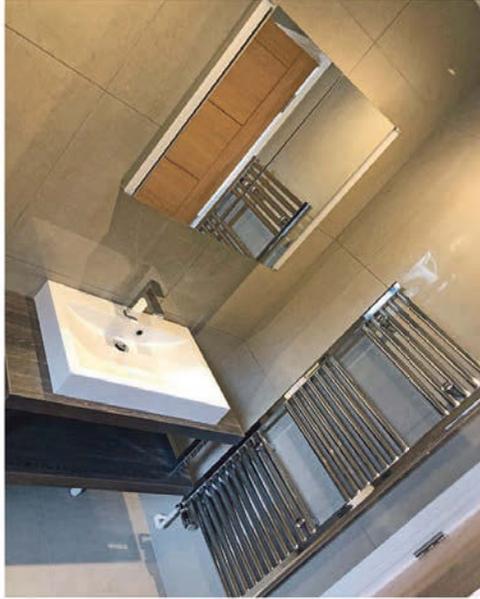
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# Give your car battery a fighting chance during the cold of lockdown, says GEM

Road safety and breakdown organisation GEM Motoring Assist says a few basic battery checks will help ensure your car engine starts when you need it.

During the current period of lockdown, only essential journeys are permitted, so many drivers will be using their cars much less... and mostly just for local journeys. Others will have decided not to drive at all.

Following a weekend of cold weather, the forecast is for another cold snap at the end of this week, potentially causing difficulty for cars, batteries and the drivers who rely on them, says GEM. GEM chief executive Neil Worth says every battery is potentially at risk if it's not being used. "Our recovery agents attend more calls to flat batteries than any other car breakdown.

"If your car battery is getting old, you may find it's simply not strong enough to start the engine. However, new batteries may let you down if they have been unused for a long period of time. "Cold weather slows everything down – including the chemical reactions that take place inside car batteries. It's estimated that when the temperature is at 0 degrees Celsius, a battery loses 35 per cent of its effectiveness.

"Yet so much of the equipment on your car demands electricity – meaning it's more important than ever to ensure your battery is ready to cope with the increased demands placed on it in cold weather.

GEM says it's important to remember that a battery doesn't last forever – in fact its average life is five years, so be ready to replace it as a matter of routine when the times comes; don't wait for it to let you down.

## SIGNS OF BATTERY TROUBLE

If the engine won't start, but you hear a slight noise from under the bonnet, the chances are your battery is flat.

If you hear nothing at all, it's likely to be either a loose connection on the battery, or the battery has no charge left at all.



If your car has remote central locking (via a button on the key fob), then this won't work if the battery is flat.

## WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

Check when your car battery was last replaced. Car service centres and garages are allowed to remain open during the current lockdown, so you should be able to book your car in for a battery check and replacement.

If you have a second vehicle available – and a set of good

quality jump leads – then it may be possible to jump start the car. Just remember to leave the engine of both vehicles running for several minutes after you've successfully started your car. Also, switch off both engines before removing the jump leads.

If you plan not to drive for the foreseeable future, it may be worth considering a trickle charger you can attach to the battery. Trickle chargers work by releasing a small amount of current to match your car battery's natural discharge rate. Contact your local garage should you be concerned.

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PRESS RELEASE

# Deer in the headlights: road accidents involving deer increase by 35 percent



Almost 1800 road accidents involving deer were officially recorded in 2018 although tens of thousands more go unreported, according to a Government advisory group.

Winter is a particularly dangerous time, when deer often move to lower ground for grazing and drivers face wet and icy driving conditions in poor light.

Official figures recorded 1,756 collisions involving deer in 2018, an increase of more than a third over the last decade.

However, when the Deer Working Group reported to the Scottish Government earlier this year on how Scotland should manage deer populations, the group concluded that the total number of road accidents involving deer is closer to 8,000 - 14,000, each year.

The significant difference between the official figures and widely accepted estimates of the total number of road accidents involving deer, is due to a number of factors but mainly it is inconsistent recording [see notes to editors].

Forestry & Land Scotland, which was asked to contribute data to the Working Group, reported that its rangers often get called out to tend to wounded deer near the forest areas it manages across Scotland. FLS is responsible for 650,000 hectares across Scotland or 9% of Scotland's land area and deer management is a significant part of its activity.

Ian Fergusson, Head of Wildlife Management for FLS said:

"Scotland's deer population is increasing and we have watched

the deer-related road accident statistics climb steadily over the past decade or so.

"Deer pose many challenges in terms of habitat management; the more deer there are the greater potential damage they can do. When deer numbers are high or food is scarce, they need to range widely for enough food and this often brings them down into more urban areas; and in terms of busy roads the results can be catastrophic."

Deer numbers in Scotland are estimated to have increased from around 511,000 in 1990 to around 1 million as of 2020. To help protect Scotland's national forests and land from the negative impacts of deer, Forestry and Land Scotland employs a number of techniques, including deer culling and fencing, where appropriate, to keep numbers down to a sustainable level, keeping herds healthy and mitigating against habitat loss.

Most recorded road accidents involving deer occur in the Highland, Aberdeenshire, Central Belt, and Fife regions, but areas in west central Scotland, including North and South Lanarkshire have also seen significant increases in the last decade.

Road Policing Area Commander, Chief Inspector Neil Lumsden, said:

"Country and rural roads have many unexpected hazards and the presence of deer on our roads, particularly at this time of year should always be a consideration of road users. It is impos-

sible to predict what will happen on the road ahead and you should always ask yourself "Do I know what is around the next corner?" and "Could I stop in the distance that I can see to be clear if I have to?"

"When using rural and country roads these are all questions you must continually be asking yourself. I would always remind people to drive to the conditions, understand and react to warning signs, they are there for a reason. Ensure you know what they mean, slow down, drive appropriately and expect the unexpected."

Winter is considered to be one of the most dangerous times on the roads for Deer Vehicle Collisions (DVC), with deer typically being more active during dawn and dusk which falls at times when more cars are on the roads.

It's estimated that in Scotland, the actual number of DVCs involving human injury may exceed 120 per year.

#### Advice to drivers involved in an accident involving a deer

Being involved in a road traffic accident involving a deer, can be a traumatic experience, even when no-one is injured. Forestry and Land Scotland recommends the following advice:

- If anyone is hurt call 999
- If the deer is still alive, but injured, please call the SSPCA
- Do not get out of your car to check on the animal. You could get injured.

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

**RWE**

## Clachaig Glen Wind Farm Virtual Public Exhibition is open to view

RWE Renewables is exploring the potential to develop a wind farm of up to 12 turbines and other ancillary development located within Scotland's National Forrest Estate, close to our Deucheran Hill Wind Farm. We invite you to take part in our forthcoming online public exhibition where you can view and comment on the proposals.

Due to ongoing Covid 19 restrictions, we are unable to carry out face to face public consultation events. The Virtual Consultation Room contains detailed information relating to the proposals and importantly, both an electronic and printable comment form so that feedback can be provided to the project team on the proposals.

The Virtual Consultation Room can be accessed via our project webpage [www.rwe.com/clachaig-glen](http://www.rwe.com/clachaig-glen)

If you are unable to access the website to view the information please contact [Nicholas.taylor@rwe.com](mailto:Nicholas.taylor@rwe.com) / 01224 060326 who will be happy to arrange a suitable alternative.

**The Virtual Consultation Room is now open to view.** An opportunity for a live chat session will be held where members of the project team will be available for a question and answer session via interactive text. This will take place on 24th February (3pm - 7pm) via the project website.

Please note that any comments made to RWE are not representations to the consenting authority. If an application is submitted, there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the consenting authority. Please note all comments should be received no later than 12 March 2021.

[www.rwe.com/clachaig-glen](http://www.rwe.com/clachaig-glen)

### 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
20/01926/PP	Erection of building for office/storage use and installation of septic tank	Tarbert Farm, Isle Of Gigha, Argyll And Bute, PA41 7AA
20/02260/PP	Change of use of land for falcon flight development to include; erection of buildings, siting of flight pens and associated works	Land South East Of Ifferdale Lodge, Saddell, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute
20/01345/MFF	Formation of fish farm (Atlantic Salmon) incorporating twelve 120m circumference circular cages and siting of feed barge	North Kilbrannan Fish Farm, North Of Cour Bay, Kilbrannan Sound, East Kintyre, Argyll And Bute
20/02370/LIB	Internal alterations, erection of timber conservatory and formation of garden walls with railings	1 Ferry Land, Inveraray, Argyll And Bute, PA32 8UX

Written comments can be submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> or to Argyll and Bute Council, Development Management, Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed on the Councils website. Customers are requested to use electronic communication where possible during the coronavirus pandemic as our ability to process postal mail is restricted.

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

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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### MID ARGYLL TRANSPORT VOLUNTEERS

AGM to held, by Zoom, on 24/02/2021 at 7:00pm.

Members will receive info, etc., prior to AGM. Any member of the public may attend: email [tighndarroch@btinternet.com](mailto:tighndarroch@btinternet.com) for info prior to date.



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### Husbandry Technician - Taynuilt

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If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, to:- HR Department, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office - 01698 810008, E-mail: [hr@dawnfresh.co.uk](mailto:hr@dawnfresh.co.uk)

Closing date for applications is 5 February 2021.

### Receptionist / Dental Nurse (Part-Time)

We have a fantastic opportunity that has arisen within our practice. We are looking for a motivated and enthusiastic individual to join our friendly team in the position of Receptionist / Dental Nurse. The successful candidate will primarily be working as part of our Reception team and in time, will assist within the surgery as a Dental Nurse. No prior experience required as training will be provided in house. The position will be 24 hours per week with additional holiday cover required. Please email your CV to [dalriadadental@gmail.com](mailto:dalriadadental@gmail.com).

Closing date for the applications is 5th February 2021

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 Happy birthday Granny lots of love Lily xx

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**BIRTHS**



**MCMILLAN** – David and Nancy née Reid are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter Tess Rebecca on January 7, 2021 at the RAH, Paisley, a little sister for Ben, Connor and Cate. Thanking all staff at Campbeltown Maternity Unit, with special thanks to Isabel.



**RENNIE – SNEDDON** – Steven and Lyndsey are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Marlowe Hope Rennie, born January 18, 2021 in Port Hope, Ontario, Canada. Beautiful granddaughter for Billy and Rosemary Rennie.

**DEATHS**

**GRAHAM** - Peacefully at his sister's home in Dundee, on January 18, 2021, Alexander Graham (Alex) in his 64th year, 20B Davaar Avenue, Campbeltown, dearly beloved son of the late David and Margaret Graham and a much loved brother of Margaret and Eunice and a friend to many. Funeral service private in line with current government guidelines. Alex's funeral will take place on Friday, January 29. The cortege will leave the family home at 1.00 p.m. We will head along Davaar Avenue, Albyn Avenue, Millknowe and Aqualibrium Avenue, past the Cross on the way to Kilkerran Cemetery. Anyone wishing to pay their last respects to Alex may do so along our route. Please remember to observe social distancing.

**MACPHAIL** - Dr Ian. (Edinburgh/Campbeltown). At Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh on January 23, 2021, aged 103. Only 20 days after the death of Isobel, his much beloved wife of 71 years. The much loved father of Heather, John and Donella. A proud grandfather and great-grandfather. He will be greatly missed. Funeral private due to current restrictions. Donations in lieu of flowers to Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

**PONTON** - Peacefully in her sleep on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, Janette Victoria née Scott Ponton, beloved wife of Iaian Ponton. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu to RNLI, Troon. Due to Covid restrictions, it's family only at the funeral.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**DETTMER** - James and Iain would like to thank everyone for the many kind expressions of sympathy and support received in the sad loss of their dearly loved mother Wilma. Your thoughts have been a great comfort. Special thanks to Annemarie, John, Mary, Martyn, Silvio, Fiona, Irene, Stuart, the staff at The Lochgilhead Resource Centre, Liz, John, Tricia, Linda, Helen, Jenny, Kevin, Louise and Tony, thanks also to Rev Ian Miller, Stan Lupton Funeral Directors and Piper John Hunt and to the many people who lined the route and paid their respects as the cortege passed on route to Cardross Crematorium. A final thanks to all who donated generously to the Dochas Fund.

**MACDONALD** - The family of the late Donald MacDonald would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their messages, cards and phone calls of sympathy and offers of help following our sad loss. Our most sincere gratitude to the Campbeltown hospital dialysis unit and the British Red Cross for their excellent care and attention during Donald's long illness and to the Kintyre Dialysis Support group who worked so hard to bring this service to Campbeltown Hospital. Thanks also goes to our local medical staff. Special thanks to the Rev. Scott Burton for his comforting service and the support he gave our family, including members not advised to travel home to Gigha. Grateful thanks to the Funeral Directors TA Blair and staff for their professional services and guidance. Finally a special thanks to the island people who paid their respects by lining the route to the Cemetery.

**MACDOUGALL** - Eric and family of the late John MacDougall (Scooby) would like to thank friends for all their sympathy and support over recent weeks following their sad loss. Special thanks to Rev Robert MacLeod for a lovely service, Keli for the beautiful floral tribute. Thanks also to the captain and crew of Greensea service well-boat, for paying their respects to John by ringing the ships bell as we passed by and to the many people who lined the streets, also to pay their respects on a cold and frosty morning. We would also wish to thank Stan Lupton for his excellent and attentive funeral services.

**MCDUGALL** - The family of the late Peter McDougall, would like to thank everyone most sincerely, for the many kind expressions of sympathy received in their recent sad and tragic loss. Special thanks to the Police, Fire and Ambulance Services for all their efforts and assistance on Christmas day and to Team Tarbert and the villagers of Tarbert

for their overwhelming generosity and kindness shown to the family. Thanks also to Rev Robert MacLeod for a comforting and personal service at Carrick Cemetery, Stan Lupton Funeral Directors for professional handling of all arrangements, Piper John Hunt for leading the cortege and to all who lined the route to the cemetery and paid their respects. The family took a great deal of comfort from their support.

**WATSON** - Sandy and the family of the late Robert (Bobby) would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy. A big thank you to Liz and her carers at Carr Gomm for their excellent care and compassion. Thanks to all doctors and staff at the Campbeltown Hospital. To all community nurses and carers and Shopper Aide, who all helped take care of Bobby. Thank you to Kenneth Blair and staff for their dignified professionalism and to the Rev Steve Fulcher for his beautiful service. Thanks to everyone who paid their last respects at Albyn Ave, the roadside and graveside.

**WINSTANLEY** - The whole family of the late Nancy Winstanley, would like to sincerely thank Dr. Lazarus, paramedics, Dr. Bartos and the A&E staff at Campbeltown Hospital. They all cared for our Mum in her last few months and hours, with great consideration shown towards both her and the family. Heartfelt thanks are also due to Nancy's many friends and neighbours who have written or voiced their condolences and personal recollections. To Fr. Tony Wood, thank you for the thoughtful service conducted, and the support shown to Nancy's family. We also appreciate all those who paid their respects as the cortege passed by. Finally, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude to Kenny Blair and the team at T.A. Blair Funeral Directors, who provided advice and sound guidance at this sad time. Nancy will be sorely missed.

**CHURCH NOTICES**

online Praise and Worship  
Zoom Service on  
**Sunday, 31st January  
2021** at 11am  
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 31st January**

In line with the current Covid restrictions, there will be no services held in the church building until further notice.  
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 3rd February**  
12 noon Prayer & Bible Study (by Zoom)  
[www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk](http://www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk)  
Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH**



Father, Reveal who you are. Set the world right. Keep us alive with three square meals. Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others. Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.  
Luke 11 Verses 2-4 (The Lord's Prayer from The Message)  
Our building is currently closed but you are welcome to join our

**CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH**



**Church services and activities suspended until further notice**  
**Please feel free to contact us**  
Pastor Mark Jasper  
01586 554 092  
[pastor@campbeltown-communitychurch.co.uk](mailto:pastor@campbeltown-communitychurch.co.uk)  
[www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk](http://www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/campbeltowncommunitychurch](http://www.facebook.com/campbeltowncommunitychurch)  
SC043322

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH in Mid-Argyll & Arran**

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

**ST MARGARET'S RC CHURCH Lochgilhead**

**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  
[lochgilhead@rcdai.org.uk](mailto:lochgilhead@rcdai.org.uk)  
(SC0002876)

**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  
There will be no services in the church during present Covid 19 restrictions  
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 regrettably only be celebrated without people present and 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 (Micah 7)



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# Invest in walking government urged

## Outdoor charities launch manifesto to help the nation be 'healthier, cleaner, safer and happier'

Walking charities in Scotland have launched a new call for the Scottish Government to Walk Back Better, ahead of the Holyrood elections in May.

Living Streets Scotland, Paths for All and Ramblers Scotland shared a new manifesto for walking at an online launch event on Tuesday.

Walk Back Better: a manifesto for 2021 calls for:

- Investment in a £50 million infrastructure fund to develop short walking routes, long distance routes, green neighbourhood networks and support under pressure mountain locations;

- Improved walking and wheeling conditions, including reducing pavement clutter, providing toilets, seating, signage, safety improvements, improved crossings and basic path and pavement maintenance;

- Improved access to local amenities, ensuring the planning system prioritises and delivers development within walking distance of local facilities as part of the 20-minute neighbourhood agenda;

- Increased investment for delivery of walking behaviour change programmes that particularly target the most vulnerable and help to reduce inequalities;

- Measures to improve safety, including a national speed limit of 20mph in all

cities, towns and villages and enforcement of pavement parking legislation;

- Investment in walking to school and reducing traffic and pollution outside school gates.

Although up to a third of Scots are not active enough, 71 per cent of adults visited the outdoors at least once a week during last year's lockdown – and this rose to 80 per cent by August 2020, according to a report published by NatureScot.

The manifesto's aim is for Scotland to become a 'healthier, cleaner, safer and happier walking nation', locking in the benefits of walking by providing improved opportunities for people to walk regularly.

Stuart Hay, director of Living Streets Scotland, said: 'We're pleased to be launching the Walk Back Better manifesto at a critical time.'

'After nearly a year of people taking exercise and essential journeys on foot during Covid-19 lockdowns, plans to keep the nation walking are more important than ever.'

'The increases in people walking, has highlighted the lack of good infrastructure to support safe and enjoyable travel by foot.'

'Communities that lack local facilities within walking distance have had challenges.'

'That's why we are calling for investment in everyday walk-



Kilmartin Glen and Dunadd have been popular walking spots during the last year.

ing to build back better after the pandemic, and respond to the challenges of air pollution, climate change and Scotland's health record.'

Ian Findlay CBE, chief officer of Paths for All, said: 'We launch our manifesto at a crucial point of change for Scotland as we begin to plan for life after Covid-19.'

'During lockdown, we have seen a rise in the number of people walking as many used it as a way to cope with the pressures of everyday life, to reach essential shops and services in their area, and to connect with others and nature in a safe way.'

'But we need to do more to make regular walking an enjoyable and accessible choice

for everyone in Scotland, from all walks of life. By investing in walking programmes and safe, attractive places to walk we can significantly improve the nation's health, reducing health inequalities and pressure on our NHS.'

Brendan Paddy, director of Ramblers Scotland, said: 'We believe walking can play a vital role in Scotland's response to the challenges of Covid-19 and climate change – and the obesity, biodiversity and mental health crises we face.'

'Booming numbers are enjoying the outdoors in the Covid era and we need to support these people to continue to get all the health and wellbeing benefits of outdoor recreation for years to come.'



Bob MacIntyre was delighted after finishing in a tie for 16th in the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship.

## Bob 'pretty happy' at solid start to season

Robert MacIntyre declared himself 'pretty happy' after he got his 2021 campaign off to a solid start at the weekend finishing in a tie for 16th in the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship.

After his long lay off over Christmas and New Year, there were initial signs of rust during his opening round and after finding himself three over for his first seven holes, Bob did exceptionally well to recover to post an even par 72.

Playing alongside Ryder Cup Captain Padraig Harrington and fellow cup hopeful Victor Perez in his opening two rounds, the Oban star would have been hoping to make a good impression and force his way into contention for a wild card pick, should he fail to secure one of the automatic places.

Harrington was bound to be impressed not only by his opening day fightback, but also his second round score of 69 which saw him comfortably make the cut.

Closing rounds of 71 and

70 in tricky, blustery conditions saw him climb up the leader board each day and at one point a top 10 finish looked within sight, particularly after a strong start to his final round.

Unfortunately that momentum then stalled, but a tied 16th finish represents a decent start to the Oban golfer's season.

The tournament was eventually won by world number five Tyrell Hatton.

Bob remains tantalisingly just outside the world's top 50.

The tour now moves on to the second leg of the Desert Swing, with another star-studded field assembled for the Omega Dubai Desert Classic which started yesterday (Thursday) before moving on to The Saudi International the following week.



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