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# Sewing team boosts hospital staff with big cash donation

by Colin Cameron  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

A group of volunteer stitchers, who made vital protective kit for health and care workers during the pandemic, this week handed over an extra gift to hospital staff.

Realising the desperate need for basic protective clothing and equipment, Nikki Thompson, Ardrishaig, set up the group Let's Get Scrubbing for our Mid Argyll NHS shortly after the national coronavirus lockdown began in March 2020.

The group rapidly recruited volunteers from Ardfern to Cairndow and set about producing scrubs – protective clothing – and face masks.

The small army of stitchers manufactured enough kit to supply packages beyond Mid Argyll, also delivering to hospitals in Kintyre, Paisley and Glasgow and a care home in Wick.

Many Argyll firms helped, including Premier Laundry

## 'Wee venture' escalates beyond expectations

and MacLeod Construction, with West Coast Motors leading the delivery arrangements.

As the pandemic progressed,

**'We hope all the staff will benefit in some small way. They certainly deserve it'**

it became clear face coverings were needed for everyone, so the group made and sold these to the wider public to raise additional funds, culminating in a socially-distanced cheque presentation on February 8 at Mid Argyll Hospital.

Nikki explained: 'I was delighted to present a cheque for £3,100 to the hospital on behalf of the Let's Get Scrubbing team.

'This is an amazing amount

of money and we hope all the staff will benefit in some small way. They certainly deserve it.

'When we embarked on the 'scrubs' project at the beginning of the Covid pandemic last year, our aim was to provide our local hospital with as many scrubs sets as we could.

'This quickly escalated and before long the team was supplying PPE to hospitals and care homes the length and breadth of Scotland.

'This was only made possible by the many generous donations of fabric, financial and practical support from a wide range of sources and 90 home sewers who gave so freely of their time.'

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership acknowledged the donation on its Facebook page: 'We would like to say a huge thank you to the group of volunteer sewers



Hospital staff were smiling behind their masks when they received the cheque from the sewing volunteers.

who have once again made a generous and kind donation of funding to support our staff's comfort and wellbeing.

'We cannot thank the team members enough for their dedication, support and

kindness through these challenging times.'

'At the beginning of the project, I had hoped we would be able to make a small donation to Mid Argyll Hospital,' Nikki concluded. 'However

the money raised exceeded all my expectations. On behalf of the Let's Get Scrubbing team I would like to personally thank everyone who contributed and supported our wee venture.'



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A drone of the type now flying over Argyll.

## Drones working for healthcare

Argyll's health and care authority hinted this week that drones are the future for deliveries to hospitals - but no detail was given on how this will work.

In a teasing Twitter message on Monday February 8, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership posted: 'From today, on behalf of @abhscp, drones will begin operating between Lorn and Islands Hospital, Mull and Iona Hospital, Easdale

Medical Practice and Mid Argyll Community Hospital to provide essential deliveries.

'More details about the benefits to Argyll and Bute communities will posted.'

When the Advertiser approached the partnership for more information, a spokesperson explained that the tweet was posted 'in case folk saw the drones and wondered what was going on'.

Watch this space.

# Covid compliance is 'on the whole, good' in Mid Argyll

Coronavirus restrictions have largely been observed in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands according to a Lochgilphead-based police officer.

Sergeant Iain MacNicol added, however, that there were concerns some residents continued to allow others into their homes.

The report was discussed at a meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands (MAKI) area committee on February 3.

Argyll and Bute has had one of the lowest figures of Covid cases per 100,000 of population, though the weekly total case number rose slightly in an update given on the day of the meeting.

Sergeant MacNicol said: 'Covid impacts on us daily, but not to the same extent possibly in MAKI as in other areas.'

'We do receive a relatively low number of calls from members of the public daily highlighting any Covid concerns



Sergeant Iain MacNicol.

around properties or people they believe to be involved in Covid breaches and each one is looked at separately.

'This tends to increase at weekends when people seem more likely to be tempted to socialise.

'When dealing with these we obviously have to consider any circumstances that would

be exempt from the legislation or guidance, such as essential maintenance or extended households, for example.

'But there are certain individuals in our community who continue to allow others to come into their houses and socialise, which is a concern.'

He also outlined police procedures in the event of responding to any potential breaches of Covid regulations.

### Justified

'Strategically it has been outlined that the police response will follow the four-step escalation principles of engagement, explanation, encouragement and finally enforcement,' he added, 'but there are instances where officers are justified in moving straight to enforcement with the issue of fixed penalty notices.'

'Covid also affects the police response to other incidents and Police Scotland has adjusted its operating model

and is now adhering to a policy of 'reduced attendance and appropriate contact'. This means we are dealing with more incidents by telephone and other remote models of contact when appropriate but each call is risk assessed and if officers need to attend it goes without saying they will do so.

'Our officers have all been issued with personal PPE with individually fitted masks as well as the standard surgical type masks and hygiene supplies are readily available.'

'There are designated safe systems of working in place and Covid consideration is given to everything we do to ensure the safety of the public and our officers and staff is maintained as best we can.'

'We continue to work closely with partners to address issues and concerns but on the whole compliance levels are good. Generally it is a positive picture in MAKI and we are obviously hoping this continues.'

## POLICE FILES

### Suspicious activity

Between 7pm and 7.40pm on Friday February 5 a holiday cottage at Lerags, Oban, was broken into. The lock was forced but nothing was stolen.

Police advise vigilance following reports of other suspicious activity on farms and rural areas across Argyll.

Three incidents of vehicles driving into farm areas, uninvited and unexpected, have been reported to police in the last few weeks. People have reported the behaviour of the occupants of these vehicles as suspicious. The

incidents occurred in Achnamara, Kilmartin and near Lochgilphead.

Officers are advising members of the public to be on their guard and ensure their property is secure. Anyone with concerns should contact police via 101.

### Breach of order

Between Saturday December 12 and Monday February 1 at Baddens Park, Lochgilphead, a 21-year-old man allegedly breached a non-harassment order imposed by the court by contacting a woman.

Police arrested and charged the man who

was held for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

### Lochgilphead assault

A 37-year-old man was charged with assaulting a woman at about 9.30am on Friday February 5 at Mathieson Place, Lochgilphead. Police held the man for court and a report was submitted to the procurator fiscal.

### Drugs found

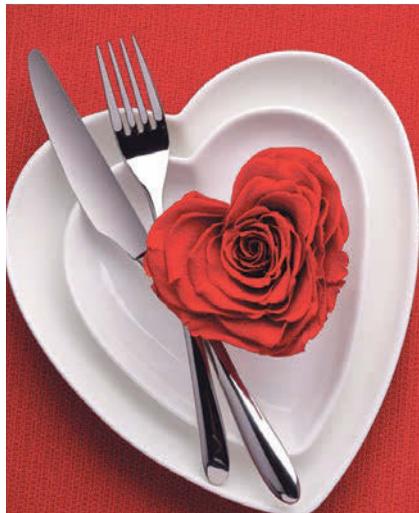
About 10.30am on Saturday February 6, on the A83 at Cairndow, a 26-year-old man was stopped and searched by police and found

to be in possession of a small amount of cannabis. He was issued with a recordable police warning.

### Attempted housebreaking

The occupant of a house on Texa Crescent, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay, was woken by someone attempting to gain entry at 3.20am on Friday February 5. Entry was not gained and nothing was stolen.

**Police are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.**



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## EE sorry for week of signal loss

Customers of telecoms firm EE in upper Loch Fyne have been left frustrated and without a mobile phone signal for a week.

One customer at Kenmore, near Inveraray, said: 'We have had no signal for a week and EE tell me this is because their engineers cannot get access to the faulty mast to fix it.'

'They can't or won't tell me why or when the problem is likely to be fixed.'

'Since so many of us are working from home at the moment and don't have the options we otherwise might have done in a situation like this, this issue needs to be urgently dealt with before we start losing our livelihoods on top of everything else.'

### Inconvenience

Enquiries by the Advertiser brought the response from EE on the morning of Friday February 5: 'We're aware of an issue affecting some customers in the Loch Fyne area, which is being caused by a power outage at a local mast station. We apologise for any inconvenience caused while we work to return a full service.'

An EE spokesperson said on Friday afternoon that the main site affected was in Inveraray, adding: 'We are having issues accessing the site, but are currently in talks with the landowner.'

'We suspect the power issue is within the equipment cabinets, for example it could be something like a tripped mains breaker. A survey has been conducted and engineers are due to be deployed to this site.'

The service was reportedly restored by Friday evening.

# Argyll fishing hit hard by pandemic and Brexit

by Colin Cameron  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Covid and Brexit are pushing fishing to the brink, says a group representing many Argyll fishermen.

And according to the Clyde Fishermen's Association, continuing uncertainty and a drop in basic income have had an impact on people's mental health and the viability of entire fishing communities.

The coronavirus pandemic first of all impacted domestic and international markets.

'When the EU hospitality trade started to close, many of our members' markets shrank significantly,' said Elaine Whyte, association executive secretary.

'Some tied up or fished less, and those who were able to started to sell domestically at the pier side, through home delivery or to local restaurants and hotels.'

In Argyll, with sparse population and poor transport links, this has not always been feasible. Many boats lost their markets entirely and when the latest lockdown happened



Elaine Whyte of Clyde Fishermen's Association.

the same issues reappeared. Brexit, of course, has brought additional problems 'much more than businesses could have imagined', says Elaine.

'For those exporting to the continent the whole system is much more costly, with new health certificates and export-agent costs.'

'Then there are the delays and red tape, with thousands of pounds being lost daily due to missed connections on delivery. As a result Denmark and Ireland, with easier access, are seeking to replace Scottish seafood.'

'Some live bivalve exporters have completely lost EU markets built up over 40 years. A grace period with the EU/UK



Fishing boats tied up at Tarbert harbour.

UK national disruption to exports scheme, but, as Elaine explained: 'This will only offer support to provable loss of exported seafood to the EU from January 1 up to a maximum of 50 per cent of value - not a loss of markets. The criteria will mean many fishermen will find it difficult.'

Fishing ports also face issues of depopulation and a lack of local or foreign crew, along with ageing boats, limited access to quota and poor infrastructure. There are growing restrictions on areas available to fish and they face regular, well-funded campaigns against local fishing.

'We are grateful for the support local trusts and charities have extended to fishing families and for the support offered by the public,' Elaine concluded.

'But we are very worried about local fishing families.'

'We understand our crisis is one of many at this time, but with little resilience we do fear the worst for fishing communities.'

on these issues would be a way to help. Especially as the EU has a six-month grace period to export to the UK, and are likely to face similar exporting issues when they are in this position.'

All of this impacts the domestic market. Non-exported seafood is being stored frozen, leading to gluts and a price drop for fishermen.

Elaine continued: 'Domestic scampi processors are reducing working weeks and closing temporarily to try and cope, meaning that fishermen cannot catch or are left with reduced opportunities and

prices. We foresee more issues come April, as exporting from Scotland to Northern Ireland becomes more challenging. The UK is currently trying to secure a delay on new exporting conditions until 2023, but it may not be granted. This is significant for Argyll as many fishermen catch for the scampi market and have their catch processed in Northern Ireland.'

The Scottish Government last week announced a support fund for boats impacted by Covid and Brexit.

The UK Government has just released a £23 million

## Petition launched for ferry alternative to troubled A83 road

Calls are being made for the Scottish Government 'as a matter of urgency' to bring in a year-round ferry service between Kintyre and Ayrshire.

The Argyll First councillors behind the campaign believe such a 'lifeline' route between Campbeltown and Ardrossan

could alleviate problems caused when the A83 is closed and would benefit the whole of Argyll.

Mid Argyll councillor Dougie Philand and member for South Kintyre Donald Kelly have set up an online Scottish Parliament petition, where

the public can demonstrate support for their proposal.

The supporting documentation states that as the old military road has also been closed nearly every day since November 2020 and there is a 10-year timeframe before a permanent solution is in place,

'the Scottish Government must act as a matter of urgency' and 'an all-year-round lifeline ferry service from Campbeltown to Ardrossan should be explored'.

Councillor Philand said: 'It is vital for the fragile community of Argyll and Bute that access, particularly for

haulage and supply companies, remains open. This is an opportunity for Argyll and Bute to petition the Scottish Government to provide a lifeline and not just a tourist route.' [www.parliament.scot/gettinginvolved/petitions/campbeltownardrossanferry](http://www.parliament.scot/gettinginvolved/petitions/campbeltownardrossanferry)



## 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)

# Family's pride over New Zealand double save hero

Lochgilphead MS Centre's Karen tells of cousin's rescues from beach surf

by Colin Cameron  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

It was richly deserved recognition when Karen McCurry was awarded a BEM in 2018 for services to healthcare and charity.

She and her dedicated team at the MS Centre Argyll offer vital support to people with many different healthcare needs in the community.

When the coronavirus pandemic arrived in 2020, centre manager Karen and colleagues in Lochgilphead rose superbly to the challenge to maintain links with service users and families.

Few would argue that Karen is not one of the heroes in our community.

But she does not have a



David interviewed on his local beach St Kilda for The Project on New Zealand television after his heroics and cousin Karen McCurry - 'Scottish relatives are very proud of David'.



monopoly on the heroic family gene.

Karen was delighted to tell the world via social media about her cousin in New Zealand, surf lifesaver David Daniels, who earlier this month hit the national head-

lines after being involved in not one, but two rescues on the same beach on the same day.

And he was off duty at the time.

His local newspaper, the Otago Daily Times, quickly got wind of the story and soon

it was on national television. Karen explained the family connection: 'My dad's brother Brian Daniels, originally from Glasgow, worked for the BBC in London before emigrating to New Zealand in the 1970s, where his sons David and Damien were born.'

On February 1 - off duty and enjoying time on Dunedin's Brighton Beach with his wife Naomi and three young children - David noticed a woman who was pointing out to sea,

where three children were in trouble in a rip current.

David leapt into action, took to the water with his surfboard and brought them safely back to shore, including one girl who was trapped on a rock.

It wasn't long before there was another commotion when a small boat capsized in the surf, so David again headed out to help a group of rescuers.

The Otago Daily Times reported that no-one appeared to be injured.

Soon David was on TV and being hailed as a national hero. Interviewed on current affairs show The Project, David was asked by presenter Kanoa Lloyd how the rescued youngsters must have felt.

He replied: 'When you're in that situation it's not the nicest. But it's kind of full circle for me.'

'It was 10 years ago that I was rescued by the surf lifesavers out there and that's partly why I got into the whole thing, just to pay it back.'

Unsurprisingly, his mates have loved ribbing David since his heroics hit the headlines.

'Yeah, there have been memes going on and David Hasselhoff videos,' he said. 'I think they're having fun.'

David, though, was quick to praise his wife who 'got the rough end of the stick'.

'She was left with our three kids on the beach, so she was probably doing the hardest job of the lot. She's the real hero,' he said.

Back in Lochgilphead, his cousin continued: 'David studied Chinese medicine and, as well as now being a hero, has made a positive impact on the physical, emotional and spiritual health and wellbeing of his community.'

'He would make an ideal team member in the MS Centre, if I could talk him into leaving the beaches of Dunedin.'

'All his Scottish relatives are very proud of him,' added Karen.

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## Boost for Argyll marine sector

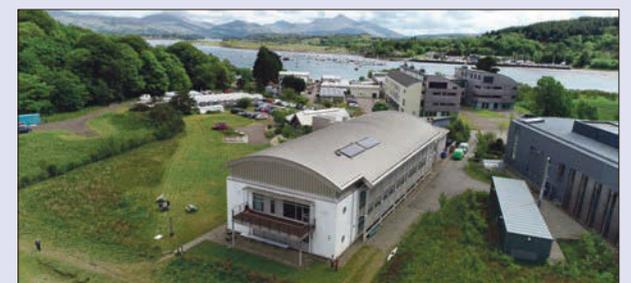
More than £4.5m is to be invested in expanding the European Marine Science Park (EMSP) at Dunstaffnage near Oban in a move that is expected to create more than 30 well-paid jobs.

Almost £2m will be invested by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) in fitting out the ground floor of the park's Malin House to meet demand from growing marine businesses for laboratory and office space.

HIE has approved a further £2.77m investment in groundworks, road development and car parking for the next three buildings planned for the EMSP site.

The groundworks costs are supported by funding from National Cycle Network custodians Sustrans.

Morag Goodfellow, HIE's area manager for Argyll and the Islands, said: 'The Highlands and Islands has an outstanding marine environment with almost two thirds of the UK's coastline and coastal waters. It's



The SAMS site at Dunstaffnage.

important that the region benefits from emerging opportunities from the marine economy, which will help increase productivity and provide valuable rural employment.

### Growth

'These further investments at the park will support the sustainable growth of our marine industry and contribute to economic recovery.'

'They will create opportunities in skills development and entrepreneurship, particularly for young people, and enhance confidence in Argyll as a business location

for inward investors.' Malin House, completed in 2012, is home to 10 different marine sector companies, active in a broad range of commercial marine activity.

Adjacent to Malin House is the Scottish Association of Marine Science, part of the University of the Highlands and Islands network, which plays a key role nurturing incubation companies before they look to expand into Malin House.

Groundworks, by TSL Contractors Limited, are expected start in February with completion anticipated during July.

# Helping economy bounce back

The UK Government has, during recent months, helped millions of people continue to provide for their families as part of its Plan for Jobs support scheme. The initiative is at the heart of our recovery from the economic impact of the pandemic, continuing to help people of all ages work.



THE UK Government has provided £280 billion to safeguard jobs.

Its Plan for Jobs builds on the nine million jobs protected, with initiatives that include...

## KICKSTART SCHEME

Six-month paid job with local employer, paid for by the UK Government, providing fully funded opportunity for 16 to 24 year-

olds to gain experience of working among many varied companies.

## SECTOR-BASED WORK ACADEMY PROGRAMMES (SWAPs)

Offer opportunities for jobseekers claiming Universal Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance to build their confidence in a new line of work, enhance

their CVs and gain invaluable work experience and training. Such schemes have so far supported more than 40,000 people across the UK.

## NEW ENTERPRISE ALLOWANCE

This scheme provides money and support to help those receiving certain benefits to start their own enterprises. For the self-employed, it helps to develop businesses.

## FIRM 'TOOK FLIGHT'

A long-time airline cabin crew member's soft toy enterprise really took off after the pandemic clipped her wings. Julie Britton set up Britton's Bears and Bunting with the help of the UK Government's New Enterprise Allowance.

The Wigan entrepreneur was cabin crew for 21 years and when she was made redundant last March, signed up for a Jobseeker's Allowance.

A machinist after she left school, Julie bought a pattern from eBay and, as her creation was such a success, continued making memory bears from recycled fabrics including old airline uniforms.

She was offered New Enterprise Allowance, referred to a



**TOYS VENTURE:** Julie Britton.

business mentor, and received £65 weekly for 13 weeks then £33 for 13 weeks.

Fashion icons Julien Macdonald and Paul Costelloe, both designers of British Airways uniforms, have praised Julie's work.

"We don't know what the future will bring but my little business is now established and will carry me forward," she added.

## 'IMMENSE' SUPPORT

"Immense" Kickstart support is the toast of a unique scheme, worth £200 million to the Scottish economy, at the former home of Johnnie Walker whisky in Kilmarnock.

An £65 million brownfield urban regeneration of 23 acres will create 1,300 jobs, and the UK Government's support is central to Scotland's first town centre net zero carbon energy scheme.

Marie Macklin CBE, founder and executive chair of enterprise managers HALO Urban Regeneration, welcomed £1.5 million training support for 16 to 24 year-olds on Universal Credit.

"The money the training is going to give us allows us to



**HALO:** Marie Macklin CBE.

take on 200 young people – 200 because it was Johnny Walker's 200th anniversary.

"The Kickstart Scheme is life-changing in the sense that these areas – not just in Kilmarnock – but some of the most deprived communities in the country are being helped. "We're really trying to put something back. The uptake has been immense."

## 'PROVIDING JOBS'

"Excellent" UK Government Kickstart support has proved just the tonic for an award-winning Welsh distillery. Ellen Wakelam runs "small but ambitious" west coast distillery Welsh Wind, whose spirits include eight prize gins.

"The Kickstart Scheme is an excellent initiative. We're offering local jobs for young people," confirmed the 37 year-old, whose five full-time staff are now developing grain-to-glass whisky with local farmers' barley. "We've been approved for four placements," continued Ellen, who lives near Cardigan. "We teamed up with a training company as our gateway provider to be approved and advertise the places. We think



**WELSH WIND:** Ellen Wakelam.

we can offer young people really good insights into every aspect of the business such as the technical side of distilling as well as bottling, labelling, customer service, marketing and business insight."

Added Ellen: "We're really excited to be able to offer new roles that will give people experience and lots of transferable skills."

Despite disruption caused by the coronavirus outbreak, there are still jobs out there to apply for. The jobhelp site from Jobcentre Plus has the latest vacancies, hints and tips on applying for jobs and ideas about roles you may never have thought of. Visit [gov.uk/jobhelp](https://www.gov.uk/jobhelp)



## Protecting and creating jobs

Support is available to help you get a job.

Find out more at [gov.uk/jobhelp](https://www.gov.uk/jobhelp)

All together >

## MS Centre to share the love and care

We all know someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in the coronavirus pandemic.

Now you can nominate that special person for a gift, courtesy of the MS Centre Argyll in Lochgilphead. Claire Cameron, long-term condition and outreach worker at the MS Centre, explained: 'We would like people to nominate a key worker or someone who has gone above and beyond for them recently.'

'We will put all the names in a hat and pull out 10 winners who will receive a hug heart made with love by ourselves or a pamper pack. What we want to do is share the care, not just the love.'

Claire explained: 'People must get nominations in, for as many folk as they like, by Monday February 22, when we will draw the winners.'

Send in your nominations



Winners will receive a lovingly-crafted hug heart from the MS Centre.

by sending a message via the Multiple Sclerosis Centre Argyll Facebook page, emailing [msargyll@btconnect.com](mailto:msargyll@btconnect.com) or calling 01546 606303.

# Beware bogus animal inspectors taking pets

The Scottish SPCA has issued a warning about bogus inspectors trying to remove animals from properties by duping owners, writes Colin Cameron.

Chief superintendent Mike Flynn said: 'We are asking the public to be aware of anyone coming to the door saying they are from the Scottish SPCA.'

'Our inspectors will always be in uniform and will be able to provide identification badges with a photograph and authorisation.'

'They will also be happy to provide you with vehicle registration.'

'If you are unsure about someone who comes to your door as the Scottish SPCA, ask them to wait outside and call us immediately. Our inspectors will respect your need to do this. 'And if someone tells you they



Be alert if the 'inspectors' arrive in anything other than an official Scottish SPCA van, left. If in doubt, double check.

are from the RSPCA please report them immediately as they do not operate in Scotland.

'While we can legally seize an animal from a property, we will only do so if the welfare of the animal is seriously compromised, needs vet treatment or the environment is not

safe for the animal to be in. Only Police Scotland and the local authority have the same powers.'

The tricksters have been witnessed using a white van with black writing - which the Scottish SPCA does not use - and a black van with white

writing, similar to the official fleet.

Chief superintendent Flynn added: 'Please be vigilant and keep yourselves and your pets safe. If anyone has information on these incidents please contact our confidential animal helpline on 03000 999999.'

## SCOTTISH FIELD

— February/March —



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## Surgeries reach Covid vaccinations milestone

Two Mid Argyll doctor's surgeries have administered 1,000 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Lochgilphead and Inveraray teams have been working hard to vaccinate the latest priority group in accordance with government guidelines - patients over 70 years of age.

Lochgilphead Medical Centre posted on social media earlier this week: 'Thank you for understanding that we have a limited GP service on our clinic days in our quest to roll out vaccines to you as soon and as safely as we can.'

'Our next clinic is Friday February 12.'

'As before, please don't contact us for your appointment if we haven't been in touch.'

'We are looking forward to seeing you for your vaccine.'



The 1,000th patient receives the Covid-19 jab at Lochgilphead Medical Centre.

**YOURSTORY**

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**HOPE IS  
IN SIGHT  
LET'S SEE  
IT THROUGH**

The vaccine is the good news we've been waiting for, with those most at risk already being vaccinated. When offered the vaccine please get it.

While this stretch seems hardest of all, we can't relax yet. The virus is still spreading, and we need to keep people safe. The more we stick to the current rules and restrictions now, the less chance the virus has to spread and the sooner we will make it through this.

**#WeAreScotland** [gov.scot/coronavirus](https://gov.scot/coronavirus)



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## LETTERS

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

## Fishing woes

Scotland's quality seafood exporters are facing Brexit barriers.

An element of this was to be expected after leaving the EU, but it is worse than feared.

Others are trying to muscle in on customers who formerly bought from Scottish businesses while our exporters are strangled by red tape and hobbled by delays.

What this means is that many small family businesses in fishing villages are suffering. As the Clyde Fishermen's Association notes, people's wellbeing and the future of communities are under threat.

And the jury is still out on whether promised government support will make a difference. Or will it be too little, too late.

One thing we do know for certain, though, is that fishing communities are true communities, and folk look after each other.

## Sew kind

After helping out in a practical way by making much-needed scrubs to help the coronavirus effort, the volunteer stitchers led by Nikki Thompson have made a fantastic cash donation to the hospital as the cherry on the cake.

Let's hope the dedicated and hard-working staff benefit from it directly. They deserve it after a tough year.

## 'Shocking neglect' of Argyll

Sir,  
The Scottish Government's long-awaited infrastructure investment plan is a big disappointment for Argyll and Bute.

The Rest and be Thankful only gets one small mention. It is to be 'enhanced' but no details were given and no cash allocated. In contrast, roads in other parts of Scotland have detailed works planned and money set aside to pay for them. After 14 years of failed attempts at a solution and six months after a major landslide, Argyll deserves better than a vague election promise to 'enhance' the road.

The only new ferries mentioned are two 100-metre ferries. These are the same two ferries that were promised in the 2015 infrastructure plan but still lie in a yard, years late and well over budget. Neither of these ferries is for Argyll and Bute. All we get is vague promises of a 'long term plan and investment programme'.

This so-called plan is a shocking neglect of Argyll and Bute.

Councillor Alan Reid, Cowal ward.

## Cancer support remains

Sir,  
The start of 2021 is proving to be an acutely challenging time for people with cancer, the NHS and for cancer care.

It's clear this is the most worrying time in recent history to get a cancer diagnosis.

At Macmillan, people are calling our support line every day to tell us about the heightened anxiety, loneliness and distress they are feeling.

Our support line – open seven days a week on 08088 080000 – has specially trained nurses, counsellors and financial support advisors available to help anyone affected by, or worried about, cancer.

They can provide comprehensive information and advice as well as emotional support to help people with cancer cope with the additional strain of the coronavirus pandemic.

We know doctors and nurses are working in unspeakably difficult conditions and are having to make tough decisions every day.

Healthcare professionals are doing everything they can to keep cancer care on track, but we also know some treatment – operations, for example – are being cancelled or postponed because essential services including intensive care units are full of seriously ill people with Covid-19.

It is vital, if there are changes to treatment plans, these must involve the person living with cancer and be communicated clearly.

Although some changes may be needed for treatment plans, this is not the case everywhere or for all treatments or tests.

Healthcare professionals are doing everything they can to make hospitals a safe environment so it's really important people with cancer who have been invited for tests or treatment do attend.

GPs are open if you are worried about possible cancer symptoms and screening and other vital tests have resumed in a Covid-safe way. The NHS is still here for you.

As well as our support line, comprehensive cancer information and support is available on

[www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk) and our online community is there to provide invaluable emotional and peer support.

**Gordon McLean, strategic partnership manager in Scotland for Macmillan Cancer Support.**

## An inclusive future for disabled people

Sir,  
Inclusion Scotland, the leading Scottish disabled people's organisation, believes planning for the post Covid-19 Scotland must be about building towards a more inclusive future for disabled people, not back to an old 'normal' that excluded a lot of us.

As we launch our manifesto for the 2021 Scottish Parliament elections, disabled people have told us about the problems they face daily, both before and as a result of Covid-19, and what needs to change.

Before Covid-19, disabled people were already some of the most marginalised and excluded in society. We were more likely to live in poverty, be unemployed or earn less than non-disabled people and less likely to leave school with qualifications because of the barriers and exclusion we face in our day-to-day lives.

The Covid-19 crisis and responses to it highlighted this, aggravating existing inequalities and generating new ones, and putting the human rights of disabled people at further risk.

Going back to the way things were before is not the answer. We don't want to go back. We want to go forward to a more inclusive future.

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The manifesto - Rights and Renewal - sets out what disabled people told Inclusion Scotland are the most important issues they face and what needs to be done to make a post-pandemic Scotland a better place for disabled people. It has five key asks:

■ Incorporate the UN Convention on Rights of Disabled People into Scots law to fully promote, protect and realise our human rights.

■ Recognise social care support as a fundamental basic right with the same criteria wherever you live.

■ Ensure equal access to education and jobs for disabled people, particularly disabled young people.

■ Use Scottish Social Security powers to help reduce the number of disabled people living in poverty.

■ Involve us, the experts in our own lives, in making post Covid-19 Scotland better for disabled people.

I call on all political parties fighting the Scottish Parliament elections and their candidates to pledge their support for disabled people's five asks.

**Dr Sally Witcher, Inclusion Scotland chief executive officer.**

## Point of no return

Sir,  
Our dilapidated roads continue to be raised as an issue by many constituents.

While I understand our roads department is struggling due to local authority budgets being cut, much more still needs to be done.

It has been said to me time and time again that we are fast approaching the point of no return when it comes to our roads and that neglecting day-to-day maintenance will end up costing us more in the long run.

**Councillor Alastair Redman – Kintyre and Islands ward.**

## YOUR PICTURES



Regular contributor Aileen Gillies sent us this gorgeous photograph, taken from Lochgilphead front green on the morning of Sunday January 24.  
Send your favourite photographs for publication to [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk)

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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

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# Carry on caravanning in council car parks?

'Staycationers' could be allowed to carry on camping in some council car parks around Argyll and Bute, a report has revealed.

Community chiefs are discussing plans to ensure informal campers using the area during the spring and summer do so responsibly.

And an Argyll and Bute Council officer has said the possibility of allowing motorhomes to stay overnight in at least some of the authority's car parks is being examined.

The practice is not currently allowed in any council car parks and any proposal to overturn that rule would require councillors' approval.

Camping in the area became more popular after travel restrictions were introduced in 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. A report on informal camping was discussed by Argyll and Bute Council's Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands



Car parks could be used for 'staycation' holidaymakers.

community planning group on Wednesday February 3.

Craig Wilson, economic growth officer with the council, said: "Tourism is exceptionally important to Argyll and Bute's local economy and our way of life. The council wishes to welcome as many visitors as sustainably possible to enjoy the places we are fortunate to call home. We are currently investigating the practicalities and regulatory aspects to see if it might be appropriate for motorhomes to stay overnight in

some suitably identified council car parks, similar to the Forestry and Land Scotland's 'Stay the Night' scheme which took place in 2020.

'If we can develop a suitable proposal this would need to go to elected members for consideration and approval. We are finalising a reporting form/consultation questionnaire which will be promoted shortly to communities and landowners which will help document community experience of informal camping.'

# Furnace celebrates Edith's 90th birthday with surprise greeting

Furnace resident Edith McKellar celebrated her 90th birthday on February 4 and, Furnace being Furnace, her friends and neighbours wanted to wish her a happy birthday, despite coronavirus restrictions.

Edith, sporting a snazzy tiara for the occasion, was on her way to enjoy a celebration lunch with a friend in the village, with whom she is in a Covid 'bubble', when she was surprised to see a socially-distanced group of villagers gathered outside the village hall to greet her and sing 'Happy Birthday' before presenting Edith with a colourful bouquet of flowers.

The weather was grey, sleety, cold and awful but as one villager put it: 'We all got soaked but we didn't care.'

Right: Edith is presented with flowers on her birthday.



Friends and neighbours arranged a birthday surprise for Edith. Photographs: Emma Irons.





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*Tony 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**

## Benmore Garden – January 2021 weather summary

The meticulous weather records kept at Benmore Garden on the Cowal peninsula confirm what we all suspected - January was a cold month.

The average maximum air temperature of 4.7° C was significantly lower than the

same period in 2020. Precipitation was down slightly on the expected level for the time of year, however, there were 23 days of measurable rain during the month.

Benmore is managed by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

- Highest maximum air temperature: 10.4°C on the 12th
- Lowest maximum air temperature: 1.0°C on the 9th
- Average maximum air temperature: 4.7°C
- Lowest minimum air temperature: -5.5°C on the 9th
- Highest minimum air temperature: 3.1°C on the 11th
- Average minimum air temperature: -0.5°C
- Highest minimum at grass level: 3.4°C on the 11th
- Lowest minimum at grass level: -12.1°C on the 24th
- Average minimum at grass level: -3.6°C
- Air minimum below 0.0°C on: 16 days
- Grass minimum below 0.0°C on: 14 days
- Hail on: 0 days
- Snow/sleet on: 4 days
- Thunder on: 0 days
- Gale on: 0 days
- Greatest rainfall on one day: 41mm on the 16th
- Rain 0.2mm or more on: 23 days
- Rain 1.0 mm or more on: 18 days
- Rain 5.0mm or more on: 11 days
- Trace - between 0.0mm and 0.1mm: 7 days
- Total with measurable rain: 23 days
- Total rainfall for month: 238.2mm (9.38 inches)
- Total rainfall for year: 238.2mm (9.38 inches)



The famous avenue of giant redwoods at Benmore.

## 'Harmful' dump found on litter pick mission

Spurred on by the formation of a new Facebook group – Wake up, Clean up Argyll – a Lochgilphead man decided to clear litter from the path from the traffic lights in the town to Kilmory Castle, writes Colin Cameron.

It was while on this mission that he was shocked to find an unpleasant dumping ground containing no fewer than 34 dog poo bags, all the same colour.

He told the Advertiser: 'It's obvious it's the same person or people who are doing this.'

'This is beyond belief and could be harmful to humans and animals.'



A nasty stash beside the Kilmory path.

That aside, last week alone he filled four bags of litter, with

plenty more to pick up. And it is not for the lack of places to properly dispose of rubbish.

'There are three bins along the path plus a few others at the castle. The bins are emptied regularly by Argyll and Bute Council bin men. The bulk of it was drinks cans and bottles, food and food wrappers,' he said.

**What is your experience of litter in Argyll during the pandemic? Contact the Advertiser by emailing [editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk](mailto:editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk) with your story and any photographs.**





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## Thought for the Week

Zoom and other platforms have undeniably opened up a wonderful opportunity over the past year, helping many people to combat loneliness and isolation and keep connected.

But these same platforms have placed a huge pressure on others. Teachers, younger and older students, those working from home and whole families are expected to cope with, juggle with and even pay for all of this.

Life is increasingly stressful and all the usual leisure and social activities are not accessible. Yet we all know that the rhythm of life has to have an ebb and flow if it is to stand any chance of remaining healthy. Currently, it can be a real challenge to be 'at ease' when so much of life feels out of control.

For many, faith is the one factor that makes a crucial difference in these times. It changes the focus and reminds us that even in these times our God is faithful and loves us. In Matthew's Gospel (11:28), Jesus says: 'Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.'

In the Book of Jeremiah (6:16), God reminds us to take time to stop and look: 'This is what the Lord says: "Stop at the crossroads and look around. Ask for the old, godly way, and walk in it. Travel its path, and you will find rest for your souls".'

The words are ancient and they are taken from an ancient book. And yet they are all that we need.

Even on the busiest, most stressful, loneliest or saddest of days we face, living by this way can bring an amazingly deep sense of rest, peace and hope.

**Reverend Christine Fulcher, parish assistant, South Kintyre Team Ministry.**

## ISLAY

### Port Charlotte school to get £250,000 makeover

Port Charlotte Primary School on Islay is to get a makeover after council planning chiefs backed a proposed new building.

The school is the subject of plans worth approximately £250,000 to demolish a building and build a replacement extension, as well as other work.

Argyll and Bute Council is behind the application. Because of the nature of the plans, it is listed under community planning and development.

No objections have been raised by the public and the authority declared this week it had no concerns about the proposal.

A council planning officer said: 'By reason of the relatively small scale and non-invasive nature within the curtilage of the school and to the rear of the main building, it is considered the proposed development does not give rise to any issues which would require prior approval.'

## HELENSBURGH

### Ferry service to return?

A report by Transport Scotland on its second Strategic Transport Projects Review has suggested the return of a ferry service between Gourock and Helensburgh which was axed almost a decade ago.

A passenger service across the Firth of Clyde is being considered, along with a potential railway station near Faslane serving HM Naval Base Clyde.

The report also mentions a possible enhancement of the Dunoon to Gourock ferry service, including increased capacity and improved vessels.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We welcome all ideas to improve connections between Argyll and Bute and the central belt.'

'As yet we've had no discussions about a new ferry service, but look forward to hearing more.'

It is not clear whether the plans for a Helensburgh ferry service may have an effect on work to restore the town's pier, which has been closed to marine traffic since October 2018.



Port Charlotte will have a revamped primary school.

## ARGYLL AND BUTE

### Parents and carers thanked for home learning efforts

Parents and carers across Argyll and Bute are being thanked by the council for their home learning efforts during lockdown.

The authority's policy lead for education Councillor Yvonne McNeilly said: 'I want to take a moment to thank parents and carers for all their patience, huge effort and understanding while our schools have been closed during lockdown.'

'Home learning isn't easy. The vast majority of you aren't teachers and it's important to remember that.'

'Many of you are also trying to teach your children while juggling home working and this must be incredibly difficult.'

'I know schools are assigning tasks via Google

Classroom and this is great, but if your child doesn't manage to complete everything on this, that's okay.'

'Children and young people are learning all the time, their brains are like sponges, so just because you didn't finish a task doesn't mean they've not learned anything.'

'Not all children are the same and not all children learn the same way.'

'While some are happy to get their head down and do English and maths, others struggle, and that's really difficult.'

'Children will catch up with their learning as soon as they're back in school so please, please don't worry.'

'We will get through this together.'

'Wishing you all a well-earned break from home learning this week.'

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11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

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

# Heather's Treks – Beinn Bhan, Kilmartin's shy Marilyn

Heather Thomas-Smith runs Heathy Heights, based in Lochgilphead, offering a bespoke guided walking service.

She has travelled and trekked throughout the world but now lives in Argyll amongst the scenery she loves.



## Walk information

Route: Beinn Bhan circular from Kilmartin

Distance: 6km (4 miles)

Ascent: 360m

Time: 2.5 – 3.5hrs

Terrain: tracks and pathless rugged and steep terrain. This route requires good navigation skills. Be considerate of livestock.

Map/s: OS Landranger 55 (1:50 000)

OS Explorer 358 (1:25 000)

Start/Finish/Parking: Kilmartin

Grid reference: NR835988

Public Transport: Bus routes 23, 421, 423, 429

Beinn Bhan, the 'White Mountain', may not be as tall as its Corbett counterparts in Applecross and the Great Glen, but it is a Marilyn – a hill with a prominence of 150m or more.

And it has some cracking views offering a 360-degree panorama.

Nestled unassumingly behind Kilmartin and the glen's rich diversity of historic monuments, you could be forgiven for not knowing of its existence.

Undertaken from Kilmartin, this hill presents challenges over rough, rugged pathless terrain making the views even more worthwhile when you reach its surprisingly airy summit.

The going is slow and due to potential mud, boggy and bracken, it is best tackled on a crisp winter's day when the ground is firm or during a dry spring/early summer.

Competent navigational skills are required; all part of

the fun. Leaving the car park, cross to the Kilmartin Hotel with care. Head east along the track in front of the line of cottages above the main road. After the last house, the track will curve left for 100m to a gate.

Go through the gate and up the hill. You will pass a waterfall and track to your right, a second gate and a cattle feeding area before reaching Ballibrad Barn.

Continuing for 300m, the track leads through a third gate and past another feed station - sometimes very muddy - to a stream and a sharp right-hand bend.

Up to your right you will see a lime kiln with a couple of trees emerging from it, worthy of a short detour either now or on your return.

Follow the track over the stream then look immediately to your left.

Cattle and deer have created a rough path skirting below a rock up to a natural shelf that

contours above the right hand side of the stream. Follow this northward, keeping the stream and fence below on your left and the steeper hillside to your right.

It is rough going, so take your time. After 380m, the stream does a sharp turn towards you and enters a small gorge on your right.

Cross the stream just below the gorge. Ahead and up the slope 50m to your right you will see a large squared off boulder.

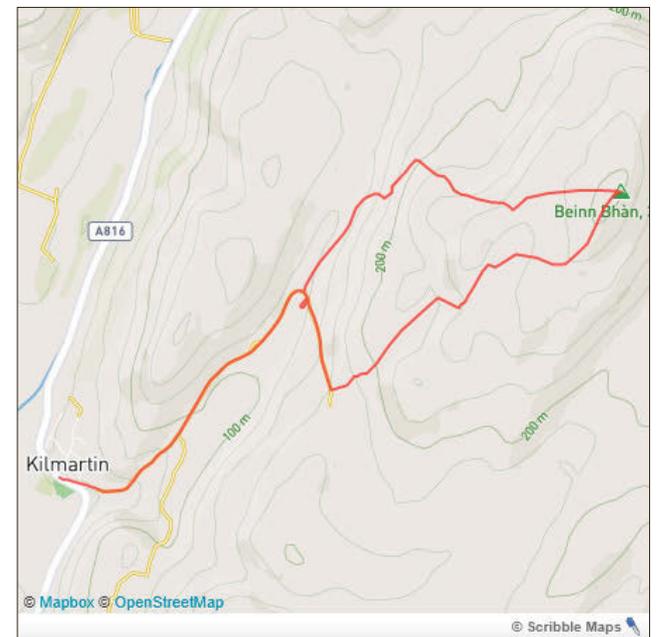
Aim for this (NE) and a rough path created by the deer will lead you diagonally up the steep slopes to a wall above. You can also ascend via a tiny stream bed 40m further on via a large ash tree. When you reach the wall, look for a gap where the stones are

missing just to your right. Go through the gap and take a north-easterly bearing up the steep slopes, skirting directly up over the end of a rough manmade track not marked on the map. Again, deer tracks help lead the way up.

You will come out near the end of another manmade track. Cross this and look for a gap in the dense scrub up the steep slopes ahead/just to the left.

You will now need to head in an easterly direction zig-zagging for 500m through rough heather, keeping the higher ground to your right, until you can aim directly for a notch in the hillside above you marked on the 1:25000 map or grid ref NR852997.

Although the small valley to the left looks tempting,



## A rough guide to the route.

it is very boggy so progress through the heather is generally drier but slow.

Go through the notch and drop down veering left 100m towards a corner in the wall ahead. There is a barbed wire fence so this is the easier point to cross, then it is just 350m east to the summit ridge and up to the trig point. Enjoy the view.

It is worth going slightly north of the trig point for the best vista towards Ben Cruachan and Loch Awe.

Leaving the summit, head SSW along the ridge for 300m until it drops down then gain the less boggy ground ahead before veering slightly right (W) towards the wall/fence ahead.

You will want to follow this west until you can cross on your left just before a stream (NR851995).

Head south down the east bank of the stream before dropping down to where it turns west. It is easier to descend to the left.

Follow the stream west for just under 100m, then turn left to head SW down the valley for 550m, ensuring you cross to

its eastern side to keep a wall further down on your left. You are aiming to keep on the right side of the small stream that takes you SW down to the end of the track you left earlier.

It does steepen but drops you out onto the track quite suddenly.

You will notice that the track goes further south than is marked on the map.

Turn right (N) onto the track and it will veer back round the sharp left-hand bend south, past the lime kiln and back to Kilmartin on the same route as you ascended.

**Alternatives:** You can ascend via the descent route to avoid the barbed wire fence and some of the rougher ground but keep a close eye out for the tiny stream where you need to leave the track if you do so. It is not as easy to spot in reverse.

Others may prefer to ascend from the north. You can head up the track from just south of Loch Ederline and Stroneskar - marked on OS maps.

You can also make use of the tracks that head up from the B840 between Eurach and Old Glennan - not marked on OS maps.



The hills of Mull and Carnasserie Castle on the ascent.

## Safety in the outdoors

The described routes and accompanying information are there to be used as a guide and do not replace the use of map and compass and the skills required to use them.

All walks are undertaken at your own risk. Please continue to adhere to current guidelines as set out by the government.

Please follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

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# Plea to owners to control dogs

by Colin Cameron  
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

A Scottish awareness campaign highlighting the problem of dog attacks on livestock seems to have made an impact – but with lockdown and lambing about to coincide, new figures reveal more is needed.

Reports of livestock attacks to Police Scotland fell slightly last year but horrific incidents continue to cause suffering to livestock and anxiety for farmers.

And a spate of attacks in 2021 has sparked warnings to those visiting the countryside to keep their pets under control.

New research from insurer NFU Mutual reveals almost two-thirds (64 per cent) of dog owners are letting their

pets roam free in the countryside, despite half of owners surveyed admitting their dog doesn't always come back when called. It revealed 42 per cent of dog owners have been walking their pets more often in the countryside during the pandemic.

In Scotland, the number of attacks reported to Police Scotland decreased by 13 per cent in 2020 after a joint campaign to tackle livestock attacks by dogs.

Mark McBrearty, regional manager for Scotland at NFU Mutual, said: 'We are encouraged by the decrease in Scotland last year and it is a testament to the proactive work which has been led by police and farming groups. 'It's vital dog owners act



The horrific result of just one of many Argyll dog attacks.

responsibly and keep dogs on a lead and under control whenever there is a possibility livestock are nearby.'

Police Inspector Alan Dron, national rural crime co-ordinator, said: 'Through consistently raising awareness of this emotive offence, Police Scotland takes any report of livestock attacks or worrying seriously. This has resulted in

**'Even if a dog doesn't make physical contact, the distress and exhaustion of the chase can cause sheep to die or miscarry their lambs'**

more dog attacks being reported and investigated plus, where applicable, owners brought before the courts.'

Alarmingly, only 40 per cent of the dog owners surveyed by NFU Mutual accepted their pet could cause the injury or death of a farm animal.

Debs Roberts, a farmer from Auchterarder and co-founder of the Ladies Who Lamb

Facebook network, explained: 'It feels like crisis point at the moment, with daily reports of terribly upsetting incidents where dogs chase and sometimes attack sheep close to lambing. The distress and frustration is something that doesn't go away, even flashbacks of the horrific injuries and deaths are traumatic.

'It's important dog owners realise that all breeds, not just the big, fierce-looking ones, are capable of chasing and attacking sheep.

'Even if a dog doesn't make physical contact, the distress and exhaustion of the chase can cause sheep to die or miscarry their lambs.

'We really send a plea to dog owners that they keep dogs on leads for the next few months.'

## Advice to dog owners:

- Always keep dogs on a lead when walking in rural areas where livestock are kept but let go of the lead if you are chased by cattle
- Be aware that even small dogs can chase, injure and kill farm animals
- Take special care to keep close control of dogs unused to farm animals
- Report attacks by dogs and sightings of dogs roaming the countryside to the police or farmers
- Don't let dogs loose and unsupervised in gardens adjoining livestock fields as any attacks are caused by dogs which escape



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Source: YouGov 2018

# What the world needs now is

Love makes the world go round and it will take more than a pandemic to stop that - so let's make sure we celebrate on February 14 like never before. To help, here's a little love letter from us and all the people who can deliver Valentine's Day to your door

Dear Readers,

What a difference a year makes. In 2020 we wrote for Valentine's Day . . .

'Amidst all the champagne, chocolate and flowers and the masses of cards sent and received remember that one of the greatest gifts you can give is some time; when you step out of your busy working lives, families, school runs, ferrying children to and from sports and clubs.'

This year some of us have more time on our hands than we know what to do with. Others are finding that what they thought was a frantic life of school runs and commutes was as nothing compared to working from home with toddlers who are usually in nursery and supervising home schooling as well.

And some are finding that being in lockdown, cooped up together, has begun to make things fray a little at the edges.

So let us all make St Valentine's Day 2021 a day to re-set and celebrate our relationships; a day of loving each other and remembering and honouring what is good about each other.

Together you make a great team.

One thing is for sure, it is going to be a quiet night in.

Do you remember the glamorous you? Don't worry you

are still there, you just might be buried under a year of lockdown worries and woes.

So put your glad rags on - reach for your finery and make sure you look sharp.

PJs, trackie bottoms and 'loungewear' are not going to cut it. Step away from the trainers and into the high heels and polished dress shoes. Get out the lipstick, perfume, aftershave and gentlemen - get the lockdown beards under control.

It is also one occasion when it is OK to bribe the kids to be quiet, go to bed early and stay there; or for older ones to 'babysit'.

Take-aways can be ordered and plenty of food, drink, treats, presents and cards are available online.

Get ordering and planning now because there is sure to be a huge demand and let's all put romance, love and a deep appreciation on one another back at the top of the agenda.

With love from all the romantics here at The Campbeltown Courier and Argyllshire Advertiser x x x

PS - If all else fails write each other an I.O.U. for a later date, with a dinner for two, a weekend away, a couples' day at a spa and much more.

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## Asparagus wrapped in ham with flat-iron chicken

Tender asparagus roasted with ham, vine tomatoes and cubed potatoes and served with juicy grilled chicken. What a combo!

### Ingredients

- 800g potatoes, cut into small cubes
- Low-calorie cooking spray
- 20 asparagus spears, trimmed
- 5 slices Parma ham or prosciutto, each sliced into 4 long strips
- 400g cherry tomatoes on the vine
- 4 skinless and boneless chicken breasts
- 2 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh parsley, to serve



### Method

1. Preheat your oven to 220°C/fan 200°C/gas 7.
2. Spread the potatoes out on a large non-stick baking tray in a single layer. Spray with low-calorie cooking spray and season lightly. Bake for 15-20 minutes, turning halfway.
3. Meanwhile, wrap each asparagus spear in a strip of ham. Place on a large, non-stick baking tray with the tomatoes. Bake above the potatoes for 8-10 minutes, or until just tender.

4. While the asparagus is cooking, one by one, place the chicken breasts between cling film and flatten to about 0.5cm thick using a rolling pin, and season lightly. Preheat a non-stick griddle or frying pan. When hot, add the chicken and cook for 5-6 minutes on each side, or until cooked through.
5. To serve, slice the chicken, then divide between 4 plates with the tomatoes and 5 asparagus spears per person. Drizzle over the vinegar and season with freshly ground black pepper. Serve with the potatoes topped with parsley.



# love, sweet love – on delivery

## Black Forest roulade

Our chocolatey, fruit-laden roulade makes a great dessert

### Ingredients

- 6 large eggs, separated
- 100g caster sugar
- 7 level tbsp sweetener
- 50g cocoa powder
- 100g fat-free natural fromage frais
- 200g plain quark
- 175g drained black cherries in natural juice



### Method

1. Preheat your oven to 180°C/fan 160°C/gas 4. Line a 30 x 20cm Swiss roll tin with baking parchment.
2. Whisk together the egg yolks, sugar and 5 tablespoons sweetener until thick and pale. Sift in the cocoa, then fold together using a metal spoon.
3. Whisk the egg whites in a separate bowl until just stiff and fold into the egg yolk mixture. Spoon this mixture into the prepared tin and bake for around 15 minutes, or until set and springy to the touch. Leave to cool in the tin.
4. Place a large sheet of baking parchment on a work surface. Turn the sponge out onto it, peeling away the lining paper.

5. Whisk the fromage frais with the quark and the remaining sweetener and spread evenly over the sponge. Scatter the cherries over the surface.
  6. Lift one end of the parchment and roll up the sponge, using the paper to help (don't worry if the sponge cracks; that's the nature of a roulade).
  7. Place the roulade, seam-side down, on a platter and chill for around 2 hours. Dust lightly with cocoa powder and cut into 8 slices to serve.
- Recipes from [www.slimmingworld.co.uk](http://www.slimmingworld.co.uk)



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for the facts  
[drinkaware.co.uk](http://drinkaware.co.uk)

Campbeltown  
Bowling Club  
**Annual General Meeting**  
Friday 26th February  
2021 at 7.30pm

The AGM will be held as a Zoom conference and members will be sent e-mail invitations to join the meeting. Any member who has a question or a proposal, please contact the secretary timeously before the meeting.

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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
20/01749/PP	Change of use of external footpath, roadway and rear access to form external licensed seating area	18 Cross Street, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute, PA28 6HU
21/00006/PP	Erection of extension and decking	South Lodge, Ardpatrik, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute, PA29 6YA
21/00054/PP	Demolition of existing cottage and erection of dwellinghouse and carport	Ivy Cottage, Kilberry, Tarbert, Argyll And Bute, PA29 6YD
20/02227/PP	Use of part of shop premises (Class 1) to hot food takeaway (Sui-Generis)	Post Office Shop, Ardmish, Isle Of Gigha, Argyll And Bute, PA41 7AA

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.

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# RECRUITMENT

Established in 1994, Colin Brolly 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 Brolly on [jude@colinbrollyforestry.co.uk](mailto:jude@colinbrollyforestry.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 Brolly on [jenny@colinbrollyforestry.co.uk](mailto:jenny@colinbrollyforestry.co.uk)**

## General Estate Worker/Caretaker

RORO ESTATE, GLEN LYON

**General Estate Worker/Caretaker required for Highland Perthshire Estate in Glen Lyon.**

Duties will include assistance with maintenance of a Hydro Electric Scheme, upkeep of estate properties. Depending on experience and agreed terms tasks may include assistance with gardening and general estate work.

Full time and Part Time applicants will be considered. Competitive salary along with 3 bed semi-detached property.

Applications to be made in writing with CV to: **Roro Estate, c/o Edwin Thompson, 76 Overhaugh Street, Galashiels, TD1 1DP, or via email to [Galashiels@edwin-thompson.co.uk](mailto:Galashiels@edwin-thompson.co.uk)**

## Crinan Hotel

Staff for season April 2021

**Coffee Shop  
Cashier/Reception [mornings]  
Housekeeping  
Kitchen Porter  
Bar [must have experience]**

Please send CVs to Frances Ryan  
**[macdonaldart.crinan@gmail.com](mailto:macdonaldart.crinan@gmail.com)**  
or **[reservations@crinanhotel.com](mailto:reservations@crinanhotel.com)**



An Argyll based established Plumbing and Heating firm have a vacancy for a qualified **Plumbing and Heating Engineer.**

This post requires an individual who can work independently and as part of a team as required. The ability to problem solve and use your initiative is essential.

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**

## Career opportunities



We have exciting opportunities to join our team  
**Qualified Mechanic - Based in Lochgilphead**  
**Labour Only Sub-Contract Joiners - Based in Dunbeg**

Call us on 01546 602989.  
Send C.V to [jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk)




## Digital Engagement Officer

12 months fixed term with potential to extend  
Salary: £23,854 pa  
Closing date for applications – 21 February 2021, 11.59pm

MG ALBA are recruiting a Digital Engagement Officer. This new post will work to strengthen the visibility of Gaelic digital content, by working with independent content creators but also including digital content connected to MG ALBA, its brands and other Gaelic content creators.

As a response to the Covid-19 pandemic, MG ALBA have successfully transitioned to remote working and this option will continue to be available to the successful candidate.

The Digital Engagement Officer will report to the Communications Manager whilst implementing and delivering the new MG ALBA social media project. They will also assist in day-to-day social media operations for MG ALBA and will support the wider communications team when required.

Core to the success of this position are a passion and competency for social media and an awareness of the existing Gaelic content creator environment. Further information and the Job Application Pack can be accessed on our website:

**[www.mgalba.com](http://www.mgalba.com)**

Closing date for applications – 21 February 2021, 11.59pm

Interviews – held by Zoom, 1 March 2021

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DEATHS

BUCHANAN

Peacefully at home, Eilean, 4 Kintyre Gardens, Campbeltown, on February 7, 2021, Thelma McLellan, in her 80th year, beloved wife of Innes Buchanan, much loved mum of Elaine, loving granny of David and Mark, great-granny of Lee, Eleya, Alexis, Zac and Avery. Funeral service private in line with current government guidelines. Thelma's funeral will take place on Friday, February 12. The cortege will leave the family home at 1.00pm after a short prayer. We will head down Ralston Road, Main Street, past the Cross on the way to Kilkerran Cemetery. Anyone wishing to pay their last respects to Thelma may do so along our route. Please remember to observe social distancing.

**JACKSON** - Peacefully at Etive Care Home, Benderloch, on February 6, 2021, Hazel Lucy Jackson, née Kirk, in her 87th year. Late of Birkhill, Lochgair. Beloved wife of the late Dr. Gordon Jackson; dearly loved mother of Helen, Nicholas and Adrian. A good neighbour and dear friend. A private funeral service will be held on Monday, February 15, 2021, at Kilevin Cemetery, Crarae.

**TURNER** - Peacefully at home, Chiskan House, Campbeltown, on February 4, 2021, Margaret Howieson Duncan M.B.E. in

her 92nd year, formerly of Flatterton Farm, Greenock and High Balevain Farm, Campbeltown, beloved wife of the late David Turner, loving mother of Robert, William and David, mother-in-law of Susan and Margo, proud grandmother to Emma, Matthew, Gary, Charles, Ruth and Fraser and great-grandmother to Isla and Anna.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**MACBRAYNE** - Flora, Jane, Robert and Marie would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kind messages of sympathy and floral tributes, and also thank those who paid their respects to Flora along the funeral route. Many thanks also to Kintyre Care Home staff who looked after mum. Thank you to T A Blair's for their caring and professional services and our sincere thanks to Rev Chris Holden for a touching service.

IN MEMORIAM

**BROWN** - In ever loving memory of our daughter and sister Sharon Fiona, who was sadly taken from us on February 12, 1993. We miss and think of you every day.  
- Love always Mum, Dad, sister and brothers.

**CAMPBELL** - Bunty, passed away February 14, 2009.

Sadly missed but not forgotten.  
- Ivor, Shauna, Robert and great-grandchildren.

**MACAULAY** - In loving memory of a dear brother

and uncle, Alec, who died February 6, 2019.

Along the road of memories that leads us back to you  
Are thoughts of us together and the happy times we knew.  
- Julie and Chloe xx

**MACFARLANE** - On St Valentine's Day 2018, Winnie Isabella Wilson of Thornliebank, Glasgow, cherished wife of Dugald passed away. Never to be forgotten.

**MACNICOL** - In loving memory of Campbell, who died February 14, 1972.

A loving thought, a silent tear,  
A constant wish that you were here.  
- Hamish and families.

**MARTIN** - Lena, died February 14, 2006.

Dear mother, these tears we shed today are because we miss you so  
Especially on this special day and we just wanted you to know.  
You are always in our hearts and will be until we meet again.  
- Caroline, John and families.

**SARGENT** - Treasured memories of a dearly loved dad and papa, Roger, taken from us on February 17, 2019.

To lose you was a bitter wrench,  
The pain cut to our core,  
We cried until our tears ran out,  
And then we cried some more.  
Miss you more than words can say.  
- Senga, Billy and family, Roger, Heather and family.

CHURCH NOTICES

SPRINGBANK EVANGELICAL CHURCH



"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace."  
Numbers 6 verses 24-26  
Our building will be closed for the next two weeks BUT you are welcome to join our online Praise and Worship Zoom Service on Sunday, 14th February 2021 at 11am when Rod Sharp from USA will bring 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

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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



**Sunday 14th 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)  
7.00pm Fellowship Meeting (by Zoom)  
Wednesday 17th 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)  
[www.facebook.com/campbeltowncommunitychurch](https://www.facebook.com/campbeltowncommunitychurch)  
SC043322

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH in Mid-Argyll & Arran

The Eucharist will be streamed live each Sunday at 11am on Facebook  
at [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  
Although our buildings are closed we are still active.  
Our website is full of information & links to keep you informed & provide opportunities for worship on-line  
Please look it up & keep in touch  
[www.northnapdale.org](http://www.northnapdale.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 (Lamentations 3)

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## Bob rounds off a solid start to season in Saudi

Oban's Bob MacIntyre completed the third leg of golf's desert swing with a solid performance at the Saudi International at the weekend.

Up against the strongest field of the year so far, including world number one and eventual winner Dustin Johnston, Bob finished in a tie for 29th to consolidate his position inside the world's top 50.

The Oban star was unlucky to find himself on the wrong side of the draw on Thursday and Friday which meant he had to contend with the toughest conditions both days.

Despite that, he battled hard to make the cut, with an impressive 68 on day two and a scintillating 65 on Saturday giving him a realistic chance of another high finish. His final day 71 wasn't enough to move him up the leaderboard but still rounded off an impressive trio of performances to kick-off the season.

His focus now shifts across the Atlantic to the WGC Mexico which, despite its name, is being played in Florida due to coronavirus concerns. With an elite field comprising the top 50 players in the world, there are plenty of world ranking points up for grabs as well as a \$10.5million prize fund.

With that tournament not starting until February 25, Bob's management team will no doubt be hoping to secure a spot in the Genesis Invitational in California the week before.

# Crinan Puffer goes virtual for 2021

Entries have opened for the 2021 Scottish Sea Farms Crinan Puffer, writes Colin Cameron.

The popular event, run in pre-pandemic years beside the Crinan Canal between Crinan and Ardrishaig, is going virtual and will be held on Sunday March 28.

The race is organised by the operator of Mid Argyll Community Pool, Mid Argyll Community Enterprises Limited (MACEL).

This year's Puffer will include the standard distance of eight miles or a five km fun run option, on a route of your choice.

Both distances are also open to walkers.

In a statement, MACEL said: 'Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the restrictions that we are all living under during this pandemic, we have decided

to run a virtual event. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors, Scottish Sea Farms, for its continued and very generous sponsorship.

'Thanks also to Midton Acrylics and kit-you-out.co.uk for their support.'

Race entries are now being taken via the EntryCentral website - just search 'Scottish Sea Farms Crinan Puffer'.

Entrants can walk or run anywhere they like, as long as they stay local, stay safe and abide by lockdown rules.

Prizes will be awarded in senior, junior and veteran categories and all runners and walkers will be sent a t-shirt and medal on completion of the race.

All entrants are asked to submit their times through race timing website [www.whatsmytimeresults.co.uk/](http://www.whatsmytimeresults.co.uk/) by 5pm on Monday March 29.



Crinan Puffer action from 2018 - when people could race together beside the canal.

06\_a17CrinanPuffer10

# Shinty competition plans revealed

Competitive shinty is a step closer to getting off the ground thanks to positive planning from the Camanachd Association (CA).

At a meeting recently, the CA board of directors backed the competition committee's plans for the 2021 season following the 100 per cent registration from member clubs for the 2021 season.

It was agreed that, when it is safe to return, clubs will be given a four to six-week pre-season to get fitness and stick work back up to the required standard. This will be followed by a league and cup campaign. The plans include

Mowi leagues of six teams playing 10 fixtures each. How these leagues will be split will be determined on locality.

Regional competitions, including the cottages.com MacTavish Cup and Celtic Cup, may be moved to a later stage in the season, subject to necessary agreements.

National cup competitions will be regionalised in the early rounds to reduce long distance travelling. This will include the Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup, Highland Industrial Supplies Sutherland Cup and the Alvance Balliemore Cup.

Burton Morrison, competitions director, said: 'Under

the current restrictions, we are unable to confirm a start date for the revised season.

'However, we are optimistic we are able to plan for a number of options for a competitive structure which will give teams the opportunity to get back playing.

'The form of season adopted will depend on the length of time available. We will allow for adequate pre-season preparation and will take account of the practical difficulties involved in travelling long distances at present, as well as the recognised key dates on the calendar.'

With the rollout of the

Covid-19 vaccine under way, the Camanachd Association board was mindful of developing a flexible structure that can be delivered in line with government guidance and activated when restrictions allow.

This plan includes reduced travel for teams in the first instance and will be focused on re-activating competitions to maximise the physical, social and mental health and wellbeing of the shinty communities as soon as it is safe to do so.

CA president Steven MacKenzie said: 'I and my fellow directors were pleased to endorse the plan put forward.

'I thank competitions director Burton Morrison and the full committee for developing a robust plan that enables us to maximise our shinty playing opportunities while minimising the risk.

'We are all eager to return to play shinty in line with government guidance and with this plan in place we are one step closer to doing so.'



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