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# Communication failure angers high street hero

by Colin Cameron  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

A Lochgilphead businesswoman named Argyll and Bute's 'High Street Hero' during the pandemic has slammed the council for communication failures over major renovation work outside her shop.

Customer access to Jilly Wilson's Square Peg takeaway food premises on Colchester Square can only be made by negotiating a path through roadworks and, she says, turnover has dropped dramatically as a result.

But her main complaint is that Argyll and Bute Council failed to give proper notice before beginning a £500,000 project to improve road crossings, pedestrian access and cycle facilities in Colchester Square and Argyll Street.

The Square Peg, which occupies one side of Colchester Square, is the only business trading on the square during



Jilly Wilson welcomes the project, but claims the council failed to communicate its plans properly.

the current lockdown. She claims traders were approached informally by Argyll and Bute Council in mid-December, when businesses asked that the works be carried out one side of the street at a time to maintain reasonable access – but no formal consultation was held.

Since then, Mrs Wilson says



the authority's communication has been 'appalling', giving her little opportunity to make informed business decisions.

Jilly Wilson was Argyll and Bute's regional champion in November's Scotland Loves Local 'High Street Heroes' awards – recognising people

who went above and beyond in lockdown.

She said: 'I am absolutely not opposed to the works. Investment in the town is long overdue and much appreciated. But I'm also pretty shocked at the way I have been treated by the council.' An Argyll and

Bute Council spokesperson said: 'We secured funding for Lochgilphead in late 2020 from external sources to develop the town centre. This funding came with strict deadlines. Meeting them, and ensuring Lochgilphead doesn't lose out, unfortunately ruled out public

The work outside the Square Peg on Colchester Square.

consultation specifically on Colchester Square and Argyll Street. We took steps to keep local businesses informed and will be increasing that effort with a dedicated webpage and a weekly email update to stakeholders on the progress of the work.

'Where possible we are keen to do what we can to limit short-term inconvenience. For the protection of all town centre users, including the public and the workforce, it has not been possible to work on one side at a time and keep the road open to traffic. We are ensuring pedestrian access to businesses is maintained at all times.'

Councillor Sandy Taylor said he had understood the council had the support of local businesses. He added: 'I understand Jilly's concerns as the scheduled work has been delivered differently and the impacts experienced earlier than thought.'

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## POLICE FILES

■ Around 8pm on Monday January 25 in Ardrishaig, two men, aged 29 and 48, were allegedly fighting. Police attended and both were arrested and charged. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ An 18-year-old man was issued with a recorded police warning after his vehicle was stopped and searched by police at 10.45pm on Tuesday January 26 at Glenfyne Park, Ardrishaig. The man was found in possession of cannabis.

■ A man, aged 66, has been charged with dangerous driving after overtaking on Tarbert Road, Ardrishaig, at 12.30pm on Tuesday January 5. A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ Sometime between midday on Monday January 25 and 3pm on Wednesday January 27 at Kilmichael Glassary, a wall was damaged by a vehicle which failed to stop and report the collision.

■ A sign was stolen from land near Brackley and Oakfield, Lochgilphead, between midday and 1pm on Sunday January 24.

■ Police are appealing for witnesses or anyone with information on the above or any incident to phone 101 or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 anonymously.

**CONTACTUS**  
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editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk  
TELEPHONE  
01546 602345

# Council lands cash boost for Argyll

A new Lochgilphead business hub is one of three Argyll and Bute projects to benefit from Scottish Government funding.

Argyll and Bute Council has secured more than £1.7 million from the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund to support regeneration and employment projects in the region.

Lochgilphead's Kilmory Business Park, a partnership led by the council, will receive £650,000.

The aim is to develop a 5.9 hectare site on the outskirts

of Lochgilphead as a business hub.

The investment includes strategic infrastructure and business premises for up to 10 new and expanding small and medium-sized enterprises. The project aims to create up to 30 jobs in the community, including opportunities for school leavers.

A new Port Ellen community hub on Islay will get £746,223 after the council successfully applied for funding on behalf of partner South Islay Development.

The community hub at Port Ellen will include a social enterprise café with bakery, community/function space, office rental, storage rental as well as an office for South Islay Development Trust.

The new centre will encourage greater engagement and collaboration while supporting community regeneration across the island.

On the island of Colonsay, £335,000 will go towards Scalasaig housing and business units. The Colonsay Community Development

Company project will provide business space and tackle the long-standing demand for business opportunities in Scalasaig, the island's main settlement. The scheme will run in tandem with an affordable housing scheme near Scalasaig.

Argyll and Bute Council leader Robin Currie said: 'We are delighted to receive this vital funding which will deliver long-term benefit for our communities and businesses. Argyll and Bute brings together much of what is best about

Scotland – natural resources that drive national and international business markets, expertise that inspires innovation and people committed to achieving the prosperous future the area needs and deserves.

'Each funded project is critical to our future growth and to the needs of our communities. In a year where we have seen a huge impact on our communities and businesses, investment is vital to help recover the local economy and unlock Argyll and Bute's potential.'

# Fire station test trial extended

A trial to host Covid-19 testing at Lochgilphead fire station has been hailed a success and extended until the end of February.

Testing will continue to be available at Lochgilphead fire station until February 26, in partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), as part of a trial to increase testing access in remote and rural areas.

The trial test sites at Lochgilphead and Thurso fire stations, which opened on January 6, are available for testing Monday to Friday,

between 9am and 12.30pm. People within driving or walking distance of these locations who have Covid-19 symptoms can book test slot by calling NHS Highland on 01463 706015.

If driving to the site, people can take the test themselves onsite and leave it for collection by a courier. Or people can collect a test kit for someone else and bring it back for courier collection.

In addition to hosting the testing sites, the SFRS is providing logistical support, including test ordering and

storage of samples ahead of courier collection.

Public Health Minister Mairi Gougeon said: 'I'm pleased to announce that testing at these fire stations has been extended for a further month, following the success of our initial trial. This extension means we can provide testing more frequently at these sites, making it easier for people in these areas to get tested.'

'Thanks go to the SFRS, Argyll and Bute Council, Highland Council and NHS Highland for their support in making this trial happen.'



Lochgilphead SFRS watch commander Duncan Litster, right, helped by his wife Verina are helping with the Covid-19 testing.

# Public urged to speak up on future of cemeteries

One in three cemeteries in Argyll and Bute which currently has lairs is expected to be full within 10 years, a report has revealed.

Argyll and Bute Council is consulting with the public on a review of cemeteries in the area which involves plans to extend only eight of the remaining 64 facilities which have lairs available.

The eight cemeteries in question are in Bute, Dunoon, Helensburgh, Lochgilphead, Oban, Islay and Mull. One will also be identified in Campbeltown and Kintyre.

Other proposals featured in the consultation include no new lairs being offered in the 67 cemeteries currently regarded as closed in Argyll and Bute.

Respondents are also asked whether they have a preference on being buried or cremated when they themselves pass away. It is anticipated options will take 10 years to implement. The consultation is open via the council's website until Friday February 26.

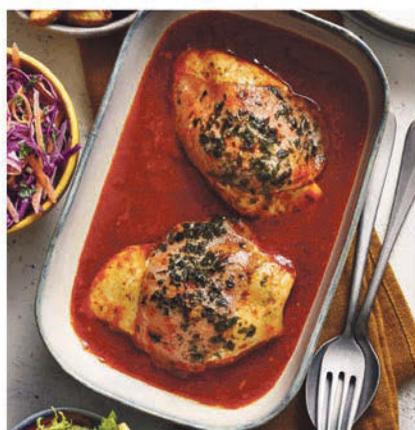
Records show there are currently just over 8,000 lairs available for sale

in Argyll and Bute, including 2,360 in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands.

The report also covers the council's hope for community involvement in the upkeep of cemeteries. With finances tight, the authority is keen to gauge views on whether there would be sufficient community volunteer support to help in the upkeep of cemeteries.

## Hunter's chicken

The search for your new teatime favourite is over! Smoky bacon and a tangy sauce give chicken breasts a new lease of life in this lip-smacking supper



### Ingredients

- ½ x 330ml can diet cola
- 2 red peppers, deseeded and roughly chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 chicken stock cube, crumbled
- 250g passata
- 1 tbsp soy sauce/tamari
- 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 4 smoked back bacon medallions or rashers, visible fat removed
- 4 skinless and boneless chicken breasts
- Chopped parsley, to serve

### Method:

1. Pour the diet cola into a medium-size non-stick saucepan over a high heat, bring to the boil and cook until reduced by two-thirds and almost syrupy.
2. Preheat the oven to 200°C/fan 180°C/gas 6.
3. Add the red peppers, garlic, stock cube, passata, soy sauce, Worcestershire sauce, balsamic vinegar and 150ml boiling water to the cola. Reduce the heat to medium and bring to a simmer, then cook for 10 minutes or until the peppers are soft, adding a little extra water if needed. Blend until smooth using a stick blender or food processor.
4. Carefully wrap the bacon medallions or rashers around the chicken breasts and arrange them in an ovenproof dish, seam-side down. Pour the sauce all over the chicken and roast for 20-25 minutes or until the chicken is cooked through.
5. Spoon the sauce over the chicken and sprinkle over the parsley before serving hot. This is delicious served with Slimming World chips and salad.

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## What are your health priorities?

Change is inevitable in health services in Argyll and Bute, a councillor has warned, as the area's health board prepares to set its annual budget.

A consultation has been launched by Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) asking people to outline their priorities as part of its budget-setting process.

But Argyll and Bute Council's deputy leader Councillor Gary Mulvaney, a member of the HSCP's integration joint board (IJB), warned that changes will have to be made as a result of the effects of Covid-19.

Councillor Mulvaney also said the effects of the pandemic are set to be around for 'a considerable period of time'.

The consultation is open until Friday February 19 and the IJB will set the HSCP's budget for the year at its next meeting on Wednesday March 24.

Councillor Mulvaney said: 'Change can be difficult so it is key to map out the future to give people a clear indication of what the future looks like.'

The consultation, available through Argyll and Bute Council's website, also asks respondents what they view as the HSCP's most important role.

IJB chairman Councillor Kieron Green introduced the consultation by saying: 'The resources available to the HSCP are declining in real terms year on year.'

'We cannot simply continue to provide the same services in the same ways. We have to find efficiencies and transform how we operate.'

'We would really value your views to help us make the best decisions that will affect all of our lives.'

To access the consultation, visit [argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://argyll-bute.gov.uk) and click the rotating banner at the top of the homepage.

# Golf club appeal: don't sledge over our course

A golf club has appealed to the public to avoid using its course for sledging after winter revelers left chaos in their wake.

Late January, snowfall drew a crowd of 70 to 80 sledgers of all ages to Lochgilphead golf course to take advantage of the slopes.

Blown up airbeds and sheets of old roofing were used as sledges, leaving four of Lochgilphead Golf Club's pristine greens gouged with deep marks across them.

The course was left littered with broken sledges, discarded airbeds, alcohol and juice bottles. And, with a number of dogs taken to join in the fun, the fairways were scattered with dog faeces as the snow melted.

There are reports one young sledger hit a metal pole and



The sledge gouges on one of the damaged greens.

had to be taken by ambulance to hospital - yet even that failed to stop the 'party'.

Police attended the scene, but a Lochgilphead Golf Club spokesperson said this had lit-

tle impact on the sledgers: 'The ambulance, fire engine and police were there but they just kept going regardless. Even after the accident, they didn't stop. They were up there until 10 at night.'

'They were not in just groups of twos, there was no social distancing whatsoever.'

The spokesperson added: 'Members have been told to play on temporary greens to save the other greens for when the weather gets better, then this happens.'

'It's hard enough to keep a golf club going in these times.'

'It will take months to fix, costing the club heavily in manpower hours and products to restore the greens.'

Inspector Julie McLeish of Lochgilphead said Police Scotland were made aware

by the Scottish Ambulance Service that they had been dealing with an injured person on Sunday January 24 in Lochgilphead.

'Officers then engaged with a number of people sledging in the area and provided suitable advice in relation to current government coronavirus regulations,' she added.

Inspector McLeish added there was no further police action required and people were dispersed from the area.

Police are now engaging with the club to address concerns.

The Lochgilphead Golf Club spokesperson appealed: 'We appreciate people want to have a bit of fun, but please respect the fact the golf course is private property, not a public park, and should not be used in that way.'

## Positive feedback on vaccine roll-out

The NHS board covering Argyll and Bute says nearly 43,000 first dose Covid-19 vaccinations were completed by the end of January across its full area.

NHS Highland has also stated all care home residents, except those in homes with a Covid outbreak, have been offered their first vaccination and uptake has been 90 per cent.

Nearly 85 per cent of the over-80s group were vaccinated - meaning the target was met with days to spare.

It is also expected that by today, Friday February 5, 10 times more people across the NHS authority's area will have been vaccinated than in December.

Dr Paul Davidson, deputy medical director for NHS Highland, said: 'We are delivering the vaccination across a large and challenging geography during winter, while simultaneously co-ordinating variable supply of vaccine products. The challenge really cannot be underestimated but it thanks to all the staff

involved with this programme and the tremendous effort they have put in that we have been able to deliver the vaccine to, as it stands now, 13 per cent of our population. The majority of the delivery of vaccine to the public will be co-ordinated by our GP practices, who are ideally located and experienced to do this, given they support our flu delivery programme so well every year.'

Dr Davidson reported that feedback from colleagues, both those who are vaccinating and those who have been vaccinat-

**'We're also hearing good feedback from those who have been vaccinated by our colleagues in general practice.'**

ed, has been positive. 'We're also hearing good feedback from those who have been vaccinated by our colleagues in general practice,' he added. 'We are working our way

through the priority groups and you will be asked to attend for your vaccine by your GP practice when it is time for your vaccine. Please don't call them. They will contact you directly for your appointment.'

Dr Davidson reminded the community that while delivery of the vaccine has been exciting to see, it is important to remember this is only one part of winning the fight against Covid-19 and that everyone should continue to follow the guidance on how to keep themselves and others safe.



## 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/dochascentre](https://www.facebook.com/dochascentre) which will be updated regularly with information and advice.

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

Mid Argyll: 07464 308 418 • Kintyre: 0753 503 6953 • Islay/Jura: 0791 201 5393

### The Volunteer Befriending Team

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

### Dochas Counselling Team

The dedicated Counselling Team are currently offering online and telephone counselling to unpaid carers and their families, those who have been bereaved or those living with a long term or terminal condition. During the Covid-19 crisis, the Team have also set up a telephone support service for anyone feeling anxious or struggling during lockdown.

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



### Mid Argyll Youth Development Services

Providing Information and Accessible Youth Friendly Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The Softer Crofter

FIONA ROSS

editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk



## Buckets of ginger mischief

It's two years since we moved to this wee coastal croft on the edge of Argyll; a homecoming for my husband, whose family hails from these parts, and a wild west adventure for me, a tenth generation Glaswegian.

Slowly we're putting down roots: carrots and parsnips and beetroot and golden wonders; friendships with neighbours, the wildlife, the postie.

We've brought incomers too: piglets from Cowal, calves from Loch Awe and a flock of wild blackies from Dana. Together we've set up home and embarked on a mission to live off the land.

It's funny to call something so basic a 'mission' as, for millennia it was how everyone lived. Yet now the idea of denying oneself a breakfast of Peruvian avocado washed down with a Californian almond-milk-latte seems intrepid, if not heroic.



Highland heifer Demi, from Cladich on Loch Awe, and now part of the Cille Creag fold.

The most heroic thing that happens here on our croft is the odd rugby tackle of a daft ewe trailing half a bramble bush behind her or brushing one shaggy Highland calf when her two pals are desperate for their turn.

Our three girls are almost a year old now and on the ridge below our house with the

Sound of Jura behind them they look unarguably majestic, but take a closer look and there's a bucket of mischief in those ginger-fringed eyes.

Take too long preening one young lady and there'll be four stubby horns threatening the backside of either the groomer or the groomed. The pushiest of these 200-kilo beasts will



Sunset over the Sound of Jura.

then ensconce herself in the salon seat, head thrown back, eyes closed while her gorgeous tresses are prettified.

It certainly would be mission impossible if anyone were even to suggest these pampered princesses were plate-bound. Their job is to look pretty and maybe have a wee winch with a handsome local bull

when they come of age. The meat section is a pretty strip of woodland inhabited by three of the daftest, squeakiest saddleback pigs this side of Glen Croe. They're known as Small, Medium and Splodge in the vain hope of maintaining a professional relationship. Their main carer has, however, been encouraging them to

use her as a playground to be climbed on, bounced on and nibbled. She, our eldest daughter, assures me she will still happily feast on sausages when the time comes.

We're already enjoying the two lambs and the ewe who made the ultimate sacrifice a couple of weeks ago, but it's not easy. Easy would be flinging New Zealand chops and Danish bacon into the shopping trolley, but that's not part of the 'mission'. We'll cut back on the almond-lattes and avocado toasts, but will the croft yield Argyll's finest cocoa and coffee beans – and a mountain of chardonnay grapes? This is my mission and I choose to accept it...

Look out for regular updates of life on the croft in your Argyllshire Advertiser.

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The tunnel intake in November 1961, looking upstream showing transition, bulkhead gate and lifting screens.

# Building Glashan hydro

A fascinating collection of photographs has emerged showing the construction of the Loch Glashan hydro electric scheme, writes Colin Cameron.

The Glashan scheme, in the hills above Lochgair was started in the late 1950s, towards

the tail end of the post-war boom in construction by the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board, hot on the heels of the larger Sloy, Lairige and Shira projects at the northern end of Loch Fyne.

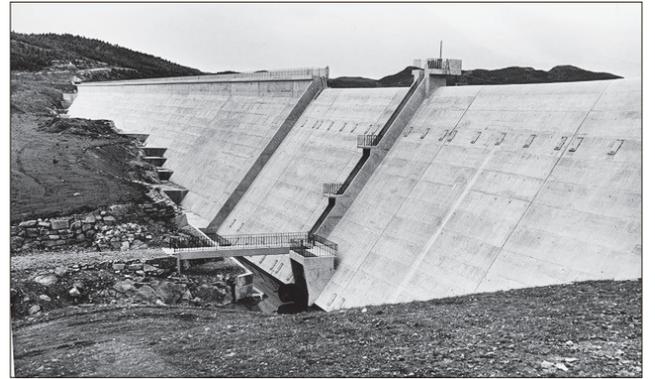
Looking through old photographs, reader Katharine Street - nee Johnson and from a Tarbert family - discovered a collection belonging to her late father-in-law Harold Street.

Mr Street was the resident engineer for the duration of the Glashan project, as Katharine explained: 'He worked for a civil engineering company called Crouch and Hogg.

'From his papers, the Glashan project seems to have cost around £1.35m.

'The construction must have finished about 1962/63 as the family moved to Dundee when Harold took on the Tay Road Bridge.'

Taken in May 1961, this image, looking down towards Lochgair village, shows the spoil tip at the tunnel portal.



Loch Glashan Dam in September 1962, showing access to the headstock and jet disperser valve.



The Lochgair pipeline as it was in June 1962.



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# Island shops get funding for single use packaging

A new shopping scheme aimed at dramatically reducing waste from single-use items on Scotland's islands has awarded more than £250,000 to 20 local retailers, including one each on Islay and Gigha.

Grants provided by the Scottish Government and the European Regional Development Fund will allow shops from 12 Scottish islands to take the next steps in the war on waste by introducing shoppers to more reusable options.

In addition to seeing waste frequently washing up on the shores around them, island communities bear the double burden of dealing with imported single-use items then the shipping-off of waste.

The Islands Green Recovery Programme (IGRP) Refill Fund will provide dispensing and other equipment that



**Catriona Currie and Graeme West from Go Naked Veg started up their plastic free store business in Oban in February 2020.**

enables customers to obtain grocery products in reusable containers brought from home.

Iain Gulland, chief executive of Zero Waste Scotland, said: 'There has been a lot of interest in the scheme and it is pleasing to see the demand is there for retailers and their customers to make the switch to reusables.'

'If we can demonstrate the success of refill-type shops on the islands, it could lead the

way in changing how we shop nationwide.'

Western Isles retailers benefiting from the funding include: Essence of Harris; Sandwick Bay Candles Limited, Stornoway; Carlost Community Shop CIC, Rankins Supermarket, The Selkie Collective, Sleat Community Trading Company Limited, Armadale Stores, Glendale Shop and PO, all Isle of Skye; Raasay

Community Stores; Isle of Eigg Shop; Bùth Bharraigh, Isle of Barra; Lismore Stores; Campbells of Islay Limited, Islay; Ardmish Stores, Isle of Gigha; Isle of Arran Brewery; Arran Ice Cream and Taste of Arran.

Joe Teale, proprietor of Ardmish Stores on Gigha, said: 'We are very pleased to have received the IGRP funding.'

'It will allow us to create a dispensing area for a range of dried food, oils and vinegar.'

'We have no access to blue bin pick-ups on Gigha so our recycling goes out in plastic bags which often get blown around and create even more mess. If we can help even a little bit to lessen the amount of plastic used, we will. This will add to community efforts to reduce the large amount of single-use plastic.'

## Historic first online election of Bishop

The Diocese of Argyll and the Isles has chosen a new Bishop in an historic first online episcopal election.

The Rev Canon Dr Keith Riglin was selected on Saturday January 30 by the Electoral Synod from a short-list of three candidates. He will fill the vacancy created when the previous Bishop, Right Rev Kevin Pearson, became Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway last year.

The successful outcome means the College of Bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church now has a full complement of seven Bishops for the first time in five years.

After his election, the Bishop-elect said: 'I am delighted and deeply touched to be elected as Bishop.'

'This is such an important time for our communities and churches. I'm humbled by the confidence placed in



**Bishop Riglin.**

me and look forward to all that God may do.'

The Most Rev Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, welcomed the new Bishop to the College of Bishops.

'Keith has served the diocese of Argyll and the Isles as an encourager and enabler, bringing fresh insights that have invigorated the clergy and congregations. May he be blessed in his new ministry,' he said.

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The reluctant West Coast laird...

**READY, STEADY, BAKE...**  
A lockdown-busting six Bakes off stunning recipes from The Great British Bake Off star Flora Shedden

# Why your business must act now to continue trading with Europe

NEW RULES for doing business with Europe are in place and you must act now to continue trading with the continent. The UK Government has already minimised disruption, staggering border control changes. But you must ...

- Make customs declarations when exporting goods to the EU – couriers, freight forwarders or customs agents can help.
- Ensure you have an EORI number starting with GB, check new rules for importing and exporting, and that your goods meet origin rules.

The way we do business with the EU has changed. Many firms are already adapting to the new rules and making plans for the future. If your business has not introduced changes, it is not too late. But you must act now! This is what you need to do.

- If exporting, you need to check the EU business you're exporting to is also ready. If you're due to travel to the EU for work, you may need a visa or work permit.
- If you want to hire from outside the UK, including the EU, you must be a Home Office licenced sponsor under the UK's new points-based immigration system.

## MAKE CHANGES

Trading with Europe has changed. So, to avoid disruption to your company's operations, you need to make changes too. Visit the [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) site and use the Brexit checker tool to access personalised actions for your company.



**HEADING FOR EUROPE:** New rules are now in place for trading with the continent.

## TEAMWORK IS VITAL

Teamwork is the secret of UK transition success, according to an award-winning Cumbrian family business.

"There are UK Government website resources," confirms Barry Leahey, MD of ninth generation family firm Playdale Playgrounds.

"There's also the Department for International Trade. The CBI has an excellent website, there's lots of assistance on there, as does the IOD and local chambers.

"We've accessed all these great resources to create an action sheet. All the information is out there.

"You've got to do your research but you only have to do it once," continues the business



### PLAYDALE PLAYGROUNDS

boss who "sells fun all over the world", his 100-plus workforce supplying 51 countries.

"In the first weeks of January we've got goods on the road. What we're finding is our European partners, who we've prompted, have also been breaking old habits and creating new ones

"I think everything's going smoother than we expected."

## 'IT'S NOT A HASSLE'

Companies still preparing for the new rules should not "bury their heads in the sand."

"It will sort itself out. You have to deal with things you've never dealt with before. But, once you've put the systems in place, it's not as big a hassle as you think," assures James McGoldrick.

Bradfords successfully supplies luxury hampers, baskets and gift sets to the EU and beyond thanks to following UK Government guidelines.

"The UK Government website was very good, it took you through everything," he confirms, reassuring other operators who must now swiftly follow suit that "these things are all quite quick actually."



### BRADFORDS BAKERS

His firm's preparation ensured EU trade is now "incredibly busy" and it is currently operating at an estimated 350% up on last year's trade.

"It helped that we had all our ducks in a row. The UK Government website was very clear on certain things we had to do."

## 'YOU'RE NOT ALONE'

"We're all in this together" reassures a South Wales company chief whose family firm is successfully trading under the new rules.

Two thirds of Neath-based Naissance's essential oil sales are with "important trading partners" within the EU.

"My advice is don't bury your head in the sand," advises Jem Skelding, who employs over 100 staff.

"We're all trying to figure this out. If you are struggling with it, or finding it difficult, you're not alone, there's help and advice.

"The UK Government website has lots of useful information.

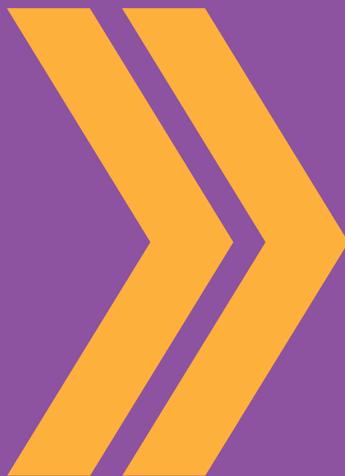
"The light at the end of the tunnel is we're seeing progress, things are improving. Try to see



### NAISSANCE

the positives." Jem stresses urgent action from business is required regarding VAT, GDPR, EU workers, duty deferment, terms and conditions, contracts, customs declarations and agents as well as Economic Operators Registration and Identification numbers.

"As things settle down, new opportunities will undoubtedly present themselves."



## New rules for business

Doing business with Europe has changed.

Act now at [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition)

All together >

## 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 8NBImprovements  
welcome but...

After being talked about for years – going back to the time of the Crinan Canal corridor ‘charrette’ process (if you can remember that far back), through the ongoing front green plans – the cash to refurbish Colchester Square seems to have arrived suddenly. And it needed to be spent sharpish to avoid losing it.

Out of the blue the council issued a press release last month announcing it would start work that very week.

It all happened fast, but someone in Kilmory should have put themselves in the shoes of retailers. Jilly Wilson has a point about lack of notice and consideration, and from all appearances it could have been avoided with a wee bit of thought.

On the plus side, we look forward to the new, improved street with its distinctive Achnaba stone taking centre stage. Lochgilphead badly needs a lift, and this should be a great start – with more to come.

## Consideration

After months cooped up, when snow fell the sledges came out. It was a great opportunity to have some fun.

But the choice of sledging hill needs to be made with consideration for others.

## Check please before sledging

Sir,  
Could we please make people aware that enjoying the snow and sledging has a more serious side?

In one of our fields where there were young sheep, folk assumed the field was empty and enjoyed some sledging time during recent snowfall.

In fact, there were sheep in the field which were panicked and scattered into the wood.

After a couple of hours searching afterwards, we found one young sheep dead.

Please do not assume there are no stock in fields even if at first you cannot see them.

It is always best to check at a farm where it is safe to sledge. Please do this.

Dee and Fergus Lyon, Fernoch Farm,  
Lochgilphead.

## Halt TSB branch closures

Sir,  
The banking regulator, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), should stop TSB closing its branches in Helensburgh, Dunoon, Rothesay, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown.

These closures will mean Oban is the only branch of the TSB in Argyll and Bute.

Many TSB customers will have a long journey to reach their nearest branch. Not everyone can use internet banking.

The FCA has already pointed out that during the Covid pandemic it will be hard for banks to reach their customers and engage effectively with them on closure proposals. It also pointed

out that customers may not be able to get to a bank to make the necessary preparations before the closure, such as transferring to another bank.

Instead of just pointing out these difficulties, the FCA should step in and tell TSB not to go ahead with these closures.

Leaving only one TSB branch open in Argyll and Bute is unacceptable.

Councillor Alan Reid, Cowal ward.

## Getting older in Scotland

Sir,  
After an exceptionally challenging year for older people, Age Scotland is seeking their views in the first comprehensive survey of what it is like to grow older in Scotland.

The Big Survey explores all areas of life for older people, including health and wellbeing, housing, media representation and the impact of Covid-19.

We hope to gain a better insight into what older people think, experience and care about. Survey responses will help prioritise future campaigns and shape policy.

Older people were asked to shield, the overwhelming majority of deaths took place among the over 75s and care home residents faced months of separation from family and friends.

Lockdown has contributed to soaring levels of loneliness and the absence of regular exercise activities and sports has had an impact on physical fitness. We are pleased to be launching The Big Survey at such an opportune time.

This has been a tumultuous time for older people and undoubtedly the past 12 months

have had a profound impact across society. We want to hear how older people's lives have been affected by Covid, what their expectations are now, how they want to live and what their requirements are for enjoying a fulfilling and happy later life.

I would urge as many older people as possible to take part. Each and every response will be considered and they will help shape our policies and our work in the coming years.

So please take the time to share your views and help us be there to support older people throughout Scotland in ways that make a real difference. Visit [www.ageuk.org.uk/scotland](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/scotland) to find out more about The Big Survey.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Brian Sloan, chief executive, Age Scotland.

Consider fostering a child as  
pandemic hits vulnerable

Sir,  
Barnardo's Scotland foster carers look after children across the west of Scotland, giving them the best chance to have a happier and positive future.

But the charity is concerned the pandemic could lead to a sharp increase in requests to the charity for foster care and is asking for more potential carers in Argyll and Bute to come forward.

The pandemic and lockdowns have increased pressure on vulnerable families, with job losses, deepening poverty and worsening mental health which could all lead to family breakdown.

Fostering is an exceptional job. We are looking

## 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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## YOUR PICTURES



This week's gorgeous featured photograph comes from Llana Sandilands and features a dream-like snowy scene looking down Kilmartin Glen during last month's wintery spell. Send your favourite photographs for publication to [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)

for people who can juggle between work, care and home schooling under lockdown.

We need people who have a real understanding of a child's development, the impact of trauma in their lives, people with a sense of fun and those who really enjoy children's company.

They need to be able to make that commitment to helping a child settle for a set period of time.

It's more important than ever for people to consider

becoming foster carers to ensure the right loving families are available in the right location when children need them. For anyone thinking about fostering, it is worth it. These children need you and if you have space to love, please consider it.

Barnardo's Scotland Fostering West is asking people over 21, who have a spare room and the time and commitment to support a child, to get in touch and consider fostering. Comprehensive training and sup-

port is offered to our foster carers, including extensive support throughout the application process, intensive induction, regular ongoing training, one to one meetings, dedicated out-of-hours access to a social worker and a generous financial fee. Anyone interested in becoming a foster carer should call 0800 0277 280 or visit the [www.barnardos.org.uk/foster/glasgow](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/foster/glasgow) website.

**Sue Brunton, assistant director for Barnardo's Scotland Fostering.**

## CONTACTUS

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Across Argyll and Bute Stop Smoking Advisors delivering the Quit Your Way Stop Smoking services are there to help you have a healthy start to 2021. An important role for this team is encouraging people to never start smoking as well as helping those who do to "quit their way" as part of the team's effort to work towards the Scottish Government's aim of a tobacco free generation by 2034.

### QUIT YOUR WAY with our support

The Argyll and Bute team take great pride in helping people make life changing steps to give up smoking for good. Becoming Smoke Free has immediate health benefits such as a lower heart rate, improved carbon monoxide levels and a better sense of taste and smell. Within weeks improvements can be experienced in coughing, breathing and lung function. For those who have asthma, after stopping smoking for a few weeks the severity of asthma attacks reduce. Within a year, stopping smoking can result in improvements for people with mild to moderate Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and reduce the risk of coronary heart disease by 50%!

Making that first appointment with an Advisor can feel like a really big step so all clients will be welcomed, supported and listened to – everyone's journey is different so Advisors will provide a bespoke stop smoking programme for every individual client. Advisors will explain that the NHS Quit Your Way Stop Smoking Service is free, supportive, non-judgemental and is generally provided over a 12- week programme. Regular

contact is made throughout this duration to review each individual's progress and any challenges that arise. Advisors work with clients to find out what their goals are, what motivates them and how to successfully help them stop for good. Advisors also talk through the medications available, discuss what would work best for the client and arrange for these to be prescribed.



Being smoke free will also improve the health of family and friends exposed to second hand smoke. Savings of several thousands of pounds each year can be made, allowing your wallet to be much healthier too!

The team are aware many smokers are worrying about Covid-19 and the risk of more severe symptoms which is why it's an important time to get this message out.

If you are thinking about stopping smoking, would like more information or would like to speak to someone about your smoking habits the team would encourage you to get in touch.

Evidence shows that you are four times more likely to stop smoking when supported by a Stop Smoking Advisor so don't delay that quit any longer, the team are here for you to start 2021 smoke free!



#### Contact Us | Smoke Free Highland

If you'd like to stop smoking, please complete the form, and your local advisor will get in touch with you.

<https://www.smokefreehighland.scot.nhs.uk/contact/>

If you would like to talk to someone directly, contact our local advisor Jill Denton on 07707868351

NHS Highland Number on

**08457 573 077**

Mon-Fri 9-5pm

Email: [nsh.absmokefreeservices@nhs.scot](mailto:nsh.absmokefreeservices@nhs.scot)



## Clean up during lockdown exercise

Why not turn lockdown exercise into a mind and environment-cleansing litter pick?

Everyone is trying to make the best of things during Scotland's second lockdown and now GRAB Trust - the Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute - has come up with a litter pick starter pack containing everything anyone needs to know about a litter pick or beach clean.

The trust is also looking for photographs of people's litter picking and beach cleaning adventures which can be shared via the GRAB Trust Beaches and Marine Litter Project Facebook page.

The GRAB Trust encourages litter pickers to take photographs before and after their clean-up of the litter collected and any particularly interesting or unusual items which turn up.

If anyone is planning a beach clean, plenty information can also be found on the Marine Conservation Society Beachwatch website, including



**Kerry MacKay can help people clean up.** Photograph: Rohan Holt.

handy guides on everything from how to do a beach clean to Covid-19 safety advice.

For a litter pick anywhere other than a beach, Keep Scotland Beautiful has all the required details.

Contact Kerry MacKay, beaches and marine litter education project officer at the GRAB Trust, by emailing [kerry.mackay@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:kerry.mackay@argyll-bute.gov.uk) for more information.

## Crisp and even iced over



Thank you to reader Don Stewart of Letter Dail who sent the Advertiser this snowy photograph of Cairnbaan showing ice on the Crinan Canal channel on one of January's crispest days.

## Don't ignore cancer concerns during pandemic

A Highlands and Islands MSP has urged people worried about cancer to get their symptoms checked out.

World Cancer Day was marked on Thursday February 4 and Shadow Health Secretary Donald Cameron MSP said: 'World Cancer Day provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the advances which have seen survival rates double in the last 40 years.'

'But despite these advances we should remember one in two people get cancer during their lifetime so it remains incredibly important we do not let up in the work to diagnose and treat this disease, notwithstanding the Covid-19 pandemic.'

'It would be tragic if people who have any symptoms hesitate to seek assistance from the NHS. So if you have any worries, please refer yourself. Our NHS staff remain dedicated to providing the best possible care and the sooner treatment can be prescribed, the better the prospects.'

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# LOOK HIM IN THE EYES

# AND TELL HIM YOU ALWAYS KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE.

*Anthony Covid-19 patient*

Around 1 in 3 people who have Covid-19 have no symptoms and are spreading it without knowing. Are you absolutely positive you're not one of them? Only go out if essential. Sticking to the rules stops the spread.

**STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES**

## Government urged to help fishing industry

Argyll and Bute Council's leader has called on the secretary of state for Scotland to help safeguard the future of the area's fishing industry.

Kintyre and the Islands councillor Robin Currie has told Alister Jack MP in a letter that the seafood sector 'desperately' needs government action to secure its survival.

He also said that he had been contacted by 'numerous' constituents with concerns about the industry's sustainability since the UK left the European Union on December 31, 2020.

The letter was on the agenda for the Bute and Cowal community planning group on Tuesday, February 2, and the Mid-Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands community planning group the following day.

Councillor Currie said: 'The seafood sector is a vital component of our already-fragile regional economy and 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. 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.

'Now, though, I am hearing from fishing families of long standing, newer start-up businesses and companies employing hundreds of people in total, that if urgent action is not taken, they will have to close their doors for good.'

Mr Currie stated that the council was doing all that it could to support the businesses and prevent this imminent disaster including discussions with the Scottish Government and producers. He added: 'More is required, though, in the medium and longer terms, to help this beleaguered industry to get afloat again and regain some buoyancy.'

# Lifeline Jura road 'left to rot', claims islander

A Jura resident has said the island's only A road – a lifeline supply and commute route which provides vital access for emergency services – has been 'left to rot', writes Fiona Scott.

Neil Gow has complained about the 'utter disrepair' of a section of the A846 for months with little result.

He explained that a now-badly-pot-holed section of the road, a few hundred metres long, was resurfaced in October 2020.

'Within days, it was deteriorating to a far worse state than it has ever been,' Mr Gow said. 'I believe other areas of Argyll had similar issues which were subsequently rectified. Jura was not.'

Mr Gow said that despite some 'sympathetic responses and promises of action' after continuous complaints to Argyll and Bute Council



from the community council and members of the wider community, the condition of the road became worse rather than better.

He personally complained to the council after a fellow Jura resident received a response on December 4 advising that repairs would be carried out by January 3.

He said: 'Given the dangerous state of the road by this stage, and the speed of deterioration, I found this delay unacceptable – and the timing of the first Sunday of 2021 to be suspiciously odd.

'Predictably, the January 3 deadline was missed. The only improvement that appears to have come from complaints so far has been the eventual erection of warning signs in late December – one of which blew down days later and remains down.

'The road now is in utter disrepair in multiple sections. I understand the pandemic has caused disruption to services but, to state the obvious, this road is the literal lifeline for the island.

'It is a disgrace that Jura has been left to rot like this. I am not interested in investigations, or blame, or heads rolling, or apologies, or excuses. The people of Jura need a road. Anything less is a failure.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'When lockdown eased in the late summer, we successfully

completed five road retreat programmes on Islay and Jura.

'These works were designed to have a minimal environmental impact by recycling existing road material, adding bituminous binder and then regrading and compacting the surface. We are working hard to deal with the localised damage on the mile-long stretch of Jura road that was resurfaced. Localised damage is not unusual.

'As well as monitoring and patching the potholes, we will arrange for a contractor to overlay the damaged areas. This is dependent on ferry availability, as the materials have to be brought from the mainland and used while they are still hot.'

The council says it would need to invest more than £100 million to bring the entire road network up to an A1 standard.



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## Thought for the Week

'Everything in the garden is lovely,' so the saying goes, but do we always take time to appreciate that?

Let's take leaves for instance. There are so many different shapes, colours and textures of leaves. In winter, there is the prickly holly bush. Another evergreen is a camellia whose leaves have a shiny, smooth surface and, of course, there is rosemary with its stems of small, slender, fragrant leaves so valued as a herb in the kitchen.

Perhaps leaves are like people. We can sometimes encounter some prickly characters who leave us taken aback and hurt by their harsh words. On the other hand, some people have a gift for smoothing out difficult situations and whose personalities just seem to shine. Then there are people who at first sight seem insignificant but on getting to know them bring fragrance and blessing. So if everything in the garden is going to be lovely, we need to learn to respect each other and realise we are all different; different in beliefs, colour, personalities and political convictions.

Former Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks described that respect as 'the dignity of difference'. All major religions teach the importance of understanding one another and practising tolerance of different views.

Christianity's great exponent St Paul gave us this advice: 'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.'

So let us strive to make everything in the garden lovely.

David O McEwan, St Kieran's Scottish Episcopal Church, Campbeltown.

## ARGYLL ISLANDS

### Call to vaccinate everyone at once on small islands

Small island communities in Argyll and Bute should be vaccinated together against Covid-19 instead of waiting in different tier groups, health chiefs have said.

Boyd Robertson, chairman of NHS Highland, said he has contacted the Scottish Government regarding the possibility of this happening.

Argyll and Bute Council leader Robin Currie backed the call, citing as an example the island of Colonsay, which at the last census in 2011 was recorded as having a population of 124. The discussion took place at a meeting of the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership's integration joint board on January 27.

Mr Robertson said: 'Representations have been made by the chief executive, myself and the director of public health and policy to the Scottish Government for relaxation of regulations regarding the order in which people can be vaccinated in smaller communities.'

'This particularly applies to island areas which are only accessible by sea. We can look to take an approach that will allow vaccination to take place while not being restricted to a particular group of the population.'

Councillor Currie added: 'This is something I have raised with CoSLA leaders and with the cabinet secretary.'

'If you were to choose Colonsay as an example, instead of having vaccines taken to the island for a handful of people aged over 80, to me it would make more sense to vaccinate everyone.'

Scottish Government figures show that the majority of people aged over 80 have now had their first jab, with over-70s due to have their first dose of the vaccine from the week beginning February 1.

## DUNOON

### Men's shed thanks Co-op fund

Ian Graham and Iain McNaughton of the Dunoon Men's Shed project have thanked Dunoon Co-op and members for a £5,734 donation from the Co-op community fund.



Achaleven Primary School pupils work to improve their environment.

As the nearest Men's Shed project to Strachur, they reported in the village newsletter: 'We are grateful for the funding we have received.'

'The grant will be spent on our garden project and the purchase and installation of a four-post car lift in our shed.'

Though currently closed due to coronavirus restrictions, the main point of Men's Sheds is the friendliness and comradeship they promote.

## CONNEL

### Praise for eighth Green Flag

Achaleven Primary School in Connel has been awarded its eighth Green Flag by Ecoschools Scotland.

Pupils have been working hard to incorporate environmental matters into everyday life, not only in the school, but also in the community and beyond. Their focus over the last two years has been on reducing litter, minimising waste and learning about clean water and sanitation

– one of the Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

Becoming global citizens and championing change is core to the school's beliefs and it recently adopted a section of the local beach to look after and carry out regular beach cleans.

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education Councillor Yvonne McNeilly said: 'I love hearing about the different approaches that each of our schools take when working towards their Green Flag award.'

'Achaleven's focus on learning about clean water and sanitation is tremendous. This educates the children about the huge part clean water plays in our everyday lives and lets them explore the science involved in the process of making it safe to drink.'

'These children are our future and it's extremely encouraging to see the enthusiasm they are showing towards making a difference to the world.'

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**Around the markets**

**Caledonian Marts Ltd, Monday February 1:** sold 895 Store Hoggets and Feeding Ewes at their fortnightly sale.

A good show of Hoggets forward for numbers met a similar trade to the last sale, with the overall average for 895 Hoggets sold levelling out at £80.06.

Top price of the day went to W & E Cook, Balcachie for a pen of Texel Hoggets at £108.

Leading Prices:  
Store Hoggets per Head - Texel £104 & £102 Bower Park; Continental £100 Bower Park; Beltex X £99 Mosshead; Beltex £98 Craiglaw & Feddans; Suffolk £96 Balcachie; Cross £96 Standingfauld; exel X £95 Loig; Mule £84 Alpin Cottage; BF £78 Allanfauld & Drumardoch  
Feeding Ewes per Head:

Texel £78 Bower Park; Cheviot X £70 Lochnell; BF £46 Innieshewan Farms.  
**United Auctions, Oban, Tuesday January 26:** sold 662 sheep of all classes. Hoggs sold to £94.00 for Suffolk Crosses from Barcaldine Home Farm to average £53.06 (+£5.59). 2021 kicked off with a bang at Oban Livestock Centre when averages in all sections of the sale recorded a substantial increase on the corresponding sale last year.

Leading lots & prices: Hoggs - SuffX - £94.00, Barcaldine HF. TexX - £87.00, £77.00, £67.00, Gallanachmore. Chev - £78.00, Strongorm; £76.00, Ardachy; £71.00, Daltote. Cross - £84.00, Ederline Estate; £80.00, Lochnell HF. BF - £70.00, Ormsary Farmers; £64.00, Stroneskar; £63.00, Stroneskar;

£63.00, Gorteneorn; £63.00, Gallanachmore; £61.00, Achalic; £61.00, Castles Estate. Ewes - TexX - £88.00, Glenamachrie. Chev - £65.00, Dunach Estate. Cross - £71.00, Wood Cottage Croft; £67.00, Lochnell HF; £64.00, Glenamachrie; £60.00, Wood Cottage Croft; £60.00, Ormsary Farmers. Mule - £81.00, Ormsary Farmers; £63.00, Lusraganbeag. BF - £60.00, Barndromin. Rams - Suff - £75.00, Culbhuirg. BFL - £76.00, Saulmore. Belt - £88.00, Ormsary Farmers. Tex - £93.00, 83 Borve; £86.00, Dunach Estate; £82.00, Ardachy. Cha - £80.00, Culbhuirg. Chev - £94.00, £87.00, £80.00, Strongorm; £80.00, The Steadings; £80.00, Dunach Estate; £80.00, Ederline Estate; £80.00, Barndromin. Cross - £88.00, Barcaldine HF. BF - £85.00, Saulmore. Wedders - BF - £79.00, Stroneskar.

**Invitation for farming families to join hit TV documentary series**

Farming families in the Highlands and beyond are being offered the chance to take part in a hit BBC documentary on the agricultural lifestyle.

A fourth series of This Farming Life is currently screening on BBC 2 every week at 8pm on Wednesdays.

Such is its popularity, it has now been commissioned for a fifth series, with members of the farming community being asked to get in touch to discuss the possibility of taking part.

A BBC Scotland spokeswoman said: 'I know a lot of farmers in the Inverness and Highlands area are fans of This Farming Life, so this may be of interest. 'The documentary series will



once again follow farming and crofting families over the course of a year and the BBC particularly want to hear from those who have a year of change or challenge ahead.' Any farmers interested

in appearing, or those who know someone who might be perfect for the show, are asked to get in touch with the team via assistant producer Kate Thomson at email: kate.thomson@bbc.co.uk



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- 2 x 2-foot swing gates



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

**MAIN FEATURES:**

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

**PARTS LIST:**

- 10 x 3m (6 railed) cattle hurdles
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- 1 x sliding gate

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A FRESH APPROACH TO SELLING HOMES

# Buying or selling? What you can do right now

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.

House moves cannot be kept on hold forever; up and downsizing plans have to go ahead and so do moves for work or family circumstances. Rest assured - all the players in the property market are working hard to keep things moving.

How on earth do you move house during a pandemic with so many lockdown rules in place?

The Scottish Government says you are: 'strongly advised to postpone at this time, if possible'.

But sometimes staying put is not an option; moves for family circumstances, including finances, and employment, have to take place. The current guidelines from Holyrood say work can be carried out in someone's home for 'the maintenance, upkeep or functioning of the home'

If keeping your home functioning means moving house then do not worry.

People can enter your home, 'to support a home move, for example furniture removal'.

And, 'it is permitted to leave your house for activities in connection with moving home (including viewing a property), or for activities in connection with the essential maintenance, purchase, sale, letting, or rental of residential property that the person owns or is otherwise responsible for'.

But the advice continues: 'You should search for property online and do viewings virtually in the first instance and only physically view a property which you most likely want to move into'.

This is where our estate agents have stepped up to the challenge. Most have expanded their

online presence with video views of properties and the number of photographs of each property has been vastly increased.

Moving house is possible and the market is strong, but don't just take our word for it.

Last week the Financial Times reported that UK property prices rose at their fastest rate since 2016; with a four-year high in November, saying that lockdown lifestyle shifts and government measures boosted property prices in spite of economic slowdown.

The Scottish Property Federation (SPF) is the voice for the property industry in Scotland. Michaela Sullivan MRTPI, who chairs the foundation, is optimistic; she said in the organisation's review at the end of 2020: 'As we move into 2021, We still have some hurdles to face, as the vaccination programme will not be completed overnight, furlough will come to an end, our public finances have been altered beyond all recognition and the potential long-term impacts on how we occupy and use our real estate are not yet understood.'

The Home Owners Alliance reports: 'With demand outstripping supply, it's definitely a 'sellers market' as newly listed homes are being snapped up. This puts sellers in a strong position to negotiate and pick from the best buyers who are able to move quickly.'

Nearly a quarter of those planning to buy their first property say they have been able to save more cash during lockdown, according to research from the Nottingham Building Society. The money saved on commuting and the removal of any temptation to go out for a meal or the treat of a weekend away have all helped boost nest eggs.



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## Moving home during a pandemic

Scottish Government guidelines, updated earlier this month say: All home moves are permitted, provided they can be carried out safely. This continues to be the case following the announcement of the measures in the five level system and the temporary lockdown.

People can move home in all protection levels, and to and from areas with different levels. Property viewings are to be done virtually in the first instance and in taking account of the new strain of the virus it may be advisable to postpone viewings of properties or delay a home move, where this is possible.

Related activities in connection with the purchase, sale, letting or rental of a residential property include:

- Visiting estate or letting agents, housing association or council offices, developer sales offices or show homes where necessary
- Viewing a residential property to look for a property to buy or rent where necessary
- Preparing a residential property to move in.
- Moving home
- Visiting a residential property to undertake any activities required for the rental or sale of that property.

Although you can leave home for these purposes, you should consider if you can delay these activities where possible.

## The Lochaber property market is on the move, with new estate agency at Lochybridge...



Some readers may recognise the owner of new estate agents Peter Murphy & Co Estate Agents. Peter Murphy is well known in the Lochaber area from his time as a former player and chairman of Fort William FC. Peter left Fort William for Inverness some 25 years ago with his wife Tricia to pursue a career in financial services. In 2004 he turned his negotiating skills to estate agency and in 2012 began working for a national estate agent. As Branch Manager of a company with 260 branches he turned the Inverness branch from loss making to the most profitable branch in whole of the UK.

Changes in family circumstances have led Peter & Tricia to decide to move back to Fort William. They feel there is now an opportunity to offer a fresh approach to sellers across the Highlands. Peter & Tricia will provide a competitively priced estate agency service from Oban to Fort William and Inverness, whilst offering the level of service a seller would expect when selling what is likely to be their most valuable asset. They will carry out accompanied viewings at no cost and are open weekdays from 9am til 9pm as well as Saturdays from 10am til 4pm. Their new office is about to open at Sheraton Retail Park at Lochybridge, Fort William. To ensure the safest possible way of carrying out viewings they will temperature test all viewers before they enter homes and follow all Covid19 protocols. They recognise that buyers want to fully appraise a home before visiting it so offer high quality virtual tours as well as professional photography and floorplans. Enjoy a customer friendly, professional and fresh approach to selling your home with Peter Murphy & Co Estate Agents today – call today on 01397 708555.

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# All-New Isuzu D-Max crowned 2021 Pick-Up Of The Year by 4x4 Magazine

The All-New Isuzu D-Max has won its very first UK award after eclipsing all the competition at the 4x4 Magazine awards. Judges at the specialist off-road publication were awestruck by its high levels of comfort and even greater capabilities and deservedly crowned the newcomer as the '2021 Pick-Up Of The Year'.

Isuzu has a solid reputation in the UK for providing tough, practical and proficient vehicles. The All-New D-Max inherits Isuzu's unmistakable workhorse DNA, with an even stronger chassis, and adds greater levels of refinement, safety and off-road capabilities.

After a conducting a comprehensive driving appraisal, testing the safety equipment and comparing its specification with the competitors, the esteemed panel were convinced that there was only

one worthy winner and bestowed the coveted title upon the All-New Isuzu D-Max.

The judges were particularly impressed by the new model's comfortable interior, refined driving characteristics, sleek dashboard design and new infotainment systems, which includes a 9-inch touchscreen display on the top-of-the-range model.

Alan Kidd, Editor at 4x4 Magazine, commented: "This D-Max is far more refined to drive on the road. It's smoother and quieter at all speeds, with steering and suspension that disguise its size. Its cabin is a quantum leap forward with cutting-edge electronics mounted on a superb looking dash".

As the UK's only 4x4 and Pick-Up Magazine, their dedicated readership of off-road enthusiasts will also be interested in the D-Max's even stronger

chassis, faster engaging shift-on-the-fly 4WD system and the rear diff-lock, which is now standard on All-Purpose and Adventure range models.

The increased refinement, safety and comfort of the All-New Isuzu D-Max hasn't compromised Isuzu's renowned practicality, with the new model offering a 3.5t towing capacity and a maximum payload of over one tonne. Power is derived from an efficient, Euro 6D compliant diesel engine, which produces up to 164PS and 360Nm of torque.

Customers have a wide range of models to choose from including 4x2 or 4x4, a 6-speed manual or automatic transmission, three cab types (single, extended and double cab) and four brand new trim levels. Each new model comes with 125,000 mile / 5 Year warranty and 5 years UK and European roadside assistance.



Achieving a maximum five-star rating in the new rigorous Euro NCAP test, the All-New

Isuzu D-Max arrives into UK showrooms in March 2021 and customers are encouraged

to register their interest now by calling S&S Services on 01292 880080

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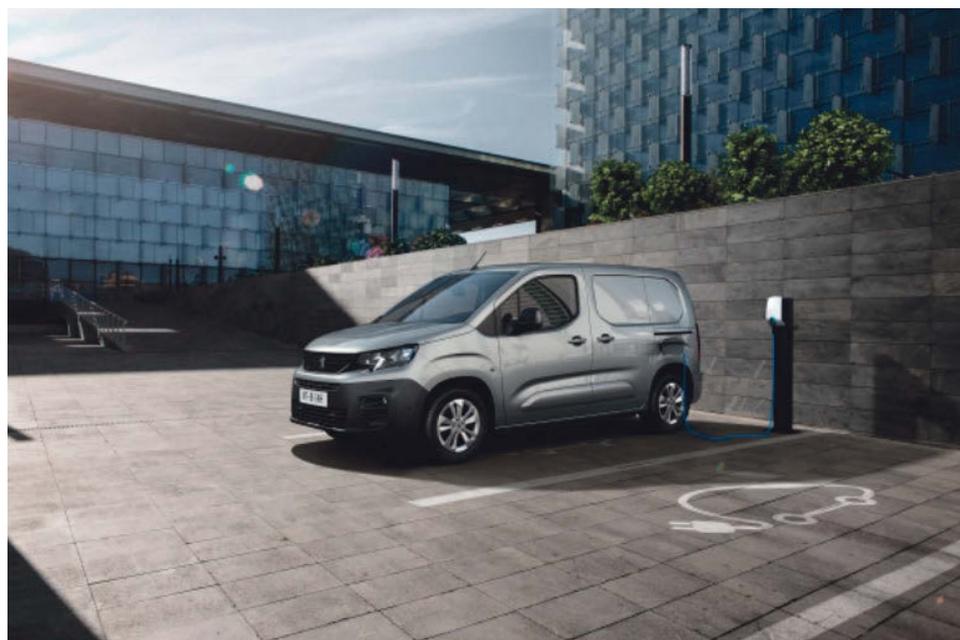
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# West Coast MOTORING

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## Peugeot boosts electric range with new Peugeot e-Partner



PEUGEOT is expanding its electric vehicle range with the new PEUGEOT e-Partner, the latest light commercial vehicle (LCV) in the brand's line-up to be offered as a full electric vehicle. The new e-Partner joins the existing zero emissions

PEUGEOT e-Expert van. With a 100% electric range of up to 171 miles / 275km (WLTP), the PEUGEOT e-Partner continues PEUGEOT's commitment to provide a fully electrified range by 2023, and completes its aim of offering a full range of electric

vans by the end of this year. The PEUGEOT Partner range has been hugely successful since its launch in 1996, with more than 2,000,000 units sold across 100 countries. In 2019, the PEUGEOT Partner was named 'International Van of the Year'

showcasing its high reputation among industry experts. Julie David, Managing Director of PEUGEOT UK, said: "It is incredibly exciting to be announcing the news of our new PEUGEOT e-Partner, the latest addition to our electrified range.

The PEUGEOT Partner has been one of our most popular commercial vehicle models, and we can't wait to see how the new electric variant will be received alongside the PEUGEOT e-Expert. I look forward to seeing the new PEUGEOT e-Partner

out on the road, continuing our electric revolution."

The new PEUGEOT e-Partner will be available in the UK from November 2021. Contact Campbeltown Motor Company to find out more Tel: 01586 553 200

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# West Coast MOTORING

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### Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 THE MARINE LICENSING (PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc a company registered in Scotland under number SC213460 having its registered office at Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 3AQ plans to hold an online pre-application consultation event between **2pm and 6pm on Thursday 18th of March 2021.**

The meeting is in regard to the installation of a submarine electricity cable across Kilbrannan Sound from the environs of Port na Cuile, Carradale to Balliekie, Arran. The replacement cable is critical for a safe and reliable supply of electricity to our customers. The area of search corridor for the proposed submarine cable is defined by the approximate coordinates below:

Point	Latitude (WGS-84)	Longitude (WGS-84)
1	550 35.703' N	0050 28.155' W
2	550 36.122' N	0050 28.467' W
3	550 36.427' N	0050 25.861' W
4	550 36.138' N	0050 23.099' W
5	550 35.641' N	0050 22.741' W
6	550 35.805' N	005025.791' W

Should you wish to participate in the online event or register initial comment on the proposed installation of a submarine electricity cable, then you can do so by writing to us at:

[submarinercables@sse.com](mailto:submarinercables@sse.com)

Or by post to: Submarine Cable Team, Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 3AQ. Further registration details will be provided upon receipt of correspondence.

Comments on this licensable marine activity should be dated and clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making comment. Comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. If Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution submits an application for a marine licence to Scottish Ministers, an opportunity will be given for representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers on the application.

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### 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
20/02383/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	25 Fernoch Crescent, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute, PA31 8AE
20/02115/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of access	Callibur, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute, PA28 6NX
20/02214/PP	Installation of wall mounted external vent	Flat 1/1, Clydesdale Buildings, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute, PA31 8NE
20/02380/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage, installation of private sewage system and associated works	Land South Of Heatherley, Castleton, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute
20/01843/PP	Variation of conditions 2 and 5 of planning permission reference 06/01093/DET (Extension to holiday park to provide 9 additional caravan hardstandings, associated vehicular access, play area and amenity block, and revision of existing site layout and provision of parking area) in relation to occupation of lodges and amended site layout	West Loch Shores, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute, PA29 6YF

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)  
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# RECRUITMENT



Established in 1994, Colin Broolly Forestry Ltd is a family owned and run timber harvesting business based in Achnabreac, Lochgilphead operating mainly throughout Argyll and the Islands.

**SERVICE ENGINEER**

Due to an increasing work load we require an experienced engineer to join our team to assist with the maintenance and repair of our fleet of forestry machinery, both onsite and within our workshop.

The successful applicant must hold a full UK driving licence and should be self-motivated and reliable. Experience of forestry, agricultural or heavy plant machinery would be desirable.

This is a full time permanent position, and salary will be dependent on the successful candidate's knowledge and experience.

**If this position is of interest or for further information please contact Jude Broolly on [jude@colinbroollyforestry.co.uk](mailto:jude@colinbroollyforestry.co.uk)**

**OFFICE MANAGER**

We have a position for a full-time office manager based in our office at Achnabreac who would be responsible for the smooth day to day running of the office and as the role covers a wide range of office duties, a flexible approach to working would be advantageous.

A knowledge of accounting and payroll software, and Microsoft Excel is required.

The role would involve liaising with and providing support for the workshop and harvesting teams

**If this position is of interest or for further information please contact Jenny Broolly on [jenny@colinbroollyforestry.co.uk](mailto:jenny@colinbroollyforestry.co.uk)**

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Email: [jesscarter@affinitytrust.org](mailto:jesscarter@affinitytrust.org)  
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An Argyll based established Plumbing and Heating firm have a vacancy for a qualified **Plumbing and Heating Engineer**.

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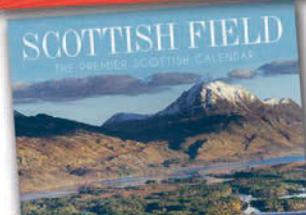
As this post requires travel a current clean driving license is required.

**In the first instance please contact us on [alex@samborek.net](mailto:alex@samborek.net) with a current CV**

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BIRTHS



**GALBRAITH** - Kenneth and Alison (née McKerral) are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Lucy Elizabeth, born January 21, 2021. A little sister for Millie and granddaughter for Ian and Norma McKerral and Hugh and Elizabeth Galbraith. Sincere thanks to all at Campbeltown Maternity Unit.

DEATHS

**BRODIE** - Peacefully at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, on February 1, 2021, Samuel Brown Brodie (Sammy) in his 80th year, 93 Davaar Avenue, Campbeltown, dearly beloved husband of Lucille Brodie, much loved dad of Deborah, Caroline and Danielle and a loving and much loved father-in-law, papa and great papa. Funeral service private in line with current government guidelines. Sammy's funeral will take place on Friday, February 5. The cortege will leave the family home at 1.00 p.m. after a short prayer. We will head along Davaar Avenue, the Roding, Longrow and Aqualibrium Avenue, past the Cross on the way to Kilkerran Cemetery. Anyone wishing to pay their last respects to Sammy may do so along our route. Please remember to observe social distancing. Donations in remembrance of Sammy may be made to the Campbeltown Lifeboat.

**MACBRAYNE** - Peacefully at the Kintyre Care Home, Campbeltown on January 23, 2021, with her family by her side Flora Scally Brown, in her 82nd year, formerly of Meadows Avenue, Campbeltown, beloved wife of the late Colin MacBrayne, much loved mum of Jane, Robert, Marie and the late Colin, loving granny and great-granny of Shaun, Jeff, Sophie, Alice, Walter and Murray and a dearly loved sister.

**MACPHERSON** - Peacefully at the home of her daughter, 23 High Street, Campbeltown, on January 26, 2021, Johan Theresa MacLeod, in her 81st year, formerly of Garvalt, Southend, much loved mum of Iain, Catriona, Heather and Neil, mother-in-law of Eleanor, Steven, Calum and Claire and a loving granny and great-granny.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**CAMPBELL** - The family of the late Jenny Campbell would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for the many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, phone calls and messages of support received following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to Rev. Hilda Smith for her personal and uplifting service; to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their attentive and caring arrangements; to Morna and Corinna for beautiful floral tributes, and to Craig Lang for his piping tribute. We would like to extend our thanks to all in the local community who turned out to pay their respects to Mum on her final journey from Lochgilphead Parish Church to Achtnabreac Cemetery. She will be sorely missed by many.

**CLARK** - Bobby, Jane and Caroline would like to thank all family and friends for the many kind expressions of sympathy and support received on the sad loss of our dearly loved dad Archie Clark. Special thanks to all of Archie's carers over the years for their excellent care and compassion, the district nurses, doctors and staff at Campbeltown Hospital and Shopper-Aide who all contributed to Archie's care. We would especially like to thank Moira Ramsay and Michaela Brown who we will be forever grateful to for their help and support looking after Archie. Thanks also to Kenneth Blair and team for their guidance and professionalism. Rev William Crossan for his comforting service and lastly to all who lined the route to pay their respects as the cortege passed by.

**MAXWELL** - James, Sandra and family would like to thank family, friends, neighbours and former colleagues for their sympathy, support, phone calls, cards, flowers and Facebook messages that were received. We would like to say a special heartfelt thanks to the staff of Glenaray ward, the district nurses, the hospital pharmacy and the staff at the top chemist, the staff at the Lorn and Islands hospital for all the care that was provided to Tommy. To all that took time to line the funeral route, thank you. Thank you also to the Key Line store, Ardrishaig and the Salty Dog, Lochgilphead for the service that you have provided during the testing times that we find ourselves in. To Roddy, Fiona and Cammy a heartfelt thanks for making things smooth and

simple. To David Carruthers for a lovely service and Morna for the floral tributes. Finally to the council employees that carried out the pall bearing services at the graveside thank you.

**McPHEE** - The family of the late Tommy McPhee would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for all their sympathy and support, flowers, cards and phone calls during their sad loss. Special thanks to Stobhill Care Home for all their care and attention, also the Reverend William Crossan for his kind words of comfort at the house and the graveside. Special thanks to Kenneth Blair funeral directors for their excellent service.

**THORLEY** - Anne, August 7, 1955 - December 29, 2020.



Simon, Robert, Lorna, Jamie, Jude, Lisa, Allan, Callum and Charlie would like to thank all those who offered support and kind expressions of sympathy following our sad loss. We're very grateful to those who were able to join us in person at Daldowie Crematorium, who paid their respects at the roadside in Cathcart and who followed the live stream online. We would sincerely like to thank the Paramedics from Lochgilphead; Dr Phillips and the staff at Mid Argyll Community Hospital; the Coastguard Air Ambulance Crew; the doctors and staff at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital A&E and Critical Care Unit; the Celebrant, Gordon Thomson for his fitting service and Jamie, Linda and Ruairi for their support and the funeral arrangements. A special thank you to Matt and Kirsty for being there then and now. We are proud to say that Anne's wishes to donate her organs meant that they were successfully transplanted to two patients on the waiting list. Thank you to everyone who has donated to Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance in Anne's name, which has so far raised £720. Forever in our hearts.

CHURCH NOTICES

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



.....let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. - 1 John 4:7

Our building is still closed but you are welcome to join our online Praise and Worship Zoom Service on **Sunday, 7th February 2021** at 11am when Kelvin Moller from Clachan will preach the message

To join us online send your email address to [officespringbankchurch@gmail.com](mailto:officespringbankchurch@gmail.com) for an invitation to Sunday's Zoom meeting [www.springbankchurch.org.uk](http://www.springbankchurch.org.uk) <https://www.facebook.com/springbankchurch> Contact phone number 01586 551237 - Church Secretary

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



South Kintyre Team Ministry

Due to the new regulations there will be no services held in the churches but an online service can be viewed on the South Kintyre Team Ministry page on YouTube. Ministers  
Revd Steve Fulcher  
Revd Chris Fulcher  
01586830504  
[www.kintyreparishes.org.uk](http://www.kintyreparishes.org.uk)

SALVATION ARMY



Our meetings in the hall are currently cancelled Gospel message will be available via our FB page every Sunday  
If we can be of any assistance to anyone during this time please call us on 01586 552046  
Major Ruth Russell  
Scottish Charity Number SCO09359

CAMPBELTOWN FREE CHURCH  
George Street, Campbeltown



Sunday 7th February

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) 7.30pm Youth Group (by Zoom)

Wednesday 10th February

12 noon Prayer & Bible Study (by Zoom)

[www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk](http://www.campbeltownfreechurch.co.uk)

Scottish Charity Number: SC046745

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH



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

Pastor Mark Jasper  
01586 554 092  
[pastor@campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk](mailto:pastor@campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk)  
[www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk](http://www.campbeltowncommunitychurch.co.uk)  
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SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH in Mid-Argyll & Arran

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

ST MARGARET'S RC CHURCH  
Lochgilphead  
Suspension of Public Worship

Masses will continue to be Live Streamed via our YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5MuOW1KEBfHQBD37ui6yA>

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

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

NORTH KNAPDALE PARISH CHURCH

charity number SC001002  
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[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 (1 John 1)

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Multiple Clyde coast locations will be used for this year's Scottish Series.

### Scottish Series moved from Tarbert for 2021

Tarbert will not host Scotland's premier regatta in 2021, organisers have announced.

Instead, Clyde Cruising Club plans to move the prestigious Scottish Series away from Loch Fyne to 'a number of locations throughout the Clyde estuary'.

The revised event will also see all shoreside and social activities cancelled as a result of the pandemic to reduce the risk of the event being called off for a second year.

Glenn Porter, chairman of the organising committee, said: 'In 2020 we saw the largest regatta north of the south coast cancelled, something we are keen to avoid again.'

'Born out of a desire to race and socialise over the last bank holiday weekend in May, we know 2021 will need to be very different. By stripping out the high risk social aspects, which we know many love, and operating out of multiple bases we hope to support the many racers who look forward to this annual event.'

Further details on the 2021 race format will be released in late February.

# Football cash boost welcomed by Red Star

## SAFA agrees to waive club membership fees

Lochgilhead Red Star football club has welcomed a government cash injection to the amateur game as lockdown continues.

This, along with the support of players, should help see the club financially through the pandemic, ready for the return of competitive action.

The Scottish Government has given £100,000 to the Scottish Football Association, aimed at protecting the game at all levels and helping clubs survive these unprecedented times.

With grassroots clubs across Scotland negatively impacted by the pandemic, in terms of finance and restrictions on recreational football, the Scottish Amateur Football Association (SAFA) will be handed the money to pass on to member clubs.

Amid all the Covid-19 uncertainty, the association remains confident football will return during the current 2020/21 season and for the 2021 summer season.

SAFA president Stuart Urquhart said: 'We all hope the virus situation will improve quickly in the weeks ahead to allow amateur football to return in all parts of the country.'

Last week the Scottish FA held extensive consultations with representatives of leagues

and clubs affected by a temporary suspension announced on Monday January 11.

This has been beneficial in understanding the specific challenges faced by clubs, in particular getting to grips with what is needed to allow play to re-start when it is safe to do so.

### Red Star is fortunate that players have continued to pay their monthly fees

With current lockdown measures to remain in place across Scotland until the end of February, the existing temporary suspension has been extended until midnight on Sunday February 14. This affects all amateur leagues and leagues with predominantly part-time clubs, although a number of full-time clubs have been affected. A further update will be communicated to the clubs by Wednesday February 10.

Colin Weir of Lochgilhead Red Star attended an online meeting of the Scottish Amateur Football League (SAFL) earlier this week and revealed that rather than trying to divide the government grant between member clubs, the SAFA plans instead to



waive club membership fees for next season.

'In terms of Red Star, we've been fortunate our players have continued to pay their monthly fees throughout the pandemic, which should hopefully mean that financially we are in a healthy enough position once football resumes,' he added.

Colin remains hopeful the club might compete in the

Centenary Cup, if and when restrictions allow, adding: 'I would be hopeful, however, that if we return to the tier structure as it was pre-Christmas we would be able to at least play some friendlies against fellow Argyll sides.'

By then the players should be resplendent in shiny new strips, as the club awaits delivery of new kit courtesy of sponsor RJD Brickwork.

**A reminder of pre-pandemic days. Hopefully some games will be played this season.**

51\_a04RedStar02



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